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Date: 08 October 2025

**Dr. Paul Bate,
CEOS Chair; and DG, UK Space Agency**

Subject: African Space Agency Request for Associate Membership in the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)

Dear Dr. Paul Bate,

The African Space Agency (AfSA) is honored to formally request Associate Membership in the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) community of changemakers. AfSA has closely followed CEOS's transformative work and commends the cohesive partnership among its diverse institutions each contributing their unique expertise. The impact of CEOS is clearly reflected in its publicly available reports and publications, which we greatly appreciate.

CEOS's mission aligns strongly with AfSA's mandate to coordinate and harness space services for optimal societal benefit. Guided by the African Space Strategy, AfSA places emphasis on user-centric space applications and services, with Earth Observation (EO) being a priority domain. EO represents the most tangible application of space technologies across Africa. Our recent study identified that there are nearly 100 initiatives and projects in this field which underscores its critical importance to sustainable development. The broader vision of AfSA on EO, as guided by the African Space Strategy is to develop critical infrastructure including satellites that will guarantee the real-time availability of data to respond to hazards and other emergency situations. Emphasis is on capacity development to build a critical mass of scientists needed to develop and sustain EO services.

Through programs such as GMES & Africa, over 10,000 scientists and practitioners have been trained via capacity building initiatives including hackathons. Vast volumes of data have been utilized to generate actionable insights complemented by the deployment of key infrastructure such as eStations, receivers, and geoportals. These comprehensive efforts are laying the foundation for a resilient and sustainable Earth Observation ecosystem on the continent. With AfSA's establishment, we anticipate a significant amplification of these activities and their impacts. Our collaboration with the European Union under the New Space Partnership Programme has commenced and it is focusing on technical training and industrial partnerships among others.

Our initial discussions with the CEOS Secretariat highlighted the strong strategic and technical alignment between our organizations. We envision the African Space Council taking the lead on strategic matters, while AfSA's technical team actively participates in CEOS Working Groups and Virtual Constellations. Our initial focus will be on the following Working Groups:

1. The Working Group on Capacity Building & Data Democracy
2. The Working Group on Calibration & Validation
3. The Working Group on Disasters



AfSA is confident that membership in CEOS will enhance the impact of key programs such as capacity development and data assimilation. We are equally committed to contributing our expertise and subject matter knowledge to the community.

AfSA will be represented by myself as the CEOS principal while the contact person is Mr. Hamdi Kacem, the TAT Team Leader and Key Expert on Earth Observation, on the GMES and Africa Support Program - Phase II. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate closely with CEOS and jointly advance Earth Observation initiatives for Africa and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Tidiane Ouattara
President of the African Space Council
African Space Agency (AfSA)

Cc:
Dr Steven Ramage, CEOS Executive Officer