# TOWARDS ADOPTION OF THE UNEA RESOLUTION:

*ANIMAL WELFARE – ENVIRONMENT – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NEXUS*

# PROJECT REPORT

**September 2019 – March 2022**

AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES

ANAW
AFRICA NETWORK FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

WORLD FEDERATION FOR ANIMALS

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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| AAWC | Africa Animal Welfare Conference |
| ADC | African Diplomatic Corp |
| ANAW | Africa Network for Animal Welfare |
| AU | African Union |
| AU-IBAR | African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources |
| AWSA | Animal Welfare Strategy |
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer |
| CPR | Committee of Permanent Representatives |
| DPR | Deputy Permanent Representative |
| FAO | Food and Agricultural Organisation |
| MS | Member State |
| OECPR | Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives |
| OIE | World Organisation for Animal Health |
| RSPCA | Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNEA | United Nations Environmental Assembly |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| WFA | World Federation for Animals |
| WHO | World Health Organisation |

"We are proud of this watershed moment for the animal protection movement. It is a massive collective success for our members and partners and proves the impact of a worldwide coalition of animal NGOs. A holistic understanding of the links between animal suffering and environmental harm and greater inter-agency collaboration with shared aims are critical stepping stones for improving the well-being of animals across the globe."

**James Yeates**
**Chief Executive Officer for WFA.**

"Today, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment acknowledged the strong body of science supporting animal welfare and its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Today, we took a bigger step forward to protect humans, animals, and the planet. And we showed how we are better together."

**Josphat Ngonyo**
**Founder and Executive Director for ANAW**

An enabling policy and legal framework is a key institutional arrangement for sustainable development of animal resources upon which to anchor the development strategies, programs and projects. A clear understanding of the fundamental issues that need to be addressed and the generation of the necessary evidence for the formulation of polices and legal frameworks to guide the components of development is crucial. AU-IBAR welcomes the adoption of the Resolution by UNEA; which is envisaged to lead to a clear understanding of the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development, and recognizes the resolution as a critical milestone in addressing its mandate to spearhead the sustainable development of the Animal Resources Sector in Africa."

**Dr Nick Nwankpa**
**Acting Director for AU-IBAR**

## Preamble and Background

The debate on the integration of animal welfare in the global environmental agenda due to lack of the consideration of animal welfare issues formed part of the discussion on various animal welfare standards across different international forums. At the 3rd Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, there were concerns by delegates that animal welfare had not been sufficiently recognized by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) as a key issue of focus, though there was a strong link between animal, human and environmental health, and the contribution by animals to Sustainable Development Goals. There was an acknowledgement by the delegates of the conference that the biennial United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), would be an ideal platform to have member states adopt a resolution on animal welfare.

Delegates hence resolved to "table a resolution at UNEA through a member state recognizing and affirming the contribution and significance of welfare of animals to environmental protection, social justice and sustainable development." They then mandated the joint secretariat of the conference, comprised of AU-IBAR, UNEP and ANAW to work towards realization of an animal welfare resolution at UNEA.

To realise the conference resolution, the conference secretariat reached out to animal welfare organisations with an intention of working with them to drive the process towards a UNEA resolution. The organisations approached included Brooke, Compassion in World Farming, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, The Donkey Sanctuary, and World Animal Protection. These organisations held a meeting and constituted themselves as the Steering Committee with terms of reference as offering oversight, advisory, and defining the strategic direction of the process, and resolved to reach out to other organisations to join the committee. The Steering Committee subsequently constituted a Technical Committee whose terms of reference were to develop technical documents, namely the concept note, draft resolution text and the negotiation strategy. For ease of coordination and communication, the Steering Committee formed a joint secretariat, which consisted of Africa Network for Animal Welfare, African Union - Inter-Bureau for Animal Resources, and the World Federation for Animals who had joined the Steering Committee by then.

During the process, the following organisations joined the Steering Committee: Animal People, Eurogroup for Animals, FOUR PAWS, and World Horse Welfare. Other organisations joined together with the Steering Committee in lobbying and advocacy during UNEA 5.2 included Catholics Concern, Mercy for Animals, ProVeg International, and Red Latinoamericana de Protección Animal (Red-LAPA).

To successfully implement the process, the following organisations supported with resources: Africa Network for Animal Welfare-USA, American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS), Animal People, Animal Welfare Trust, Animals Australia, Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), FOUR PAWS, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), WorldHorse Welfare and Wellbeing International.

Civil society organizations cannot move a resolution at UNEA, and therefore, the negotiation strategy developed was geared towards bringing on board member states who would then sponsor the resolution at UNEA.

## 2.0 UNEA: ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

## UNEA: Member state engagement process

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) brings together representatives of the 193 member states of the UN, businesses, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to agree on policies to address the world's most pressing environmental challenges. However, only member states can move resolutions at UNEA and, therefore, there was a need to engage member states to table the resolution.
The negotiation strategy identified Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Senegal, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Sudan as the countries to be engaged initially.

### 2.1.1 Visits to Member States

The purpose of the visits to the member states was to request and encourage member states to sponsor and/or support the resolution, and to identify and assign two focal point persons to meet and draft the resolution, and participate in side-events, educate, promote, and create awareness of the subject matter of the resolution.
All countries visited committed to sponsor, support the resolution, and appointed focal points, except Kenya and Nigeria who only committed to support the resolution.

### Kenya

The delegation met the Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Keriako Tobiko. The Cabinet Secretary applauded the initiative and commended civil society for partnering with governments to drive change in society.
Kenya committed to support the resolution, and this came to pass during UNEA 5.2 through its position paper on the resolution where Kenya committed to implement the resolution by preparing a strategic plan, an annual work plan, and budgets to implement the Resolution.



### Ghana



*Meeting with Environment Director (3rd from left) Peter Dery, Environmental Director of Environment, Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation.*

In Ghana, the team met the Chief Director, Ministry of Environment Science, Technology, and Innovation; Director of Environment; Director Animal Production; and the Chief Veterinary Officer.
Ghana committed to sponsor the resolution and to host the ministerial side-events in Ghana during the 5th Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC), to deliberate on the changes suggested by the African Diplomatic Corps; and in Glasgow during the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference to reach out to other global Environmental ministers to sensitize them about the resolution and seek their support for the resolution.

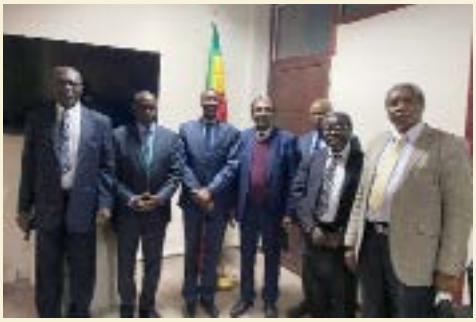
## 2.1.4 Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Senegal, Nigeria, and Ethiopia:

The team visited these countries, and met the Ministers of Environment of Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Senegal, and Ethiopia. In South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the delegation met Directors of Environment who represented their respective ministers.
All the countries that were visited applauded the initiative as timely and well thought out and accepted the invitation to attend the Africa Animal Welfare Conference in Ghana.

The visits of the countries were instrumental to the successful adoption of the resolution as all the member states visited worked together and reached out to other countries



*Roger Bokwala, Chief Officer for the Directorate of Environment (4th from the left)*



*Meeting with the Minister of Environment of Ethiopia H.E. Professor Fekadu Beyene Aleka*



*Meeting with Director General Environment Green Economy & Climate Benoit Douamba (4th from right)*



*Meeting with Director of Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development, David Batali Oliver (2nd from the Right)*



*Meeting with Senegal's Minister for Environment, Hon. S.E. Mons. Abdou Karim Sall (4th from the right)*



*Meeting with Nigerian Minister, Hon. Muhammadu Mahmud (3rd from the right)*

## 2.2 Working Group Meeting

The working group meeting was held at Maasai Mara National Reserve, Narok County, Kenya. The meeting comprised of appointed focal point persons from the countries that were visited and committed to sponsor the resolution, which included Ethiopia, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burkina Faso, South Sudan, and Senegal.
The meeting came up with a draft animal welfare resolution, draft concept paper, and strategies to reach out to other countries as mandated by their respective countries. The working group relied on the documents drafted by the Technical Committee as a resource in drafting the above documents.

This meeting resolved:

1. Ghana would be the lead sponsor while other countries would be co-sponsors of the resolution.
2. There be a meeting of African Diplomatic Corps that would introduce the draft animal welfare resolution and share information.
3. To host two ministerial meetings, one in Ghana during the African Animal Welfare Conference, and during the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference.



*Participants of the working group meeting during the Maasai meeting*

## 2.3 African Diplomatic Corps Meeting

The African Diplomatic Corps, ADC, was hosted at Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya. The ADC was introduced to the draft animal welfare resolution and on the steps that had been taken towards the resolution.
The meeting suggested amendments to the working drafts and that the amended documents be circulated. Further, it was agreed that Ghana and the co-sponsoring states would consult with the UNEA secretariat on the process of introducing the resolution at the Committee for Permanent Representatives (CPR).



*Participants of the Africa diplomatic corp during the Amboseli meeting*

## 2.4 Ministerial Meetings

### 2.4.1 Accra, Ghana

The ministerial side meeting was held at the 5th Africa Animal Welfare Conference in Accra, Ghana. The Environment Ministers were represented by their technical persons, owing to the COP26 meeting, who considered and incorporated inputs from the ADC meeting. The Ministers later convened at Glasgow, Scotland.

### 2.4.2 UNFCCC, Glasgow

The ministerial meeting was chaired by the Ghanaian Environment Minister and co-chaired by the Burkina Faso's Minister, who took the delegation through the resolution. He congratulated the co-sponsors on the resolution and called on other states to support the resolution. (This can be heard here)




## 2.5 Global Corps Meeting

The Global Diplomatic Corps, GDC, was hosted at Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya. The animal welfare resolution was introduced to the GDC, and the co-sponsor member states called on more states to co-sponsor and support the resolution ahead of the CPR meetings in preparation of UNEA.
The Islamic Republic of Pakistan formally joined the sponsoring states as a co-sponsoring country.



*Participants of the global diplomatic corp during the Amboseli meeting*

### 2.6 Negotiators' Workshop

To prepare for bilateral negotiations, on the floor of the CPR meetings, and the OECPR, the member states held a negotiation workshop for negotiators both from the capital and the mission to UNEA. The outcome of the workshop was a common understood strategy on how to negotiate on the animal welfare resolution and reach out to other member states during the negotiation.



*Participants of the Negotiators workshop at the Maasai Lodge, Nairobi*

## 3.0 Engagement with African Union

### 3.1 Visit to the with the African Union Commission of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment



*Meeting with AU Commissioner Amb. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko (3rd from the left); Director of AU-IBAR Dr. Nick Nwankpa (4th from the right)*

The negotiation strategy identified a two-pronged negotiation path, one through the UNEP process and the other one through the African Union. Towards this, with facilitation by the director of AU-IBAR, the secretariat met the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment.

The Commissioner commended the initiative and stated that the resolution squarely falls under her commission and committed to speak to the ministers in charge of the environment seeking their support and sponsorship during the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), and the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Development, ARDWE.

### 3.2 Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) and AU Head of State Summit

Specialised Technical Committees (STCs) are thematic Committees that are answerable to the Executive Council. Each STC is composed of Member States' ministers and senior officials responsible for sectors falling within their respective areas of competence. The purpose of the STCs is to work in close collaboration with AUC departments to ensure the harmonisation of AU projects and programmes as well as coordination with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The resolution was introduced to the Fourth Ordinary Session of the STC as an implementation initiative of the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA) by AU-IBAR. The request to the committee, which was granted, was for the endorsement of the resolution as part of the AWSA and was forwarded to the AU Head of State Summit, and support and common position on the resolution was agreed on that the African Union member states would support the resolution during UNEA 5.2.

## 3.3 Pan-African Consultative forum with African Technical Experts on Animal Health, Animal Production and Wildlife Conservation

The subject matter of the resolution which is Animal Welfare falls under the technical expertise of people in charge of animal health, animal production and wildlife conservation. These are the technical experts who the government would rely on for advice on any animal welfare related issue.
The meeting raised awareness on the animal welfare resolution to the technical experts and equipped them with information that was relevant in advising their government ministers on the resolution.

## 4.0 Committee of Permanent Representative's Engagement Process

After the co-sponsoring member states agreed on the draft resolution and concept paper, they mandated Ghana to express their intention to table a resolution on Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Nexus at the 8th annual Subcommittee meeting of the CPR on October 26, 2021. (This can be heard here )

Subsequently, Ghana submitted the working drafts, namely the resolution and concept paper on the 11th of November 2021, which were then tabled for First and Second reading on 25th November 2021 and 14th December 2021 respectively.
The CPR then requested UNEP secretariat to develop a technical paper to guide member states on the resolution.

## 4.1 Meetings with the UNEP's Biodiversity and Science and Policy Divisions

After the technical document was developed by the UNEP secretariat, the member states resolved to meet the secretariat to clarify some issues on mandate of UNEP, budget, scope and purpose of the resolution that they felt were not properly captured in the technical document. They then made a courtesy call to the Biodiversity, Science and Policy divisions of UNEP and the meeting clarified that the primary purpose of the resolution as proposed was not to add animal welfare to UNEP's mandate but a report to identify, through an in-depth analysis of the interlinkages between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development. This would enhance UNEP's ability to deliver on its mandate of implementing the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development Goals.

It was further clarified that the theme for UNEA 5.2 was to strengthen action for nature in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and animal welfare has been shown to play a significant role. It was also clarified that the scope of the resolution is on all animals. Further, it was clarified that the budget should cover the development of the report and not the implementation of the report.

By the end of the meeting, the Biodiversity, Science and Policy Division had a better understanding and appreciation of the Animal Welfare-Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution.

## 4.2 Bilateral engagements

### 4.2.1 Member States

#### 4.2.1.1 United Kingdom




*Team representing the Governments of Ethiopia, AU-IBAR, DEFRA and Ghana*

The member states met the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, DEFRA, in United Kingdom where they gave the background of the resolution. They then highlighted the historical leadership of the UK government in advancing animal welfare policy and legislation and emphasized that the resolution would offer an opportunity to bring its leadership's example to global level.
Later, during the OECPR meetings, the UK government engaged the delegation in discussing further the resolution as they had committed during this meeting.

### 4.2.1.2 European Commission



*From left: Josphat Ngonyo, ANAW; Peter Justice Dery, Ghana; PatricK Child, EU Commissioner; Zerubabel Tefera, Ethiopia; Dr. Nick Nkwanpa, AU-IBAR; Judy Muriithi, ANAW; Hugo Maria Schally, EU Commission*

The member states visited EU Commission where they expounded and clarified on hosts' concerns raised during the CPR meetings regarding UNEP's mandate on animal welfare, the tripartite position on the issue, the budget and expertise that UNEP needed to implement the resolution.

The EU Commission delegation was appreciative of the clarification by the co-sponsors and indicated that they would communicate the same to their technical persons. They stated that meeting with the African Group would be helpful during UNEA 5.2 OECPR meeting.

During the OECPR meetings, the EU Commission engaged the delegation in discussing the resolution further as they had committed during this meeting.

## 5.0 Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR)

During the resumed session of OECPR-5 as the animal welfare resolution was discussed and negotiated, the following issues were raised: The mandate of UNEP to deal with animal welfare, scope of the resolution, merging of the resolution with other resolutions, incorporation of the one health concept, experts, and budgetary matters.

Various amendments and suggestions were tabled by various member states. Member states removed from the original text the call on member states to protect animals and their habitats, and a request for UNEP to promote animal welfare. But the amended text retained its focus on an animal welfare, environment, and sustainable development nexus report to be prepared by UNEP's Executive Director and presented at the sixth session of UNEA in February 2024. Member States also asked that UNEP produce the report in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), One-Health High-Level Expert Panel and other relevant stakeholders. On the 5th day of the OECPR, the resolution was recommended for adoption at UNEA 5.

During the OECPR meetings, Animal Protection Organisations participated in the negotiations, assisted sponsoring Member States, and supported member states representatives, in person and remotely. The engagement with ember states aimed to provide support and expertise. It helped member states understand better the objective of the resolution and why it should remain as a standalone resolution. Member states' delegation appreciated the support given and it ended up being crucial to securing the outcome sought.

## 6.0 Adoption of the Resolution

The animal welfare resolution was considered for adoption as a proposal recommended by the OECPR. Delegations were invited to make statements of their position or make statements in explanation of their positions of the resolutions.

There being no delegation who expressed interest to make statements of position or any explanation, the resolution was adopted. (This can be heard here)

*Celebrations after adoption of the Resolution*









## 7.0 Next Steps

The sponsoring member states will continue to engage with the UNEP secretariat on the implementation of the resolution and commit towards providing technical support during the writing of the Animal Welfare Environment Sustainable Development Nexus report.

ANAW, WFA, AU-IBAR and other animal welfare organizations will continue to provide support to member states and UNEP secretariat.

# 8. 0 Appendices

## 8.1 Africa Animal Welfare Conference, 2019 Resolution

**D. ENGAGEMENT WITH UN ENVIRONMENT**

There was initial cynicism over the place of animal welfare within the United Nations Environment Program but this has since been overshadowed by rising recognition of the signi cance of animal welfare to the agenda of the UN. As such, the UN Environment Program and the bi-an- nual UN Environment Assembly now provide an ideal platform for the civil society to get the attention of UN Member States to address animal welfare issues. Whereas a number of civil society organizations are already engaging with UNEA, it has been noted that quite a number are only active in the period of the Assembly as they do not take part in setting the agenda for the assembly, nor in follow up to ensure resolutions passed at the assembly are im- plemented in their countries.

**Policy recommendation**

To maximize on the opportunities presented both by UNEP and UNEA, it was recommended that:

- Civil societies to table a resolution to UNEA through a Member State that recognizes and a rms the contribution and
- Significance of the welfare of ani- mals to environmental protection, social justice and sustainable development of society.

## 8.2 Steering Committee & Technical Committee

### Steering Committee

1. Animal People
2. African Union-Inter African Bureau for Animal Resource (AU-IBAR)
3. Africa Network Animal Welfare (ANAW)
4. Brooke Action for Working Horses and Donkeys
5. Compassion in World Farming
6. Eurogroup for Animals
7. Four Paws
8. Humane society International
9. International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
10. Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
11. The Donkey Sanctuary
12. WorldHorse Welfare
13. World Federation for Animals
14. World Animal Protection

**Note:** *United Nations Environment Programme UNEP Participates aso an observer and advisor*

### List of Technical Committee (Appointed by the CEOs/Heads of the organizations represented in the Steering Committee)

1. African Union-Inter African Bureau for Animal Resource (AU-IBAR)
2. Africa Network Animal Welfare (ANAW)
3. Compassion in World Farming
4. Four Paws International
5. Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
6. The Donkey Sanctuary
7. World Animal Protection
8. World Horse Welfare
9. World Federation for Animals

## 8.3 Sponsoring Member States


Burkina Faso


Democratic Republic of the Congo


Ethiopia


Ghana


Islamic Republic of Pakistan


South Sudan


Senegal

## 8.4 List of Supporters who Joined at UNEA

- Catholic Concern
- Mercy for Animals
- ProVeg International
- Red Latinoamericana de Protección Animal (Red-LAPA)

## 8.5 List of Supporters with Financial Resources






























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# United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme**
**Fifth session**
Nairobi (hybrid), 22–26 February 2021
and 28 February–2 March 2022*

## Draft resolution on the animal welfare–environment–sustainable development nexus

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on harmony with nature,[1]

*Recalling* that the environment and sustainable development are at the core of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want",[2] in particular paragraph 88,

*Acknowledging* that animal welfare can contribute to addressing environmental challenges, promoting the "One Health" approach and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Noting* that the health and welfare of animals, sustainable development and the environment are connected to human health and well-being,

*Acknowledging* the increasing need to address these connections through the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches,

*Acknowledging also* that there is a strong body of science supporting animal welfare,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of financial and human resources, to produce a report, in close collaboration with the Tripartite Alliance, whose members are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health, as well as with the One Health High-Level Expert Panel, on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development by analysing the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development, identifying key partners and stakeholders to consult, where

* In accordance with the decisions taken by the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its meeting held on 8 October 2020 and by the bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives at their joint meeting held on 1 December 2020, the fifth session of the Environment Assembly was adjourned on 23 February 2021 and is expected to resume as an in-person meeting in February 2022.

[1] A/75/266.

[2] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

K2200594 010322

relevant, in the preparation of the report, and preparing a summary of the findings for consideration by Member States;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit the aforementioned report for peer review by Member States;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to work in partnership with the members of the Tripartite Alliance, through the strengthened relationship of the United Nations Environment Programme with the Alliance, including on matters related to animal welfare and its nexus with human health and the environment, through a One Health approach;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Environment Assembly at its sixth session on the findings of the report.