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**INTEGRATING THE CENTRE FOR TICK AND TICK BORNE
DISEASES (CTTBD) INTO THE AU STRUCTURES**
(Item proposed by the Republic of Malawi)

Concept Note on
Re-Integrating the Centre for Tick and Tick Borne Diseases
(CTTBD) in the AU Structures

Background

1. The Centre for Tick and Tick Borne Diseases was established in 1978 in Malawi following a Decision by the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of the African Unity (OAU) to deal with the threat that ticks posed to animal production in most parts of Africa. A subsequent resolution by the Council of Ministers of the OAU in 1978 to set up regional centres in Africa to that effect chose Malawi to host the Regional Centre for Southern Africa.
2. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) which was the Executing Agency at the time, and the Malawi Government set up the Vaccine Production Centre in compliance with the OAU Resolution. With the assistance of the Governments of the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium, the Centre was officially opened by the Organisation of African Unity/Inter African Bureau for Animal (OAU/IBAR) in 1996.
3. On 7th July, 2000, the Government of Malawi signed a Headquarters Agreement with the Organisation of the African Unity to host the Centre for Ticks and Tick Borne Diseases. The Centre was thereafter affiliated with IBAR. However, due to unknown reasons, the Centre was left out at the time when all technical regional offices, including IBAR, were being re-instituted into the AUC/DREA following the transformation of the OAU to the AU.
4. In 2001, a decision was taken by the Directors of Veterinary Services in the SADC countries to make the CTTBD a Trust with a Board overseeing its activities in order to foster the sustainability of the Centre's operations through pooling resources together and securing a commitment by Member States to make use of its products and services. The products and services included East Coast fever vaccines, diagnostic products and training in epidemiology, laboratory services and disease control. The Board comprised the Director of AU-IBAR, SADC Secretariat and the Directors of Veterinary Services from all the SADC countries. Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi attend the Board meetings as observers.
5. Since its inception, the CTTBD has been fulfilling the objective of developing the livestock industry in Africa through organizing and conducting training programmes in epidemiology and Tick-borne disease control techniques; production of quality assured vaccines for Tick-borne diseases and backup services to Tick-borne vaccine administration in the field.
6. Malawi is therefore proposing that the CTTBD be fully re-integrated into the AU Structures to be part of the African Union once again.

Proposal

7. The ideals for which the CTTBD was established are valid today as they were at its inception. Tick and tick-borne diseases continue to be a major hindrance to the development of livestock industry in Sub-Saharan Africa where millions of livestock die due to tick-borne diseases every year.

8. CCTBD has been contributing to address the foregoing problems through its core activities that encompass vaccine production and research activities as well as conducting short-term training within its mandate. Through these activities, the CTTBD has built capacities (infrastructure, human resources etc.) that could be harnessed to address Africa's challenges in the sector of livestock.

9. Considering that the functions of the CTTBD are in line with the mandate of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture in the African Union Commission and that there is need for harnessing existing capacities to address challenges in animal production for which the CTTBD was established by the OAU, and most importantly to enhance synergies in policy, transparency and efficiency in resource use; the Government of Malawi is proposing that the CTTBD should be re-integrated into the AU structures as a specialized centre within the AU/IBAR which holds a wider mandate on animal resources in Africa.

2012

Integrating the Centre for Tick and Tick Borne Diseases (CTTBD) into the AU structures (Item proposed by The Republic of Malawi)

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