



ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
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Reference: **POL/CM/GM/55/15 83**

Date : **19 March, 1999**

Dear Ms. Salas,

Re: *In the matter of Application of AfriSpace Inc. for Authority to Launch and Operate a Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File no. CSS-90-017 (IBFS file no. SAT-LOA-19900723); Amendment file no. SAT-AMD-19990125-00016 (Call Sign 52367)*

In my capacity as Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), I am writing to support AfriSpace's commendable proposal to launch and operate a satellite sound broadcasting transmission system for Africa.

As you may be aware, Africa like many other parts of the World has had to grapple with new and more complex challenges to promote peace, security and stability on the continent, as well as bring about economic development, transformation and integration, on the threshold of the new millennium. Obviously, these challenges would have been easier to surmount without the limits imposed by existing communication systems and their restricted reach in Africa.

***Ms. Marjorie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445-12th Street SW
Washington DC, 20554***



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- 2 -

At the OAU, our current priorities are focused on creating an enabling environment for achieving inter-African stability, for we are acutely aware that without peace and stability, our Continent cannot seriously talk in terms of development. It is in this regard, that we have strived at the Institutional level, to endow our Continental Organization with structures capable of meeting the dynamics of changes unfolding in our societies and worldwide, through increased coordination of policies and activities related to the implementation of Decisions by the Continent's Leaders.

In all of these activities, the need to operationalize and strengthen our coordination system and information networks have been strongly felt. Indeed, the resolve of Africans to assume greater responsibility for addressing their problems and to take their destiny in their own hands, will greatly benefit from improvements in communication technologies and networking among African peoples and nations.

It is in recognition of the invaluable role that the proposal to introduce digital satellite broadcasting in Africa can play in support of our developmental efforts, that I feel the initiative merits the support of all Africans and friends of the Continent. It is therefore within that context that I wish to urge the FCC to extend its approval to AfriSpace's application to launch a highly promising system of modern communication.

With the assurances of my highest consideration.

Salim Ahmed Salim
Secretary General