



AU-IBAR's Thanks-giving and Closing Remarks to the African Union Diplomatic Corps Meeting on the Support to Animal Welfare resolutions process to the United Nation General Assembly.

22-24th November 2021

- **H.E Beyene Russom, Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Eritrea;**
- **H.E Dampety B. Asare, Ghana High Commissioner to Kenya.**
- **Amb. Nehemiah Rotich, Board Member for Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) Board and the World Federation for Animals Representatives of the African Diplomatic Corps to UNEP**
- **Animal Welfare Experts from various organizations**
- **All Protocols observed**
- **Distinguished participants**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Afternoon

It is a great pleasure to say few words on behalf of African Union Commission and my own behalf after 1-day meeting of fruitful deliberations and abundant exchange of knowledge and experiences on animal welfare resolutions and concept process to UNEA.

First of all, I congratulate you all for achieving all the objectives of the meeting. Your effective participation in this meeting is a clear indication of the commitment we have in addressing the important issue of animal welfare and sustainable environment. It is also my strong belief that this forum has provided an ideal environment for networking that will make our work in AW resolutions easier to carry forward.

Your Excellences, Distinguished Participants

Allow me, to express our special appreciation to the six AU Member States, Ghana, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, for the initiative to sponsor this call to the UNEA to entrench Animal Welfare in its agenda to protect the environment for sustainable development. A special mention of gratitude to His Excellency, Honourable Dampsey Bediako Asare, the High Commissioner for Ghana to Kenya, who, on behalf of the Government of Ghana, is leading the process, which is coordinating the promotion of the Resolution to the rest of the AU Member States.

Furthermore, may I reveal to you that the Honourable Minister for Environment for Burkina Faso, **Hon S.E. M. Simèon Sawadogo** who is one of the co-sponsors of this resolution, is also the Vice President of the United Nations Environment Assembly. This, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, gives us very special optimism that his faith in the benefits of the Resolution we are championing for, will make him ensure that our call reaches the ears of his colleagues at the UNEA. This implies that we can count on global support for this initiative, since indeed its benefits will have global reverberations. Kindly join me in expressing our gratitude to him and the Government and People of Burkina Faso, my Home Country. !

On behalf of the African Union Commission, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to Animal Welfare Organizations, Technical Experts, Development Agencies and other Members of the African Platform for Animal Welfare, who have continued to support the AUC, through AU-IBAR, to provide the technical and financial support to the AU Member States in their efforts to enhance their heritage in Animal Resources. This day marks a major milestone in that direction. We are immensely grateful.

I therefore call upon you to apply your expertise in diplomacy, as the Committee of the African Diplomatic Corp assembled here, to support the six AU MS sponsoring this call, to move the entire 54 AU Member States, for Africa to collectively champion UNEA to take greater cognizance of the role of animal welfare in environmental issues.

Distinguished Partners and Participants,

Leveraging on our continental mandate and comparative advantage of convening political authorities and policy makers, AU-IBAR will continue to work with MSs, RECs and Partners in advancing the AW agenda across the continent. The AU-IBAR looks forward to working with you all in following up on the AW resolution submission process to UNEA. In the coming days AU-IBAR together with working closely with the Member States and its other partners will consolidate the resolutions for onward submission to the 4th Specialized Technical Committee of AUC which comprises the Ministers in charge of Animal Resources, Fisheries, Agriculture, Water and Environment which will take place from 13-17 December 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Once adopted by the STC, the resolutions will be transmitted to the Executive Councils of AUC Head State Summit in January 2022 for decision.

The AUC re-commits to deepening this strategic relationship, integrating the welfare interests of humans, animals and environment in Africa, as we advance our shared vision of responsible animal resources development and sustainable development in the continent.

Finally, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, I wish to encourage the Civil Society, International Development agencies, private sector stakeholders, and all other persons that are involved in this process, to continue playing their supportive role until the conclusion of the ambition we bear in this process. We trust that in His wisdom, God will bless our aspirations, because ultimately, it is for His creation; Animals, Planet and People, that we strive to serve.

And with these remarks, I now have the privilege of declaring this meeting closed.

May God Bless you All! Safe journey back Home

May God Bless Africa