



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation Des Nations Unies pour l'Education, la Science et la Culture

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12 March 1999

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

Re: Amendment of AfriSpace Inc.'s Application for Authority to Construct, Launch and Operate a Sub-regional Africa and Middle Eastern Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File N° CSS-90-017

Dear Ms Salas,


The UNESCO Culture of Peace Programme in Addis Ababa wishes to express its support for the AfriSpace Inc. Application that is currently pending before the FCC.

As you might know, UNESCO has always been at the forefront of initiatives to support the free flow of informations, the democratization of access to the new information technologies and their use in the field of education, development and peace building. It is why, within the framework of the UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa launched by The United Nations in 1996, UNESCO has been designated as the lead Agency for the implementation of the Component of the Initiative dealing with "Communications for Peace Building". It is also in this context that we are actually collaborating with Worldspace Foundation in the creation of an African Learning Channel and the development of radio programmes on culture of peace for Africa.

An information system, such as that proposed by AfriSpace and inaugurated by the recent launch of the AfriStar Satellite, will surely facilitate the joint efforts of African Nations and International Community to build a development-serving African Information Society.

For the above reasons, we strongly recommend that the Federal Communications Commission extend its approval to the AfriSpace application.

Yours sincerely,


Dr. Ali Moussa Iye
Culture of Peace Programme
UNESCO, Addis Ababa