

**Statement of Sudan Delegation in the 2nd International Space Forum, entitled “Space Science and Academia for Sustainable Development in Africa”, 13 February 2018 – Nairobi (Kenya).**

**Prof. Dr. El Tigani Mustafa Mohamed Salih – State Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research**

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**Honorable Amb. Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Defence Kenya**

**Dear Honorable Ministers of African Countries**

**Dear Honorable Mr. Mauro Massoni, Ambassador of Italy to Kenya**

**Dear Honorable Jean Yves Le Gall, IAF President (*International Astronautical Federation*)**

**Dear Honorable Roberto Battiston, ASIP resident (*International Astronautical Federation*)**

**Dear Directors of the Kenyan Space Agency**

**Dear Honorable Colleagues, Scientists, Academics and the Audience**

My gratitude and thanks are due to the Ministers of Kenya, The Ambassador of Italy, International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and Kenya Space Agency, for the kind invitation of the Sudan delegation to participate in this forum of “Space Science and Academia for Sustainable Development in Africa”

Sudan lies in the Sahelian zone of Africa which is adversely affected by climate change resulting from global warming. In recent years, rain fall has dropped quite significantly; and accordingly drought and desertification have struck many parts of the region. Tackling these issues requires early intervention by governments and international agencies.

Cooperation between affected countries is also a key to the success of any measures that could be proposed to address these issues.

The government of the Sudan is getting engaged with the Academics in many universities and governmental institutes to study the effects of climate change in the quest to form a vision for policies to protect the environment and achieve sustainable development. The Institute of Environment Research, one of a number of Institutes under the umbrella of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, is predominantly concerned with environmental issues and sustainable development.

A good number of academics and researchers in many universities assist the government to achieve the required objectives. I mention the Water Research Centre of the University of Khartoum as one example. The material collected from space and remote sensing technologies provide most of the data necessary for the analysis.

The United Nations Sustainability 17 (seventeen) goals targeting the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Space sector must be proactive and develop its goals in line with the wider UN goals. The Space sector in Africa, although in its infancy, must not be isolated from the global community and has to include itself in the quest for sustainable development.

A successful sustainable development for Africa necessities working together. This requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. Sudanese universities working on many environmental issues and water resources have joined forces with other institutes in Eastern and North Africa as we are facing similar challenges. Such smart cooperation has to extend to cover the space agencies that have been established or those under establishment must adopt policies to re-enforce the cooperation, transfer and share knowledge and skills.

Capacity building is an important goal set by the Sudanese government. The government of Sudan supports training of young academics and professionals in many European countries, China, the US and many more. Training in space related fields is not an exception and the government will work hard to emphasize the importance of this sector.

There are a number of Sudanese bodies which are directly involved in research and capacity building in the space sector. The Institute of Space Research and Aerospace (ISRA) contributes to research and development in space science and aerospace engineering in Sudan. The University of Khartoum (UofK) and Sudan University of Science and Technology (SUST) have established space research centers in order to cope with the advances in the space sector. During the last few years, many young engineers received good training via their direct involvement in building educational satellites, quadcopters and other items.

The Sudanese government is committed to joining the space sector and promotes the use of space technologies to sustain development and preserve the environment for future generations. It has established the Sudanese National Committee for Space to set policies and national strategies in the field of space, coordinate the different academic and civil bodies, direct and achieve cooperation between the Sudanese institutions and the regional and international organizations, and to develop the needed infrastructure to make Progress in the field of space.

Finally, I hope fruitful outcomes and recommendations will result from this important forum to place Africa with the rest of the world in the right track to participate in achieving the sustainable development goals for the benefit of humanity and the environment.

Thank you for listening.