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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.