





# VdA

DATA POLICY, REGULATORY  
FRAMEWORK, AND  
CYBERSECURITY

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A cosmic background featuring a bright sun on the left, the Earth in the center, and a starry field with a blue nebula on the right. A green horizontal bar is positioned across the middle.

01

INTRODUCTION



# 1.1

## INTRODUCTION

DATA & CYBERSECURITY

OVERVIEW OF GENERAL NATIONAL APPROACHES

# Data & Cybersecurity – overview of general national approaches

## DATA

### Data economy

Data sharing B2G and G2B

Big Data

- Protection: IP/database laws
- Flows: Free-flow across borders (and freedom of information)

### Data privacy

Personal data

- Protection: personal data laws
- Flows: International transfers

## CYBERSECURITY

### Security of network and information systems

- Cybersecurity obligations – CIA
- Notification of incidents

### Critical infrastructure

- Security obligations
- Specific contact points

Sector/area-specific, e.g.

- Electronic communications
- Fintech
- Personal data

### Cybercrime



# 1.2

## INTRODUCTION

DATA & CYBERSECURITY

OVERVIEW OF AFRICA'S GENERAL APPROACH

# Data & Cybersecurity – overview of Africa’s general approach



## AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION

### ▶ Malabo Convention

Adopted in 2014 and signed or ratified by 22 out of 54 African countries

Stems from African commitment towards a digital society and is aimed at a joint recognition of the need to protect critical cyber/ICT infrastructure, personal data and to encourage information flow towards an adequate digital space in Africa

Convention handles:

- E-commerce
- Institutional framework for data protection
- State commitment towards fostering a cyber security culture

Intended to be followed by each member-state approving national legislation based on the principles of the Convention



## ITU / INTERNET SOCIETY

### ▶ Data Protection Guidelines for Africa

- Created to facilitate the implementation of the Convention
- Sets 18 recommendations aiming to create trust, privacy, and responsible use of personal data
- Generally based on EU Directive pre-GDPR



# Data & Cybersecurity – overview of Africa’s general approach



## Southern Africa Development Community

- ▶ **SADC Model Law**
- Community with 16 Sub-Saharan member states
- Model law was prepared and adopted in 2013 with the assistance of the EU, with co-funding through the 9th European Development Fund (EDF) and generally based on EU Data Protection Directive
- Aimed at being approved by SADC member states at a national level



## Economic Community of West African States

- ▶ **ECOWAS Data Protection Act**
- Community with 15 member states
- General template based on EU’s pre-GDPR approach and approved in 2010
- Aimed at providing data protection legal background for ECOWAS members without specific legislation in this respect



## East African Community

- ▶ **East African Community Cybercrime Framework**
- Community with 6 member states
- Calls for member states to enact laws on cybercrime

A background image of space showing the Earth's horizon with a bright sun rising over it, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is dark with some stars visible.

02

**DATA &  
CYBERSECURITY IN SPACE**

A background image showing the Earth's horizon from space, with a bright sun rising over the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is dark with some stars visible.

# 2.1

## DATA & CYBERSECURITY IN SPACE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

## UNITED NATIONS

### Remote Sensing Principles

- Right of sensed State to non-discriminatory access to data and analysed information
- Duty of the sensing State to make data available to sensed State, especially for disasters
- Promote international cooperation

# Data

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## PLATFORMS AND PROGRAMMES

### United Nations (UNOOSA)

UN-SPIDER – United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

### 17 space agencies

Space & Major Disasters Charter

### European Union

Copernicus Programme

## ORGANISATIONS

### GEO

Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations

### CEOS

Committee on Earth Observation Satellites

## UN-GGIM

(UN Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management)

# Cybersecurity



UNITED  
NATIONS

- **UN Space Treaties:** no cybersecurity obligations, but there are provisions the compliance of which may require the implementation of security measures within satellite systems. E.g. non-contamination / debris
- **Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities** – no express reference to cybersecurity
- **TCBMs:** e.g., exchanges of information on forecast natural hazard in outer space, notification in the case of emergency situations – no express reference to cybersecurity

# Cybersecurity

## Some Initiatives

- **United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (UN GGE) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security** deals with existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security, as well as possible cooperative measures to address them
- **ITU-IMPACT** – ITU International Multilateral Partnership against Cyber Threats (IMPACT) is a cybersecurity alliance and public-private partnership that works to address and prevent cyber threats



A background image showing the Earth's horizon from space, with a bright sun rising over the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is dark with some stars visible.

# 2.2

## DATA & CYBERSECURITY IN SPACE AT THE CONTINENTAL LEVEL



# African Union

## African Space Policy and Strategy

### Importance of EO is mentioned, including:

- Build capabilities in Earth observation systems
- Develop skills and expertise in Earth observation applications and usage
- Develop and improve Earth observation institutions in Africa
- Foster knowledge sharing
- Develop space-based and in-situ infrastructure
- Develop Earth observation services and products
- Raise awareness among the public, users, and policy and decision maker


### Projected 10-year outcomes

- Independent Earth observation high-resolution satellite data available for all of Africa from a constellation of satellites designed and manufactured in Africa

User Needs	Earth Observation										Navigation and Positioning	Satellite Communications	Space Science and Astronomy	
	Spatial Resolution							Temporal Resolution						
	< 50cm	50cm-1m	1m-2.5m	2.5m-5m	5m-10m	10m-20m	20m-30m	>30m	Daily	Seasonal				Annual
Disasters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Health					✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓
Energy				✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
Climate					✓	✓			✓			✓		✓
Water		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Weather		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Ecosystems				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Agriculture				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Biodiversity				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Peace, Safety and Security	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Human Migration and Settlements		✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓
Education and Human Resources				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Communications												✓	✓	✓
Trade and Industry			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Transport		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Infrastructure			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓

**No express reference to cybersecurity beyond reference to the Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection**

# African Union



## ORGANISATIONS

### Under the auspices of UNECA

- **RECTAS** – Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys
- **RCMRD** – Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
- **AOCRS** – African organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing

### Others

- **AARSE** – African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment
- **EIS-Africa**
- **ARMC** – African Resources Management Satellite
- **GMES-Africa**

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A background image of space showing the Earth's horizon with a bright sun rising over it, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is dark with some stars visible.

# 2.3

## DATA & CYBERSECURITY IN SPACE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

# Data

## National laws on remote sensing

E.g. US, Canada, Germany, France (EU withdrew proposed Directive)

- Main **purpose**: national security
- Also: compliance with **UN principles**, promotion of private activity

### Conditions:

- Prohibition, licensing
- Shutter control, priority access

### Covers:

- **Data** – acquisition (direct reception by ground stations or market acquisition), processing, dissemination (market, Public Administration – GIS – [export control issues](#))
- May also cover: **Systems** – launching, operation

## National policies covering remote sensing

### Licensing conditions:

- Policies of open access
- **Policies of restricted, reserved or controlled access**
- **Policies of exclusive / secret access**  
(e.g., national security, classified information, data resolution, end-user, purpose of use)

### Data granted:

- Raw
- Processed + value-added products

### Rights:

- Use – purposes
- Processing and analysis – including combination (several data sources) (BDA – Big Data Analytics)

# Data

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## Governance on remote sensing

**State as a space actor** – produces, acquirers and disseminates data

- Space agency
- Other entity: remote sensing centre, entities competent in cartography, meteorology and environment, public company, others

**Space as a regulator** – authorises and supervises space activities

- Space authority (independent regulator, ministry, public department)

## Laws on data economy and privacy

### Data economy

- Laws on freedom of information
- Laws on free flows of data in regional communities

No specific laws for satellite data

### Data privacy

- Cross-sector laws on personal data
- Sector-specific laws on personal data (e.g., electronic communications, health)

No specific laws for the space sector

**Cross-sector laws apply to the space sector** (e.g., high resolution images that allow identification of personal data such as license plates)

# Cybersecurity

## Laws on space cybersecurity

### Laws specifically applicable to the space sector

Cybersecurity is addressed in the space law or regulations

- E.g. UK: Space Industry Regulations (proposal) (which implement the Space Industry Act 2018)

### Laws on cybersecurity covering space

The space sector is covered in the general laws on cybersecurity or critical infrastructures

- E.g. Spain and France

## Guidance on cybersecurity

### Guidelines on cybersecurity for the space sector

E.g. UK – Cyber Security Toolkit by the UK Space Agency

E.g. US – Space Policy Directive-5

### Cybersecurity addressed for national space programmes

E.g. EU – Flagship Programmes (Galileo/EGNOS, Copernicus, SST, GovSatCom)



03

RECOMMENDATIONS

# Recommendations

## Addressing Data issues in the Space sector is important because:

- Increases availability and quality of data for public and private purposes
- Decreases costs through alignment of all relevant public stakeholders
- Contributes to States' autonomy and preparedness
- Ensures compliance with UN principles (to the extent that a law on remote sensing is approved)
- Protects national security
- Attracts the private sector

1. Assess **current attributions and powers** in the acquisition of data for and within the Government / Public Administration
2. Assess the knowledge and **participation in international initiatives**
3. Define **aligned model or structure** for satellite data acquisition and use
4. Assess the **provision of data and value-added services**

(in both cases, assess collaboration initiatives with the private sector)

5. Assess the need for a **remote sensing law**, taking in consideration the State's capacities (human and material resources) and priorities
6. Create a **model for data sharing and free flow at the continental level** – Data Economy – and for a continental GIS (e.g., EU INSPIRE)



# Recommendations

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## Addressing Cybersecurity issues in the Space sector is important because:

- Satellite systems are increasingly relevant for society, notably are essential for the maintenance of critical societal and/or economic activities and an incident would have significant disruptive effects
- Satellite systems are also vulnerable to cyber attacks
- Ensures compliance with UN principles
- Avoids or mitigates potential liability
- Attracts the private sector

1. Assess **current status of policies and laws on cybersecurity, critical infrastructures and cybercrime, including governance structures**
2. Assess participation in **international initiatives** on cybersecurity
3. Assess the need to issue **guidance, laws or regulations** on space cybersecurity
4. Assess the existence of **space programmes or systems requiring express compliance with cybersecurity provisions** or to be classified as critical infrastructure
5. Assess cybersecurity guidance and requirements for **continental space structures**
6. Ensure that cyber resilience and cyber incident response are always taken in consideration in the **private sector**

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