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EX.CL/229 (VIII)

**REPORT OF THE 7TH AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

Report of the 7th AU Conference of Ministers Responsible for Animal Resources

SUMMARY

African Ministers responsible for Animal Resources meet every three years to provide guidance to the AU Commission on matters pertaining to Animal Resources. It is in this respect that the 7th Ministerial Conference for Ministers Responsible for Animal Resources was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 3rd to 4th November 2005. The theme of the conference was ***“Finalizing the eradication of Rinderpest and control of other transboundary animal diseases for the promotion of livestock trade and poverty alleviation in Africa”***.

The opening ceremony of the conference was presided over by H.E. Paul KAGAME, President of the Republic of Rwanda, in the presence of H.E. Patrick Mazimhaka, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission and H.E. Rosebud Kurwijila, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission.

The Meeting was attended by thirty-nine (39) countries and these were: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Lesotho, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Representatives of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Commission of African Union, AU-IBAR, PATTEC, PANVAC, CTTBD, European Union, World Bank, ALIVE platform, DfID, FAO, OIE, IFPRI, ILRI, CIRAD-EMVT, GTZ, FARM Africa, USDA/APHIS, Terra Nuova, Tufts university, FARA and ASARECA participated in the conference.

A wide range of topics focusing on animal resources were presented and discussed during the Experts Meeting of the Directors of Veterinary Services and Animal Resources held from 31st October to 2nd November 2005 in the Conference Center of the Intercontinental Hotel in Kigali, Rwanda. These topics were later presented to the Ministers Meeting for their consideration and adoption of relevant resolutions. The topics that were presented and discussed included the following:

- (i) AU-IBAR Animal Resources Strategy Programme for the period 2005-2007;
- (ii) Integrating the Livestock Sub-sector into the CAADP;
- (iii) The Pan Africa Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) progress report;
- (iv) Strengthening National Epidemiological Surveillance Networks;
- (v) Sustaining the Funding of National Surveillance Systems;
- (vi) The Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) progress report;

- (vii) Policy and Institutional Changes in the Livestock Sub-sector for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security in Africa;
- (viii) Influencing and Meeting the Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Measures for Increased Access to Markets for Livestock Commodities in Africa;
- (ix) Establishment of a Sustainable Animal Resources Information Network for Africa;
- (x) The Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC) progress report;
- (xi) The Evolving Threat of Infectious Diseases in Africa – The case for a Pan African Vision for Disease Management;
- (xii) AU-IBAR Symposium on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza;
- (xiii) Goats – Unlocking Their Potential for Africa's Farmers; and
- (xiv) The ALIVE platform.

Eight resolutions were adopted with the a few significant ones being:

Resolution on rinderpest eradication

Recognizing:

- the success achieved in the field of rinderpest eradication in Africa and convinced that the continent is about to get rid of this disease in the near future thereby allowing the complete eradication from the planet of a disaster, which causes considerable economic losses.

The Conference of Ministers:

- requests AU/IBAR to speed up the implementation of planned activities within the framework of the Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Unit (SERECU) and prepare a post-PACE programme and look for its funding for the final eradication of rinderpest from the African continent;
- invites those African countries that have not yet embarked on the OIE pathway for eradication of rinderpest to do so.

Resolution on coordination and harmonization of livestock development programmes

Considering:

- the mission of AU/IBAR within the framework of the strategic plan of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the Commission of the African Union;
- the mandate assigned to NEPAD by the African Heads of State and Government for agriculture development in Africa and taking into account the guidelines contained the CAADP II document;

- the importance of the role of the Regional Economic Communities and research institutions in the implementation of coherent regional integration policy.

The Conference of Ministers:

- adopts the CAADP II document;
- notes the efforts made by AU/IBAR and NEPAD in coordinating their programmes, and invites them to strengthen their collaboration in view of elaborating a harmonized strategic document for livestock development in Africa taking into account the research aspects;
- requests AU/IBAR to harmonize its activities with those of the Regional Economic Communities and those of research institutions within the framework of the implementation of the different programmes.

Resolution on AU/IBAR action plan for 2005-2007**Considering:**

- the orientations given in the AU/IBAR action plan for 2005-2007, which emphasize the need to increase the livestock production for increased income and food security particularly for the vulnerable groups;
- the objectives of the strategic plan in the field of animal health, production as well as trade in livestock and livestock products.

The Conference of Ministers:

- Adopts the AU/IBAR strategic plan for 2005-2007 and requests that issues related to production and trade be taken into account.

EX.CL/229 (VIII)
Annex

REPORT OF THE 7TH AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES
3 – 4 November 2005-11-29
Kigali Rwanda

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**AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES
7th ORDINARY SESSION
3-4 NOVEMBER, 2005
KIGALI, RWANDA**

**AU/DREA/MIN/Rpt. (VII)
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**REPORT ON THE
THE 7TH AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR
ANIMAL RESOURCES
3 – 4 November 2005-11-29
Kigali Rwanda**

OUTCOME OF THE 7TH AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Livestock in Africa

In terms of occupation agriculture remains the most important economic activity in Africa. In 2003, more than half of Africa's human population was engaged in primary agricultural activities, ranging from 30% in North Africa to as much as 75% in East Africa. In 1999, livestock were estimated to account for 53% of the agricultural capital stock in sub-Saharan Africa, with land accounting for a further 42%. Livestock significantly contribute to agricultural GDP, and it is estimated that livestock-derived food items (meat, milk and eggs) alone contributed around 30% to agriculture GDP in 2003. This estimate does not include non-food livestock products such as draught power and manure, which enhance productivity of crop production, nor does it take into account intangible livestock contributions to rural communities through risk mitigation and wealth accumulation.

1.2 AU Animal Resources Strategy

Considering the importance of livestock to the socio-economic development and livelihoods of most farming communities on the continent, the AUC has developed a well defined strategy for this sector in its strategic plan for 2004-2007. Amongst the priorities for the livestock sector is the institutionalisation of the three 3 Regional Specialized Technical Offices that address animal resources issues:

- AU-IBAR – The Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources which has the responsibility of addressing all aspects of animal health and production including transboundary diseases and marketing of livestock products;
- PATTEC – The Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign whose goal is to eradicate the tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis disease from Africa. The programme is already operational in eight countries and has assisted these countries to secure approximately USD 70 million from the African Development Bank (ADB) to implement their activities. The programme is assisting an additional 18 countries to develop their strategies as well; and
- PANVAC – The Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre whose objective is promoting the availability of safe, effective and affordable veterinary vaccines; facilitating the development and the introduction of improved or new vaccines; and strengthening Africa's capacity building in veterinary vaccine development, production and quality assurances.

These technical offices which are all within the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture drive the AUC's livestock strategies that are based on:

- The coordination and harmonization of policies for improved livestock production;
- The promotion and cooperation on trans-boundary diseases and pest control including Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis eradication from Africa;
- The promotion of drought mitigation programmes for improved livestock and pasture management;
- The promotion of quality control standards of livestock products for livestock trade and marketing; and
- The certification and quality control of veterinary vaccines.

2.0 AU Conference of Ministers Responsible for Animal Resources

2.1 Conference Venue and Attendance

African Ministers responsible for Animal Resources meet every three years to provide guidance to the AU Commission on matters pertaining to Animal Resources. It is in this respect that the 7th Ministerial Conference for Ministers Responsible for Animal Resources was by the AUC and was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 3rd to 4th November 2005. The theme of the conference was ***“Finalizing the eradication of Rinderpest and control of other transboundary animal diseases for the promotion of livestock trade and poverty alleviation in Africa”***.

The Meeting was attended by thirty-nine (39) countries and these were: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Lesotho, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Representatives of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, AU-IBAR, PATTEC, PANVAC, CTTBD, European Union, World Bank, ALIVE platform, DfID, FAO, OIE, IFPRI, ILRI, CIRAD-EMVT, GTZ, FARM Africa, USDA/APHIS, Terra Nuova, Tufts university, FARA and ASARECA were also present at the meeting.

The Ministers agreed to hold the conference after every two years and unanimously accepted the proposal made by the delegate from the Republic of Chad to host the 8th Ministerial Conference in Ndjamena- Chad in 2007.

2.2 Topics Presented and Discussed

A wide range of topics focusing on animal resources were discussed during the experts meeting comprising of the Directors of Veterinary Services and Animal Resources held from 31st October to 2nd November 2005. The experts deliberated on the following topics:

- (i) AU-IBAR's Strategy and Programme of work for the period 2005-2007;
- (ii) Integration of the Livestock Sub-sector into the CAADP;
- (iii) The Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) progress report;
- (iv) Strengthening National Epidemiological Surveillance Networks;
- (v) Sustaining the Funding of National Surveillance Systems;
- (vi) The Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) - progress report;
- (vii) Policy and Institutional Changes in the Livestock Sub-sector for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security in Africa;
- (viii) Influencing and Meeting the Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Measures for Increased Access to Markets for Livestock Commodities in Africa;
- (ix) Establishment of a Sustainable Animal Resources Information Network for Africa;
- (x) The Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC) progress report;
- (xi) The Evolving Threat of Infectious Diseases in Africa – The case for a Pan African Vision for Disease Management;
- (xii) AU-IBAR Symposium on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza;
- (xiii) Goats – Unlocking Their Potential for Africa's Farmers;
- (xiv) The ALIVE platform.

2.3 Resolutions Adopted

After fruitful deliberations on the above themes, the Conference of Ministers adopted the following resolutions.

1. Resolution on rinderpest eradication

Recognizing:

- the success achieved in the field of rinderpest eradication in Africa and convinced that the continent is about to get rid of this disease in the near future thereby allowing the complete eradication from the planet of a disaster, which causes considerable economic losses.

The Conference of Ministers:

- requests AU/IBAR to speed up the implementation of planned activities within the framework of the Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Unit (SERECU) and prepare a post-PACE programme and look for its funding for the final eradication of rinderpest from the African continent;
- invites those African countries that have not yet embarked on the OIE pathway for eradication of rinderpest to do so.

2. Resolution on the prevention and control of Avian Influenza

Considering:

- the situation of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the world and its threat to the African continent;
- the impact of the disease on food security, incomes of African populations and particularly the poor;
- the actions already implemented by international organisations i.e. FAO, OIE and WHO to coordinate the fight against Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in infected countries;
- the need for Africa to have appropriate means to address the eventual introduction of the disease onto the continent;
- the importance of the forthcoming conference on avian influenza in Geneva from 7th to 9th November 2005 organised under the auspices of FAO, OIE, WHO and World Bank in view of mobilizing financial resources to control the disease.

The Conference of Ministers:

- endorses the recommendations of the symposium on HPAI organised by AU/IBAR in September 2005 in Nairobi, validated by the 11th PACE Advisory Committee Meeting and the 5th Executive Committee of ALIVE;
- requests AU/IBAR in collaboration with FAO, OIE, WHO and other partners, to take all the necessary steps to organise in the near future a meeting to assess the efficacy of the suggested strategies by AU/IBAR;
- invites African countries to strengthen their capacities in the field of surveillance of animal diseases, HPAI in particular and to avail emergency funds. Appeals to development partners to mobilize funds to support national and regional efforts;

- notes with gratitude the announcement of availability of funds and support from the FAO, the European Union, the World Bank and other bilateral development partners including the United States of America;
 - requests donors to urgently mobilize the necessary resources to support the current efforts being undertaken by African countries at national and regional levels.
- 3. Resolution on coordination and harmonization of livestock development programmes**

Considering:

- the mission of AU/IBAR within the framework of the strategic plan of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the Commission of the African Union;
- the mandate assigned to NEPAD by the African Heads of State and Government for agriculture development in Africa and taking into account the guidelines contained the CAADP II document;
- the importance of the role of the Regional Economic Communities and research institutions in the implementation of coherent regional integration policy.

The Conference of Ministers:

- adopts the CAADP II document;
- notes the efforts made by AU/IBAR and NEPAD in coordinating their programmes, and invites them to strengthen their collaboration in view of elaborating a harmonized strategic document for livestock development in Africa taking into account the research aspects;
- requests AU/IBAR to harmonize its activities with those of the Regional Economic Communities and those of research institutions within the framework of the implementation of the different programmes.

4. Resolution on AU/IBAR action plan for 2005-2007

Considering:

- the orientations given in the AU/IBAR action plan for 2005-2007, which emphasize the need to increase the livestock production for increased income and food security particularly for the vulnerable groups;
- the objectives of the strategic plan in the field of animal health, production as well as trade in livestock and livestock products.

The Conference of Ministers:

- Adopts the AU/IBAR strategic plan for 2005-2007 and requests that issues related to production and trade be taken into account.

5. Resolution on the sustainability of funding of epidemiosurveillance systems.**Considering:**

- the good results achieved by the PACE programme in the implementation and re-inforcement of surveillance systems and the need to ensure their sustainability;
- the results of cost-benefit studies undertaken, especially within the framework of PACE, which show that investments in surveillance activities are insignificant compared to the costs of having to control the disease in case of an outbreak;
- the need to extend the epidemiosurveillance to all African countries and to maintain coordination of animal disease activities at regional level;
- the foreseen end of the PACE financial agreement;
- the inadequate allocation of resources to the livestock sector in many African countries.

The Conference of Ministers:

- invites governments of African countries to avail adequate financial resources to veterinary services and in particular epidemio-surveillance networks through subsequent budgetary allocations and using additional sources of funding which are generated from livestock sector activities;
- appeals to the European Union as well as other development partners to mobilize new resources to consolidate the PACE programme achievements and extend the epidemiosurveillance network to those countries where it does not exist. In line with this, the Conference of Ministers invites the Commission of the African Union to organise in the near future a round table of donors;
- invites governments to allocate to the livestock sector a minimum of 30% of the 10% of budgetary allocations to agriculture in conformity with the decision of the Heads of State of July 2003 in Maputo.

6. Resolution on trade in livestock and livestock products

Considering:

- The resolution no 3 of the 6th Ministerial Conference on the improvement of trade in livestock products as a permanent issue;
- the potential of the livestock sector of many countries;
- the constraints to the promotion of intra and extra African trade of livestock and livestock product, due to the tariff and non-tariff barriers as well as the inadequate infrastructure, notably transport.

The Conference of Ministers:

- encourages AU/IBAR to continue the implementation of the network of livestock and livestock products exporting countries and elaborate a specific strategy for the promotion of intra-African trade with the concerned countries;
- invites African Union Member Countries to take the necessary measures to comply with the WTO SPS measures.

7. Resolution on strengthening of the newly established regional technical bureaus of DREA

Considering:

- the mission assigned to the newly established regional technical bureaus of the African Union in order to promote the availability of veterinary vaccines through the strengthening of technical capacities of laboratories of Africa on the one hand and the eradication of tsetse flies and trypanosomiasis and the other hand.

The Conference of Ministers:

- requests the Commission of the African Union to:
 - (i) take the necessary steps to assure the funding of activities of PANVAC as of 1st January 2006; and
 - (ii) implement the recommendations concerning PATTEC adopted during the 28th International Scientific Council for Research and the fight against Trypanosomiasis and convene a donors meeting to supplement the support being given by the African Development Bank.

8. Resolution on ALIVE platform

Considering

- The missions assigned to the ALIVE platform and the role it can play in the mobilization of partners and in the coordination of their various interventions in the continent;
- The results of negotiations between the AU Commission on the one hand and the WHO and World Bank on the other;
- The recommendations of the 11th PACE Advisory Committee and the 5th Executive Committee of the ALIVE platform.

The Conference of Ministers:

- applauds the launch of ALIVE and appreciates the transfer the leadership of its governing organs to the African Union;
- encourages the transfer of the ALIVE secretariat to AU/IBAR;
- endorses the recommendations of the 11th PACE Advisory Committee Meeting and the 5th Executive Committee of the ALIVE platform.

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