

**REVIEW AND OUTCOME OF THE 1ST AFRICAN LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE HELD AT ABUJA, NIGERIA FROM 23RD – 25TH
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Abstract

Building on the success of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002, the United Nations adopted the Millennium Development goals (MDGs), committing the nations of the world to a new global agenda to reduce poverty, improved healthcare, and promote peace, education, human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability. The MDGs are the world's time bound programmes, with the year 2015 as a target deadline for addressing extreme poverty in its various dimensions, such as income scarcity, hunger, disease, ignorance and lack of access to adequate shelter, water and energy. Within the framework of the global economic agenda, some regional and national development initiatives and economic reforms were adopted, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Against this background and the need to utilize space science and technology for the realization of the economic agenda, African member states held consultations among themselves during the 48th session of the meetings of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) to commence the organization of the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology (SST) for Sustainable Development. The first African Leadership Conference was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 23rd – 25th November, 2006. The Abuja conference deliberated on the role of space science and technology in Africa's present and future development and in its commitment to the relevant knowledge and technology development in SST, with specific emphasis on knowledge and skills acquisition through capacity building, knowledge sharing, joint participation in mutually beneficial projects, and bilateral and international cooperation.