WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on Science Capacity Building in Africa: promoting European-African radio astronomy partnerships

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Written declaration on Science Capacity Building in Africa: promoting European-African radio astronomy partnerships

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, which aims at strengthening science and technology cooperation between the EU and Africa,

– having regard to the Millennium Development Goals, which identify the essential role of science and technology for socio-economic transformation,

– having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. recognising the value of research infrastructures in facilitating cooperation with Africa, promoting human capital development and addressing societal challenges, as noted in the Innovation Union and Europe 2020 Strategy,

B. acknowledging Africa’s unique competitive advantage in the study of radio astronomy, reflected in the extensive existing radio astronomy projects located in Africa (PAPER, VLBI network, MeerKAT, etc.),

C. recognising that further European involvement in African radio astronomy can become a powerful driver of socioeconomic growth in Africa and create a new range of market opportunities for both continents,

1. Urges the Commission, Council and the parliaments of the Member States to:

   (a) support the development of science capacity in Africa through greater investment in research infrastructures, with particular focus on radio astronomy projects,

   (b) promote the science of radio astronomy and the innovation and research potential of radio astronomy initiatives in future Africa-EU partnerships,

   (c) mobilise EU funding mechanisms, including the Framework Programmes and the Development Cooperation Instrument, to support these objectives;

2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the parliaments of the Member States.