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***WELCOME REMARKS OF THE DIRECTOR OF AU-IBAR DR NICK NWANKPA  
AT THE PANAFRICAN DONKEY CONFERENCE  
JULIUS NYERERE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, DAR-ES-SALAM,  
TANZANIA 1-2 DECEMBER 2022***

- Honourable Minister of Livestock of the United Republic of Tanzania
- Honourable Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Chad, Dr Abderahim Atteib
- Honourable Minister of Livestock and Animal Productions, of Senegal Mr Aly Saleh Diop
- Representative of the Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries of Cote d'Ivoire,
- Honourable PS of the Ministry of Livestock of the United Republic of Tanzania
- Dr. Ameha Sebside, Head of Livestock of IGAD/ICPALD
- Prof. Hassan Hadakal, Programme Officer, RAHCH/ECOWAS
- Dr. Yoseph Mamo, Livestock Desk Officer, COMESA
- Dr. David Balikowa, Livestock Officer, EAC
- CVOs from MSs Nigeria, Chad, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger
- Dr. Samuel Wakushama, Regional Representative of WOAHA for Eastern Africa
- Dr. Charles Bebay, FAO ECTAD Regional manager for Eastern Africa
- Dr. Raphael Kinoti, Regional Director of Brooke East Africa
- Dr. Emmanuel Sarr, Regional Director of Brooke West Africa,
- Ms. Penny Ward, Representative of World Horse Welfare,
- Mr. Simon Pope, Program manager Donkey Sanctuary,
- Representative from SPANA,
- Mr Josphat Ngunyo, Executive Director of ANAW
- Various Experts of animal welfare organizations

- **AU-IBAR Colleagues**
- **All protocol observed**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

## **Good Morning**

1. I bring you warm greetings from the African Union Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) to this Pan African Donkey Conference. I would like to thank the Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting this important continental event on Donkeys, “the Forgotten Resource” in Africa. This Conference is a clear demonstration of AU-IBAR’s recognition of the commitment and interest of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to animal resource development related issues. We are really grateful.
2. I am especially delighted by the high level of representation by Members States (MS), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Inter-governmental organizations; namely World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and UN-Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO) other partners and various stakeholders working in the areas of animal welfare across the continent and beyond. I would also like to convey my appreciation to all of you for having set time aside despite your busy schedules and commitments to accept the invitation to participate and to witness this event.
3. I would also like to commend the longstanding partnership with Brooke and others animal welfare organization partners for the financial and technical support to make this event a reality. I thank you all for this strategic partnership in advancing animal welfare agenda in the continent, and your commitments to improve the livelihoods of the African Community. This has led to the development and endorsement of the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa by AUC Head States and Summit in Feb. 2018 and the establishment and the operationalization of the Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) whose secretariat is hosted at AU-IBAR.
4. Honourable Ministers, Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen; Across Africa, donkeys support livelihoods and generate income for numerous low income

households. Despite these vital services, the donkey, often viewed as a poor man's resource, is neglected in the livestock conservation and development policies in Africa. Key facts observed in many African countries, highlights an urgent need to include donkeys in animal resource and food security frameworks, particularly as their numbers are increasingly threatened by the global skin trade. AU-IBAR as the unique specialized technical agency of the African Union Commission (AUC) coordinating the development and the utilization of animal resources for the wellbeing of African citizens has come together with Brooke and other partners, to convene this conference to arouse Africa to the above situation. This is to create an opportunity for all of us to arrive at a common position on the exploitation of the donkey in the continent. Our decision in this conference will guide the policies and strategies to preserve the animal as a critical resource for the African Community.

5. The 2022 conference builds on previous efforts by Brooke East Africa and IGAD/ICPALD, through a conference in Sept. 2019 in Nairobi under the theme "Donkey for better Alive", and another one by Brooke West Africa with RAHC/ECOWAS in Feb 2020 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso themed "the exploitation of Equine Species in West and Central Africa". These initiatives have shown strong evidence of the socio-economic value of donkeys, as well as the risk of spreading zoonotic equine diseases and other animal diseases globally. The African Union Commission has partly implemented the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA) and the Animal Health Strategy for Africa (AHSa) under the umbrella of the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LIDESa) has taken up the issues of equine and asine species development as integral part of the holistic animal resource development in Africa.
6. Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, the theme of this conference is "Donkeys in Africa: Now and in the Future" is a call for action to the AU MSs, RECs, international organization for the inclusion of equine and asine species in the animal resource policies, strategies, programs and projects. It is expected that this conference will come out with clear and strong resolution of the donkey species exploitation in Africa and suggestion for the creation/establishment and operationalization of a department in charge of equine and asine species development in all AU MSs as I case in some countries such as Senegal.

7. Your Excellences, Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen, as I conclude, AU-IBAR makes a special recognition of The Brooke Hospital for Animals, which is both the Secretariat for the conference, the People and the Government of Tanzania for the successful organization of this historical event to deepen the understanding of the role of the animal to donkey-dependent livelihoods, the risk of its extinction and to agree on policy positions on donkey exploitation in Africa and mitigation measures on the increased demand on donkey skin trade.

With few remarks I wish you fruitful deliberations.

Viva on the regional and international cooperation!

Viva the United republic of Tanzania!

Viva Africa Union Commission.

May God Bless you all!

May God Bless Africa!