



AFRICAN UNION



# AFRICA PLATFORM FOR ANIMAL WELFARE (APAW) OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES



## 1. Introduction

The Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) is a proposed AU-IBAR led continental multi-stakeholder’s platform bringing together veterinary authorities, authorities in animal production and development, donors, development and technical partners, relevant Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), training institutions, research institutions and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). It is assumed a decision making and implementation role of AWSA and the action plan. The operational guidelines describe the governance of the African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW), as defined in the 2017 Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA).

## 2. Purpose

The overall purpose of the African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) is to support the implementation of the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA).

## 3. Composition

The African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) is composed from the following two bodies:

- i. The African General Assembly for Animal Welfare (AGAAW);
- ii. The Coordination Committee for Animal Welfare in Africa (CCAWA) and
- iii. The Secretariat

## 4. Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the African Platform for Animal Welfare are as follows: to support the implementation of the Animal Welfare Strategy in Africa (AWSA);

- i. to follow up the progress of the AWSA action plan;
- ii. to promote coordination, collaboration, information sharing and to foster partnerships on animal welfare among actors (users, beneficiaries and stakeholders);
- iii. to coordinate support to animal welfare from continental to regional and national levels;

- iv. to promote the animal welfare agenda across the continent through participatory approaches, community engagement and ownership;
- v. to foster a holistic and multi-stakeholder approach ensuring good animal welfare practices in different contexts and situations in Africa;
- vi. to provide guidance to countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs); and stakeholders on priority intervention areas in animal welfare, based on the African context.

## **5. Tasks**

The African Platform for Animal Welfare tasks shall be:

- i. to coordinate and guide the process of the implementation of the strategy;
- ii. to enhance collaboration, cooperation, coordination, partnership and promote information sharing with stakeholders' organizations;
- iii. to support the formulation of Africa's common position(s) on animal welfare during the OIE standard setting processes;
- iv. to support the UDAW as an African Union resolution to the UN;
- v. To advocate for compliance to animal welfare standards by African Union Commission (AUC) Member States (MS);
- vi. To mobilize resources for the implementation of the 4-year action plan.

## **6. Membership**

The African General Assembly for Animal Welfare (AGAAW) shall be composed of the following members:

- i. Relevant competent authorities of the African Member States (55 Member States);
- ii. Private sector and professional organizations operating at continental level in food supply chains or production systems where animals or animal products are involved as well as in the keeping of animals for other purposes;
- iii. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) operating at continental or regional level in relation to animal welfare;
- iv. International and continental intergovernmental organizations with a mandate on animal welfare such as AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE;
- v. International and continental donors;
- vi. Academic and research institutes;

- vii. Animal welfare experts from each of the 5 Africa regions (as observers).

Member States shall nominate senior-level representatives in the General Assembly and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives are permanent and possess a sufficiently high level of expertise. The General Assembly may refuse a representative nominated by any Member State (or any Organization, as defined above under “membership”) if it is considered that the nomination is not appropriate. In such case, the MS or the Organization concerned shall be asked to appoint another representative. Experts appointed to seat in the General Assembly are observers and not representatives or delegates of countries or institutions/organizations.

## **7. Operation of the General Assembly**

- i. The General Assembly shall be chaired by the MS holding the presidency of AU;
- ii. The Vice Chair of the GA will be picked from the REC on rotational basis
- iii. The General Assembly shall act at the request of the Chair, in compliance with the horizontal rules;
- iv. The General Assembly shall meet at least once a year and whenever the Chair or the (simple) majority of the General Assembly considers a meeting necessary;
- v. The AU-IBAR will ensure the secretariat;
- vi. In agreement with the the General Assembly, and by simple majority of its members, the Chair may decide that deliberations shall be public;
- vii. Minutes on the discussion on each point on the agenda and the conclusions of the debates shall be meaningful and complete. Minutes shall be drafted by the rapporteur and the secretariat under the responsibility of the Chair;
- viii. The General Assembly shall adopt reports or conclusions by consensus. In the event of a vote, the outcome of the vote shall be decided by simple majority of the voting members (i.e. excluding the observers);
- ix. The General Assembly should report every two years to the AU meeting of Ministers in charge of animal resources about the progress and results achieved.

## 8. Observers to General Assembly

- i. Individuals, organizations or public entities may be granted an observer status, in compliance with the horizontal rules, either by direct invitation or through a call for applications.
- ii. Organizations or public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives.
- iii. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the General Assembly and provide expertise. However, they shall not have voting rights.
- iv. The General Assembly shall not have more than 6 observers or otherwise decided after proposition by the Chair.

## 9. Organization of the Coordination committee

The coordination committee will be composed of:

- i. Chair: AU-IBAR
- ii. Vice-Chair: FAO or OIE on a two-years rotation
- iii. Secretariat: AU-IBAR
- iv. Member States : one CVO from a MS
- v. RECs : one representative;
- vi. OIE : Designated representative;
- vii. FAO : Designated representative;
- viii. PAFO : Designated representative;
- ix. NGOs & Other civil societies in Animal Welfare: Four Representatives
- x. Academia and Research : one representative;
- xi. Animal Welfare experts : Four from Africa regions;

## 10. Coordination Committee for Animal Welfare in Africa

- i. The General Assembly will decide on the terms of reference and composition of the Coordination Committee of the Platform considering the balance of stakeholders' candidates for seating in the coordination committee.
- ii. The criteria for selection of stakeholders should take into consideration the activities at continental level and the priorities of the ongoing four-year action

plan of the AWSA.

- iii. The Coordination Committee is elected among the members of the General Assembly
- iv. The Coordination Committee is chaired by the Director of AU-IBAR or his/her Representative.
- v. The Coordination committee reports to the General Assembly.
- vi. The Coordination Committee has a Secretariat supported by AU-IBAR in collaboration with other Members if deemed necessary.

## **11. Tasks of the Coordination Committee**

- i. The Coordination Committee will work to ensure the implementation of the action plan of the AWSA under the guidance of African Union Commission ;
- ii. The Coordination Committee is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress in the implementation of the action plan;
- iii. The Coordination Committee meets every 6 months or more in different African countries on rotational basis.
- iv. The Coordination Committee will set up the composition and the terms of reference of the Ad hoc groups on animal welfare in Africa.

## **12. Ad-hoc groups**

- i. The Coordination Committee may decide to form Ad hoc groups on animal welfare in Africa to study, provide advice, guidance and recommendations on specific issues, as defined in the four-year action plan in force;
- ii. The Ad hoc groups shall operate in compliance with the horizontal rules and shall report to the Coordination Committee. They shall be dissolved as soon as their mandate is fulfilled;
- iii. Members of Ad hoc groups that are not members of the Coordination Committee shall be selected via a public call for applications.

## **13. Invited experts to the Platform**

The Chair may invite experts with specific expertise with respect to a subject matter on the action plan to take part in the work of the Platform or Ad hoc group(s), if deemed necessary, on an ad hoc basis and in consultation with the coordination committee.

## **14. Secretariat**

AU-IBAR will act as the secretariat of APAW. Thus, a secretariat will be established with the required equipment and staff







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