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18 March 1999

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

**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-19900723-00002]; Amendment file no. SAT-AMD-19990125-00016 (Call Sign 52367)**

Dear Ms Salas,

I am writing on behalf of the UNESCO Chair for Education in Democracy and Human Rights, Addis Ababa University. As part of an effort to ease the strains of transitional democracy, the mandate of the UNESCO Chairs is to promote formal and non-formal education in democratic values and human rights. A twofold obstacle we face here is that formal education is available to too few, and our capacity to reach the vast audience for non-formal education is greatly inhibited by illiteracy, limited circulation of the printed press, and the inaccessibility of radio and television to the bulk of the rural population. At a recent regional meeting of UNESCO Chairs held in Dakar, I drew attention to AfriSpace's satellite broadcasting system and its potential for expanding the scope and quality -- for example, to target educational programmes to specific communities and to encourage inter-communal interaction -- of our work in democracy and human rights. The assembly greeted the prospect with interest and enthusiasm.

In the light of these considerations, I would like to extend my support for AfriSpace's visionary programme to establish a digital satellite broadcasting service throughout Africa. The UNESCO Chairs in Africa, and kindred institutions engaged in the advancement of citizen competence in democratic ideals and human rights, can make immediate and fruitful use of AfriSpace's facilities in communication.

I endorse Federal Communications Commission approval of AfriSpace's application with enthusiasm and without reservation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andreas Eshete". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Professor Andreas Eshete