

## **2. Friday, February 15, 2008, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

*Earth Observation for Africa, with Africa*

**Session Type:** 90-Minute Symposium

**Number:** 090-067

**Title:** Earth Observation for Africa, with Africa

**Track:** Opportunities for the Developing World

**Session Start/End Time:** Friday, Feb 15, 2008, 10:30 AM -12:00 PM

**Synopsis:** Africa's water, forests, and agricultural land have high economic and social value; but they can also be overexploited, with damaging consequences for local economies, long-term stability, and the Earth system as a whole — especially the climate system. All too often poverty, economic decline, environmental degradation, desertification, and unequal access to resources and land lead to conflict and to migration. Furthermore, Africa's fast-growing population puts increasing pressure on the environment to provide food, water, and fiber; on the continent's urban centers and transport networks; and on energy sources. Information on the location, condition, and evolution of resources, the environment, and other critical societal functions in Africa is an important step toward sustainability and reaching the Millennium Development Goals. Unfortunately, such information can be hard to get, though Earth-observing satellite information and communication technologies can help fill the gap. Several African nations are beginning to develop this capacity, but this project needs to be supported. The speakers present pertinent examples of science and technology transfer solutions and demonstrate the role technologies can play in helping Africa's people eradicate poverty, sustain environment, and prevent conflicts.

### **Organized by:**

Aidan Gilligan, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Brussels, Belgium

### **Presentations:**

Moderator--**Delilah Al Khudhairy**, Joint Research Centre, Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen, Ispra, Italy

Africa's New Peace and Security Architecture: Role of Development Policy--**El Ghassim Wane**, African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Geospatial Domain: New Ways of Addressing the Millennium Development Goals--**Alan Belward**, Joint Research Center, Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Ispra, Italy

Space Projects and Initiatives with Africa: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow--**Lars Prahm**, European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, Darmstadt, Germany