



OPENING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR OF AU-IBAR, DR. HUYAM SALIH DURING THE INTER-REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY MEETING ON COORDINATION AND MAINSTREAMING OF PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS ERADICATION INITIATIVES IN AFRICA AND VALIDATION OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE ERADICATION OF PPR AND THE CONTROL OF PRIORITY SMALL RUMINANTS DISEASES IN NORTH AFRICA, 21st to 23rd APRIL, CASABLANCA

H.E Ambassador Seydou Cisse
Representatives of the FAO
Representatives of the WOAHA
Representative of UMA Secretary General, Madame Fouzia
Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities of ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADAC
Chief Veterinary Officers from Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Egypt
PPR National Coordinators
Development Partners
AU-IBAR Colleagues
Participants Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning. On behalf of the Commissioner of Agriculture Rural Development Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko and my own behalf, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to welcome you to this Inter-REC meeting. Let me take this early opportunity to thank UMA Secretariat and the Government and the People of Morocco for hosting this meeting. Thank you.

Distinguished participants,

PPR eradication has become a priority objective for the African Union as reflected in several decisions of the Heads of States and Governments and commitments to eradicate PPR as demonstrated through several PPR projects that are currently being undertaken in Africa by MSs, RECs, AUC Institutions of AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, FAO, WOAHA, ILRI among others in collaboration with development partners.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the implementation of the 1st phase of the Pan Africa PPR eradication Programme (2017-2021) AU-IBAR realized several achievements:

- Supported 34 AU MSs to develop National PPR strategies and 5 year action plans;
- Undertook resource mobilization activities;
- Supported PPR outbreak emergency response in several countries;
- Supported regional consultations to assess progress in the implementation of national, regional and continental PPR control and eradication strategies;
- Supported PPR Road Map Meetings;

- Jointly organised with WOAHA a training on preparation of Dossiers for Status recognition and for the endorsement of official control programmes for PPR;
- Supported training on PPR surveillance and samples collection for Sao Tome and Principe and Cape Verde to establish PPR status in their respective countries.
- Among many other PPR activities;

Distinguished participants,

Taking into account lessons that were learned during the implementation of the 1st Phase of the Pan Africa PPR eradication programme the 2nd phase of the PPR eradication Programme (2023-2027), aligned with the GEP, was formulated. The programme which is being jointly implemented by AUC Institutions, FAO, WOAHA, ILRI and partners was endorsed by the Executive Council of the Africa Union with the responsibility for overall coordination being vested on AU-IBAR. To enhance this mandate, the Pan-African PPR Secretariat (PAPS) is to be established and institutionalized at AU-IBAR and this was recently endorsed by Specialized technical committee for Agriculture, Rural Development Water and Environment (AU STC - ARWE) in November 2023 and adopted by the AU Heads of States and Governments during the summit on 18th February 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The available resources to AU-IBAR, RECs, MSs and partners and the coordination efforts that are in place are insufficient for a continental wide , well coordinated and time bound PPR eradication effort.

From our projections the eradication of PPR requires an estimated budget of 528M Euros over a five year period. Our estimates indicate that Member States will meet about 30% of the budget. This, therefore, means that MSs, RECs, AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, FAO and WOAHA need to mobilise 70% of the required resources from the development Partners to fill in the resource gaps identified at national, regional and the pan-Africa levels in order to ensure the effective implementation and coordination of the needed actions at the different levels.

Therefore the meeting we are going to have for the next three days is of paramount importance as it will provide us with an opportunity to discuss how we can collaborate and coordinate better and how we can mobilise the needed resources. We must reach out, once again, in our respective Regions and ignite the policy debate on PPR eradication and forge the necessary collaborations, partnerships and coalition of all stakeholders in order to mobilise the needed resources.

Distinguished participants,

Unlike the Rinderpest eradication era we now have well established Livestock Units in the RECs . This provides RECs with a huge opportunity to play their rightful role based on the principle of subsidiarity to ensure division of labour and synergy between MSs, RECs, AUC and other actors. This capacity comes in handy at a time where coordination will be critical for the establishment of buffer zones and mainstreaming of ecosystem approaches, which of necessity will demand transboundary approaches. It is my sincere hope that this meeting is going to provide us with an opportunity to discuss how we can coordinate better and how

we can mobilise resources and political good will necessary for a continental wide, well coordinated and timebound PPR eradication programme.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to thank the European Union for supporting the preparatory phase of the Pan African PPR Programme with a sum of 8M Euros. The targeted activities for this support will include; capacity development; enhancing the Governance for coordinating the PPR eradication as well as the development and implementation of a PPR vaccination Strategy. I will be elaborating further about this support later in the programme.

With this few remarks I once again welcome you all to this meeting and I wish you successful deliberations.

Thank you