



Maputo Declaration on the Development of Geosciences in Africa

The Geological Societies of Africa (GSAf) and South Africa (GSSA), the Geological and Mining Association of Mozambique (AGMM) and the geoscience institutions and geoscientists present at the 21st Colloquium of African Geology, held in Maputo, Mozambique from the 3rd to the 5th of July 2006;

Considering the potential of the geosciences to contribute significantly towards achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa, and *noting* the crucial roles of the African Union (AU), the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in this regard;

Welcoming the Resolution 60/192 of the United Nations proclaiming 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE);

Welcoming the Global Earth Observatory System of Systems (GEOSS);

Certain that with its wide range of natural resources, Africa has much to contribute to its own development and that of other regions of planet earth;

Convinced that geoscience's knowledge can help Africa learning from past mistakes in the environmental management of our earth system in order to improve the quality of life of its peoples;

1. *Share* the vision that:

- *Promoting* wider geoscience education will improve awareness by the African peoples of the need for sustainable management of the environment and of the continent's natural resources to combat poverty.
- *Strengthening* the scientific infrastructure and promoting regional centres of excellence will substantially favour the emergence of high quality geoscience research in Africa.
- *Improving* the extent and quality of geological mapping and developing improved geoscience information networks will assist exploration for mineral, energy and water resources and in addressing major environmental challenges that face the continent.

2. *Remind* African geoscientists of their responsibilities in studying their continent so as to make the north-south partnership stronger and more fruitful.

3. *Support* the Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP)-European Union Georesources System for Africa (AEGOS) initiative to develop a digital, distributed, shared and interoperable information system for the ACP subsurface, resources and hazards.

4. *Invite* the African geoscience community and civil society to contribute actively, through National Committees of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), to demonstrate the great potential of the geosciences in building a safer, healthier and wealthier Africa.

5. *Invite* Leaders of the African nations to recognise fully and give a special support to the development of geoscience throughout the continent, particularly by increasing national research budgets and, more specifically by giving special attention to the alarming brain drain, which is strongly weakening the African research system.

6. *Call upon* the African Union, through its relevant Specialized Technical Committee and ministers responsible for science and technology to develop a Strategic Plan for the Balanced Development of geoscience in Africa, and specifically to include the important branch of geoscience in the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action adopted by the ministers responsible for science and technology on 30 September 2005 in Dakar, Senegal.

Maputo July 5, 2006.