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**OPENING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR OF AU-IBAR ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC) OF THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES (GF-TADS) IN AFRICA 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2022**

- Mr. Mohammed Shamsuddin, FAO-RAF, Vice President of GF-TADs;
- Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa;
- Representative of RECs COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, EAC, UMA and IGAD/ICP{ALD
- Members of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa;
- Representative of the Panafrican Farmer Organization (PAFO)
- Representative of the Regional Animal Health Network (RAHN), West and Eastern Africa
- Representative of the Africa Association for Veterinary Education Establishments (2AV2E)
- FAO, IBAR and OIE Staffs
- All Protocol observed

**Good morning/Afternoon to All**

Good Morning Members of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs Africa and distinguished participants. It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the African Union Commission and on behalf of AU-IBAR, to welcome you all to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs Africa, here at AU-IBAR premises. At the onset I would like to thank, Dr. Karim Tounkara, and his team, FAO and AU-IBAR for organising this meeting and you, members of Steering Committee and distinguished participants, for accepting our invitations. Thank you.

## **The Steering Committee Members and distinguished participants**

Given the heavy burden of Transboundary animal Diseases in the Continent and the inadequate investments by MSs, RECs and Partners the need to strengthen cooperation and partnerships to leverage on our comparative advantages and resources is of paramount importance. The Regional GF-TADs provides us with a mechanism to catalyse cooperation and partnerships. At the onset let me take this early opportunity to appreciate the partnerships AUC enjoys with our MSs, RECs, FAO, WOAHA and other stakeholders for the control and eradication of important TADs in Africa. As a result significant milestones have been achieved contributing significantly to the overarching policy objectives of AU members states of poverty reduction, improved livelihoods and food and nutritional security.

African Union institutions including AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, AU-PATTEC and Africa CDC recommit to deepening our strategic partnership with MSs, RECs , FAO and WOAHA in order to manage better TADs and zoonoses.

## **Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen**

During the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs Africa that was held virtually on the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021 several recommendations were made for implementation by partners in order to contribute to the realisation of the GF-TADS aspirations. I am therefore pleased to inform you that AU-IBAR has made some progress towards implementation of some of them and I am pleased to make some few highlights:

- Towards re-engaging development partners on the need to prioritize PPR control and eradication, AU-IBAR convened partners to develop a concept note on PPR Control and eradication which was shared with EU;
- As a follow up AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC held a meeting with Dr. Leonard Mizzi Head of Unit, Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the EU Headquarters in Brussels.
- AU-IBAR brought to the attention of the Specialised Technical Committee of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, during their meeting that was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021, on the need for renewed commitment for enhanced progress towards control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants by 2030.

- The STC urged AU Member States to include PPR control and eradication as a priority in their National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) and in key negotiations with development partners to ensure adequate budgetary allocations and disbursements for the effective and timely implementation of the PPR National Strategies.
- The STC also requested the AU Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs and Member States with the support of FAO, OIE and stakeholders, to accelerate efforts to mobilize resources for a continentally coordinated programme for the eradication of PPR from Africa by 2030. To this end, STC-ARDWE welcomed and strongly supported the ongoing discussions initiated by the AU Commission and partners with the European Union.
- In regard to follow up on rinderpest containing materials to AU-PANVAC for safe sequestration as requested by Heads of States of AU AU-PANVAC held discussions with one MS and good progress is being made;
- To support countries to strengthen the institutionalisation and operationalisation and of the One health approach AU-IBAR, ACDC and other AUC relevant departments have established the African Union One Health Coordination Group on Zoonotic Diseases. Among the activities of the the Coordination group include overseeing the development of AU One Health Strategy for zoonotic diseases and coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of activities of the AU One Health Strategy on Zoonotic Diseases;
- To commemorate the AU-IBAR 70th Anniversary and the 10th Anniversary of Rinderpest eradication that were held on the 17th and the 18th March 2022 the Pan Africa PPR control and eradication programme (2022-2026) was launched. And Statements in support of PPR control and eradication were delivered by Ministers in Charge of Animal Resources from Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda. The Ministers also made 'THE NAIROBI DECLARATION ON THE ERADICATION OF PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS BY 2030' and I will be providing more details on the cerebrations later in our programme.

with these few remarks, I welcome you all once again to AU-IBAR and to this meeting and I look forward to a fruitful meeting and I thank you all for your attention.

**May God bless Africa**

**Dr. Nick Doulgas Nwankpa**

Ag. Director of AU-IBAR