

**UN-SPIDER Regional Workshop
"Building Upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster
Management and Emergency Response for Africa"**

Organized by the
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

together with the
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

And financial support of
The Government of Austria

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
25 - 28 May 2010

1. Introduction

In its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006 the United Nations General Assembly established the “**United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response – UN-SPIDER**”, as a programme of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, to provide universal access to all countries and all relevant international and regional organizations to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle.

Following the guidelines established in the Work Plan for the biennium 2010-2011 (Document A/AC.105/934), the UN-SPIDER Programme, together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), are organising the above mentioned workshop with financial support from the Government of Austria to promote the access to and use of space-based technologies and solutions for disaster management and emergency response within relevant communities in Africa.

As it has been recognized by regional and international organizations, disaster management agencies in Africa have to adapt to an increasing number of natural disasters mainly caused by floods and drought. The effects of global climate change will most probably aggravate this situation and substantially increase the economic impact and will threaten livelihoods of an increasing number of people. In addition, vector borne diseases and epidemics of weather- and climate-sensitive infectious diseases, including malaria, meningitis, and cholera, may cause massive disruption to societies and put a heavy burden on national and local health systems.

Against this background, UN-SPIDER has designed a strategy that includes a framework and a yearly implementation plan. The strategy targets of networking, communications, coordination, and collaboration initiatives intending to raise awareness within the user community of the benefits of using space-based information and solutions and to contribute to specific activities of the programme.

Between 2008 and 2009, UN-SPIDER conducted four Technical Advisory Missions (TAM) to African countries (Ghana, Namibia, Burkina Faso, Togo); it became a partner in the Namibian SensorWeb Pilot Project on Flood Management; supported training activities in various countries; mobilized experts from African nations to regional and international events; and cooperated with various space and disaster management communities at regional and national level.

Additionally, UN-SPIDER is supporting the GARNET-E network, due to start in 2010, which is a EU funded project in the context of the European Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative, and will aim at exchanging information between interested European and African stakeholders, through training exercises and workshops, on the GMES Emergency Response Core Service and the related use of the International Charter Space and Major Disasters. The GARNET-E activity will also be presented and discussed during the workshop.

To strengthen its presence in Africa, the UN-SPIDER Regional Workshop will focus on the following objectives which have been outlined in the *Framework and Implementation Plan for activities in Africa 2010*:

- To discuss the overarching topics of climate change in Africa with special emphasis of the contribution of space-based technologies to mitigate the impact and enhance adaptation to global climate change and land degradation utilising innovative monitoring and analysing tools.
- To capture and harmonise the various existing initiatives that are contributing to helping African countries to access and use space-based technologies for disaster management and risk reduction as well as to explore possibilities of capacity development and institutional strengthening.
- To develop a strategy to engage the support of Regional Support Offices and National Focal Points in contributing to capacity building and institutional strengthening regarding the use of space-based information technology.

2. Expected participants

The Workshop will bring together 60 - 80 decision-makers and senior experts from African countries drawn from the following groups:

- Experts on Disaster-Risk Management, in particular those with experience on the use of satellite-based data and information for this purpose.
- Experts from Space Agencies and experts from national and regional institutions and organisations responsible for providing space-based technologies and solutions for disaster management support.
- Experts from national and regional mapping agencies
- Experts from regional and international organizations active in Africa with regard to risk and disaster management, early warning, food security and health issues.
- Members of Parliaments as well as technical staff of Governments of African countries
- Experts from the UN-affiliated Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, and other national, regional, and international Centres of Excellence.
- UN-SPIDER National Focal Points.
- Experts from the UN-SPIDER Network of Regional Support Offices.
- Experts targeting climate change mitigation in Africa.
- Experts in disaster medicine, telemedicine , and integrated vector management.

3. Expected Outcomes and Results

The proposed workshop will allow participants to:

- Become aware of the most recent examples regarding the use of space-based applications and solutions targeting disaster-risk management, emergency response, climate change, and health-related issues; and to advantage of those applications and solutions.
- Become aware of the activities being conducted by UN-SPIDER in Africa, and identify ways and means to become engaged in these activities.
- Network with representatives of a variety of countries and regional and international institutions engaged in these types of activities.

The Workshop will allow UN-SPIDER to:

- Identify strategies to bridge the gap between the space and the disaster management communities.
- Improve the communication and coordination among existing initiatives in African countries regarding access to and use of space-based technologies for disaster-risk management, emergency response, climate change, and health-related issues.
- Continue strengthening the network and role of National Focal Points and Regional Support Offices in Africa.
- Obtain elements to define the strategy to support UN-SPIDER in Africa, including capacity building and institutional strengthening.
- Collect additional Country Profiles as proposed in the UN-SPIDER 2010-2011 Workplan.

4. Participation requirements

Participants should hold managerial or technical positions at governmental agencies, international, national and regional institutions, NGOs or private industry with programmes or activities relating to providing support to disaster-risk management and emergency response activities or development of space technology capabilities and/or solutions.

5. Language of the Workshop

The working language of all planned activities will be English.

6. Financial support

Within the limited financial resources available, a number of selected international participants from African countries will be offered financial support to attend the Workshop. This financial support will defray the cost of travel (a round trip ticket – most economic fare – between the airport of international departure in their home country and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) and/or the room and board expenses during the duration of the event.

7. Deadline for Submission of Applications

Applications for this workshop can be submitted through the online application tool at the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal (<http://www.un-spider.org/workshop-addis-2010>). The completed online application form, properly endorsed by the applicant's government/institution, should be submitted no later than Friday 26 March, 2010. Only complete applications, with all the requested information and signatures, will be considered.

8. Life and Health Insurance

Life/major health insurance for each of the selected participants is necessary and is the responsibility of the candidate or his/her institution or government. UNOOSA and the co-organizer will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for expenses related to medical treatment or accidental events.

9. Points of Contact

For information regarding the agenda and general arrangements, including information regarding the venue of the meeting, hotel accommodation, transportation and other logistical details, please contact **Mr. Michael Leitgab**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Mr. Michael Leitgab

E-mail: michael.leitgab@unoosa.org

Telephone: +43 1 26060 4472

Fax: (+43 1) 26060 5830

For further information please check the following website:

<http://www.un-spider.org/workshop-addis-2010>