

MINISTRY OF EAST AFRICAN & REGIONAL CO-OPERATION



OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
P.O. BOX 30510
NAIROBI
KENYA

Telephone No. 227411
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Date.....4th May, 1999.....

MAY 10 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Marjorie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
The Portals
455-12th Street S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 206643

STAMP & RETURN

Dear Ms. Salas,

**APPLICATION OF AFRISPACE INC. FOR AUTHORITY TO LAUNCH
AND OPERATE A SATELLITE SOUND BROADCASTING
TRANSMISSION SYSTEM**

This letter is to confirm that the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation is fully supportive on the ongoing initiative led by WorldSpace Inc., to development mechanisms and structures in order to facilitate the broadcast of development content using digital satellite transmission.

The WorldSpace mission, which is predicated upon a vision to deliver life skills and developmental information to as many of the world's people as possible, has been greatly enhanced by the recent launch of AfriStar, the first of three satellites that will mediate digital broadcasting of 100 channels of programming.

We believe firmly in the democratization of access, and in the bringing of the fore of alternative perspectives. This is why we consider the ongoing collaboration with WorldSpace in the development of an African Learning Channel is so important. More than any other region of the World, Africa can benefit tremendously from information and communication for development.

It is in this context that we hail continental efforts to build a development-serving African Information Society, working with partners under the umbrella and the UN System-Wide Special Initiative on Africa. This project has our unqualified support.

Yours sincerely



**S. Z. AMBUKA, EBS, SS
PERMANENT SECRETARY**