



## SUMMARY OF POLICY STATEMENTS, DECLARATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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This document is a summary of policy statements, quotations, and extracts from declarations, resolutions, and recommendations that either directly or indirectly advocate for better Internet connectivity for scientific and educational institutions in Africa.

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Updates and full texts are downloadable from: <http://www.egy.org/egyafrika.php>

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### Adama Samassekou (2004)

*Statement by Adama Samassekou (President, WSIS Preparatory Committee) at the UN World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva, 2004*

“Knowledge is the common wealth of humanity”

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### Astronomer’s Data Manifesto (May 2006)

Ref: [http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/dsj/6/0/S116/\\_pdf](http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/dsj/6/0/S116/_pdf)

Ref: <http://www.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/Astrodata/AstronomersManifesto>

*Adopted as a Commission 5 Resolution and by the US National Virtual Observatory.*

“...We, the global community of astronomy, aspire to the following guidelines for managing astronomical data, believing that this would maximise the rate and cost-effectiveness of scientific discovery....

- Astronomers in all countries should have the same access to astronomical data and information.
- Major astronomical journals and data centres should provide free or reduced-cost electronic access to institutions in developing countries
- Where broadband internet access is not available to institutions, the IAU will work with other agencies and organisations to provide that access.

...”

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### Maputo Declaration – geosciences in Africa (July 2006)

*Declaration by the Geological Societies of Africa (GSAf), the South Africa (GSSA), the Geological and Mining Association of Mozambique (AGMM), and attendees at the 21st Colloquium of Africa Geology, Maputo, 3-5 July 2006.*

“...(we) share the vision that ... improved geoscience information networks will assist exploration for mineral, energy and water resources and in addressing major environmental challenges that face the continent....

... (we) support the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP)-European Union Georesources System for Africa (AEGOS) initiative to develop a digital, distributed, shared and interoperable information system for the ACP subsurface, resources and hazards....”

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### eGY Declaration for an Earth and Space Science Information Commons (2007)

*Declaration of principles for developing an Earth and space science information commons, enunciated through the Electronic Geophysical Year, 2007-2008, [www.egy.org](http://www.egy.org) .*

“... In the 21st century and beyond, access to digital information and new technologies for

information integration and knowledge discovery will influence the free and productive development of societies around the world. Providing ready and open access to the vast and growing collections of cross-disciplinary digital information is the key to understanding and responding to complex Earth system phenomena that influence human survival. In the Earth and space sciences, as elsewhere, the issues of concern are as follows....

Article 7: Capability building. *Communities with advanced information technology and communications capabilities should contribute to developing such capabilities elsewhere to reduce the digital divide....*

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### **IUGG Resolution (July 2007): IAGA 1. Electronic Geophysical Year, 2007-2008 (eGY) and Data Rescue**

*Resolution passed by the International Union of Geodesy & Geophysics at the General Assembly, Perugia, Italy, July 2007.*

“The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, ...encourages scientists and their scientific bodies worldwide to ... undertake activities to improve data access, data preservation, data discovery, data release, education and outreach, to reduce the digital divide, and to sign the eGY Declaration for an Earth and Space Science Information Commons.”

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### **International Heliophysical Year Space Science Workshop Recommendation on Cyber-infrastructure (Nov 2007)**

*Issued by participants at the IHY-Africa SCINDA Workshop, Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa, 16 November 2007.*

... We, the 63 African scientists, representing 19 African countries, participating in the International Heliophysical Year Workshop in Addis Ababa, 12-16 November 2007,

RECOGNISE that modern information and communications technologies have revolutionised the conduct of research, education, and training in science and technology, as well as elsewhere, by providing rapid and effective means to

- communicate among people,
- participate in international, regional, and national scientific and educational efforts,
- discover, access, and share data and information,
- utilize available computational services, including data processing, visualization, and analysis,
- benefit from the vast world-wide research and teaching resources and publications that exist, and
- transmit observational data from remote stations,

NOTE that the capabilities listed above deliver economic and social benefits to communities that have an efficient cyber-infrastructure and good Internet connectivity,

REGRET that the digital divide is growing and denying most African communities those very benefits, and that the situation is particularly acute in research, education, and training institutions, where Internet services are often poor, or even non-existent,

RECOMMEND that high priority be given to improving the cyber-infrastructure for universities, colleges, and other national science and technology institutions in Africa as a cost-effective and essential means of achieving national Millennium Development Goals.

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### **Kampala Statement (2008)**

*Issued at the “Groundwater in Africa: an International Conference”, Kampala, 24-28 June 2008.*

Link: [http://www.gwclim.org/downloads/kampala\\_statement.pdf](http://www.gwclim.org/downloads/kampala_statement.pdf)

Paragraph 5 states: “We strongly advocate the establishment and promotion of ... (2) electronic data bases to facilitate the storage and retrieval of hydrological data; and (3) institutional frameworks to manage, share and use hydrological data.”

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### **ITU - International Telecommunications Union (2008)**

*Statement by Hamadoun Touré, Secretary General, ITU at the 2008 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, 2008*

"The key to the information society is universal access. Everyone must have equal opportunity to participate in the digital age. And no one should be denied the potential benefits of new information and communications technologies, not least because they are hampered by their disabilities."

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### **CODATA Resolution (Oct 2008)**

*Adopted at the General Assembly, Kiev, Ukraine, 10 Oct 2008*

CODATA, ... recommends that all efforts be made, both in Africa and within the international scientific community, to improve Internet performance and access in African scientific, technical, and educational institutions.

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### **ICSU Resolution 3, (Oct 2008)**

*Adopted at the ICSU General Assembly, Maputo, 20-24 Oct 2008*

"Recognizing that modern information and communications technologies are revolutionizing the conduct of scientific research and education, all efforts must be made within the international scientific community to improve internet access in scientific, technical and education institutions in Africa and around the World."

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### **Tsukuba Declaration (13 Nov 2008)**

*Declaration by participants in the four "IGY+50" programs – the International Polar Year (IPY), the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY), and the International Heliophysical Year (IHY) – which mark the 50-year anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY), meeting in Tsukuba, Japan on 10-13th November 2008.*

"(We) note the outstanding success of these international science year programs in building on the legacy of IGY by ...reducing the "Digital Divide" by engaging scientists from developing countries, ...assert that these functions must continue and expand in the future if Society is to achieve equitable, sensible, and sustainable life on Earth, as well as satisfy man's innate curiosity about our wonderful planet and its surroundings..."

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