



## ORGANIZATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (OSSREA)

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23 March 1999

Ms. Marjorie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445-12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Amendment of AfriSpace, Inc.'s Application for Authority to Construct, Launch and Operate a Subregional Africa and Middle Eastern Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File No. CSS-90-017 [IBFS File No. SAT-LOA-19900723-00002]; Amendment File No. SAT-AMD-19990125-00016 (Call Sign 52367)**

Dear Ms. Salas:

In my capacity as Executive Secretary of the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), I wish to express full and enthusiastic support for AfriSpace Inc.'s application for authority to construct, launch and operate a satellite broadcasting system that will serve the African continent and the Middle East.

OSSREA, established in 1980, is a network of social scientists in Eastern and Southern Africa headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Its current membership of 500 social scientists and institutions is drawn from 18 countries in the sub-region: Botswana, Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. OSSREA has collaborative research agreements with a number of academic and research institutions in the North. To name only a few: the Center for Development Studies in the University of Bergen, Norway; the Environmental Policy and Society Institute in Sweden; the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague; Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin; African Studies Center, University of Illinois.

OSSREA's wide-ranging activities flow from the association's objectives outlined by its governing Congress. These include: promotion of collaborative research facilities for scholarly exchange of ideas and publication among individuals and institutions engaged

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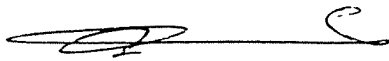
Members: **J. C. Munene**  
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in the study of and research in social science; promotion of training of African scholars in the study and research in social sciences and establishment of standing institutions dedicated to this goal; promotion of ongoing dialogue among social scientists and policy-makers in Eastern and Southern Africa with a view to enhancing the impact of social science research on policy-making and development planning; promotion of close co-operative relations between social science researchers and African development institutions.

Fostering ongoing collaboration among African social scientists and timely delivery of their findings to the communities they serve would be greatly facilitated by access to communication technology with wide reach and diverse capabilities. A satellite system would enable ready assessment of community needs and the effectiveness of our effort in fulfilling them. In addition, the proposed satellite communication system would bridge the sadly widening gap in communication technology between Africa and the West, a gap that adversely affects social science research and its benefits in this continent.

I therefore urge the approval of the AfriSpace proposal, and I look forward to its speedy implementation.

Sincerely,



Professor Abdel Ghaffar M. Ahmed  
Executive Secretary

