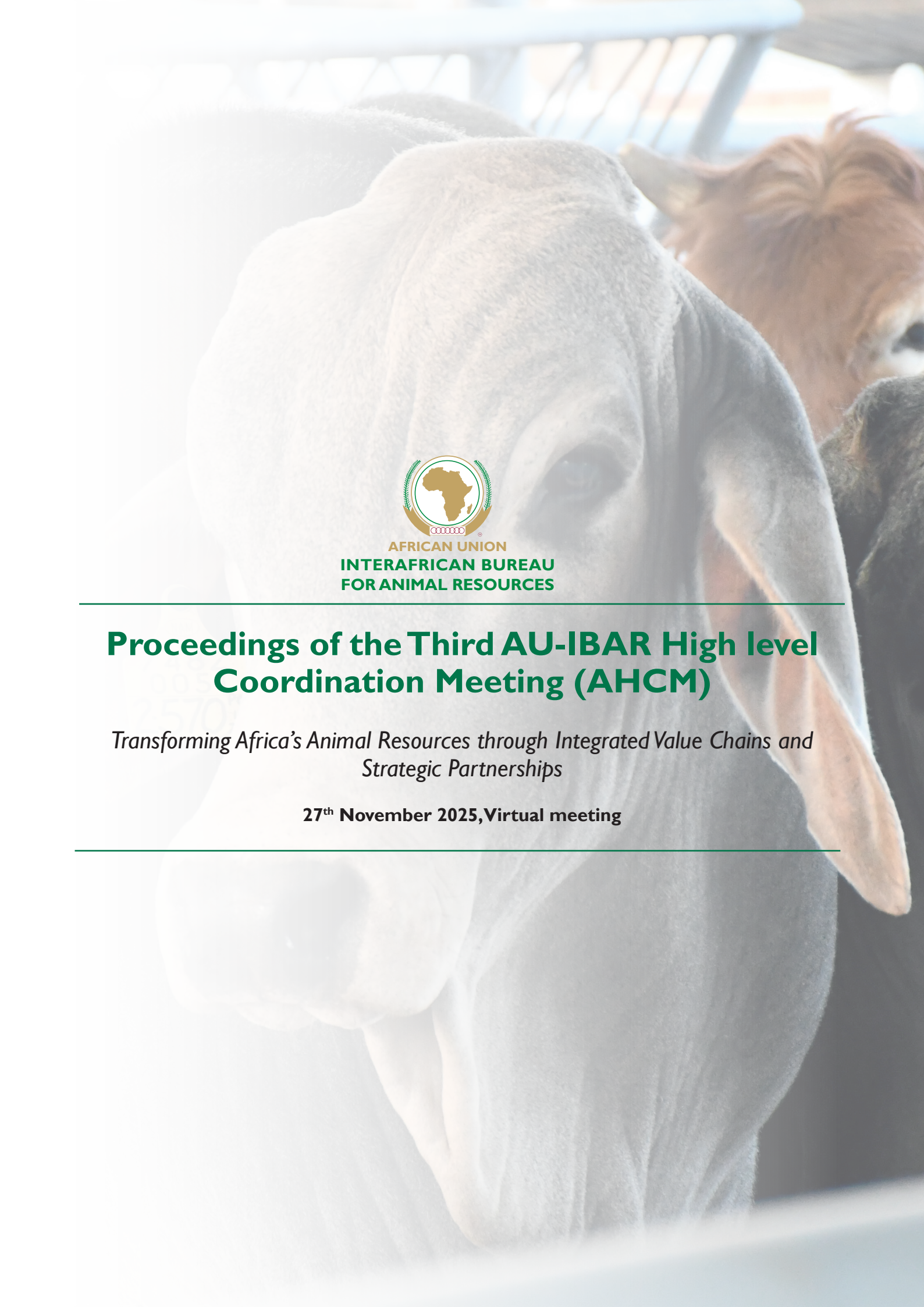


AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES

Proceedings of the Third AU-IBAR High level Coordination Meeting (AHCM)

Transforming Africa's Animal Resources through Integrated Value Chains and Strategic Partnerships

27th November 2025, Virtual meeting

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Executive Summary

The Third AU-IBAR High-Level Coordination Meeting, held virtually on 27th November 2025, brought together Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States, technical partners, research institutions, and development agencies to assess progress and strengthen alignment in Africa's livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture transformation agenda. In his opening remarks, the Director emphasized the importance of harmonized planning, avoiding duplication, and fostering deeper collaboration to advance AU-IBAR's mandate and vision for animal resources development. The meeting provided a strategic platform to validate continental priorities, present emerging programmatic frameworks, and gather feedback on the forthcoming Integrated Regional Livestock Value Chains (IRLVC) Transformative Program and the Fisheries & Aquaculture Transformation Program.

Central to the discussions was AU-IBAR's proposed IRLVC Program, designed to catalyze food security, livelihoods, economic growth, and sustainable development through prioritized regional value chains. These include dairy in the East African Community (EAC) and Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), poultry meat in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), poultry eggs in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and red meat and leather in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Delegates highlighted the need for policy harmonization, data-driven decision-making, and the establishment of regional centers of excellence to support effective implementation. Contributions from FAO, WOAH, and ILRI reinforced complementarities, with aligned initiatives in disease control (e.g., PPR, ASF), antimicrobial resistance governance, One Health strengthening, feed and fodder systems, standards and certification, and investment planning tools.

Partners underscored the importance of embedding climate-smart practices, strengthening laboratory and surveillance systems, and improving cross-border trade facilitation. They also emphasized the need to ensure meaningful participation of youth and women across livestock and aquatic value chains. RECs advocated for integrated resource mobilization, stressing a shift toward attracting private sector investment rather than relying solely on grants. Participants further recommended mainstreaming One Health approaches, expanding data systems such as the Animal Resources Information System (IRIS) and African Fisheries and Aquaculture Database (AFADATA), and institutionalizing technical guidance to ensure sustainability at the national level.

The meeting concluded with consensus on several key actions. These included enhancing synergy between AU-IBAR and partner initiatives, refining the IRLVC Program with REC and Member State inputs, mobilizing coordinated financing with development banks and bilateral partners, and advancing continental priorities such as PPR eradication, aquatic animal health systems, and harmonized SPS and trade frameworks. AU-IBAR committed to integrating partner recommendations into program drafts and maintaining engagement through follow-up consultations, with progress to be reviewed at the Fourth Coordination Meeting scheduled for November 2026.

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1.0 Meeting Rationale

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) continues to play a pivotal role in advancing animal health, sustainable productivity, SPS compliance, market access, and the broader socio-economic contribution of animal resources across Africa. Building on the momentum of the first and second High-Level Coordination Meetings, the third meeting, chaired by Dr. Huyam Salih, focuses on transformative initiatives to reshape Africa's livestock and fisheries sectors. These include the Integrated Regional Livestock Value Chains (IRLVCs), enhanced fisheries and aquaculture development, and accelerated disease eradication programs. The 2024 meeting laid a strong foundation for collaboration, achieving milestones such as the EU-supported PPR eradication agreement, the launch of the Continental One Health Digital Platform, and the establishment of three AU Centers of Excellence in blue economy, fisheries, and aquatic ecosystems. The 2025 meeting builds on these successes, prioritizing sustainable, integrated, inclusive, and climate-resilient animal resource development.

Since the 2nd AHCM, AU-IBAR has mobilized €8M from the EU for PPR eradication, implemented emergency feed and fodder action plans in six countries, established 40 African common positions on food safety, fully operationalized the AU Digital One Health Platform, and facilitated financing for youth and women-led agribusinesses. Despite challenges such as climate change, market fragmentation, limited government funding, and persistent animal diseases, opportunities exist through AfCFTA protocols, urbanization, youth engagement, and rising demand for animal products. The third AHCM comes at a critical juncture to accelerate transformation in line with CAADP and Agenda 2063 aspirations, serving as a platform to discuss the IRLVC Transformative Programme, align fisheries and aquaculture strategies, and advance PPR eradication efforts.

The meeting objectives are structured around three priorities. First, the IRLVC Transformative Programme, AU-IBAR's most ambitious initiative, focuses on five strategic pillars—policy frameworks, data systems, capacity building, coordination platforms, and advocacy—while targeting regional value chains such as dairy, red meat and leather, poultry eggs, and poultry meat. Implementation will follow a tiered approach based on Member State readiness, supported by partnerships with RECs, private sector, and development partners. Second, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Implementation Strategy for 2026 emphasizes alignment with RECs, Member States' plans, sustainable management frameworks, ecosystem conservation, and expansion of Centers of Excellence. Third, Phase 2 of PPR eradication builds on the successful multi-partner agreement, preparing for a second EU grant, declaring seven AU Member States PPR-free, mobilizing African resources, and strengthening continental coordination.

2.0 Opening Remarks

In her opening remarks, Dr. Salih welcomed participants and underscored the importance of stakeholder feedback in shaping AU-IBAR's planning and policy development. She emphasized the need for program alignment to avoid duplication and ensure responsiveness to Member States and RECs. She noted, the meeting comes at a critical moment of intensified collaboration, with discussions

extending beyond individual projects to long-term continental programs for livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture transformation. She outlined three priorities for deliberation: AU-IBAR's strategic vision, the IRLVC Transformative Programme; the fisheries and aquaculture programme; and updates on PPR eradication and broader animal health initiatives. Dr. Salih confirmed that the program outline would be refined with stakeholder input before circulation in early 2026. She stressed that success depends on the collective expertise and engagement of Member States, RECs, and technical partners, reaffirming AU-IBAR's commitment to strategic leadership, technical support, and coordination. She expressed optimism that the meeting would yield actionable recommendations and strengthen alignment toward a shared continental agenda.

3.0 Meeting Objectives

3.1 Overall Objective

The high-level coordination meeting aimed to strengthen collaboration among AU-IBAR stakeholders to galvanize partnerships and commitment for advancing the Integrated Regional Livestock Value Chains programme, thereby driving sustainable development of animal resources in Africa.

3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Discuss the Integrated Regional Livestock Value Chains (IRLVC) Transformative Programme as a comprehensive initiative designed to unlock Africa's livestock potential through coordinated regional value chains;
2. Align fisheries and aquaculture development strategies by ensuring coordinated resource mobilization and effective implementation of AU-IBAR's 2026/2027 fisheries priorities in collaboration with RECs and Member States; and third,
3. Deliberate PPR eradication efforts by advancing Phase 2 preparations while mobilizing additional African resources to strengthen continental coordination.

3.2.1 Session 1 – Integrated Regional Livestock Value Chain (IRLVC) Transformative Programme

The first session centered on the formulation of AU-IBAR's Integrated Regional Livestock Value Chain Transformative Programme, envisioned as a long-term, multi-country, multi-REC initiative to strengthen livestock value chains across Africa. Rooted in the CAADP Action Plan (2026–2035) and aligned with flagship frameworks such as LiDeSA and PFRS, the programme seeks to catalyze investment, expand intra-African trade, enhance food and nutrition security, and drive inclusive economic growth. Building on the Live2Africa Project (2016–2023), regional priorities validated by Member States will serve as entry points: red meat and leather (IGAD, SADC, COMESA), dairy (EAC, UMA), poultry meat (ECOWAS), and poultry eggs (ECCAS), with expansion to other chains over time.

The programme's structure includes a continental governance mechanism for alignment and oversight, supported by a Programme Management Unit at AU-IBAR to coordinate continental development

of enabling policies, SPS harmonization, data hubs, investment facilitation, capacity development, and knowledge leadership. At the REC level, operationalization will focus on five pillars: policy harmonization, data-driven decision-making, regional centers of excellence, knowledge leadership, and investment facilitation. Member States will implement national interventions, particularly in unlocking bankable investments and aligning enabling environments with the continental vision. A strong emphasis was placed on shifting from donor-dependent projects to sustainable, investment-driven value chains, with partnerships highlighted as critical to success. Existing initiatives, such as IFAD-supported dairy programs in EAC and poultry projects in ECOWAS and IGAD, were noted as complementary.

Stakeholder responses reinforced the programme's relevance. FAO commended AU-IBAR's ambitious vision and urged greater focus on climate-smart livestock systems, smallholder inclusion, and innovation for youth and women. Participants emphasized the importance of cooperatives, value addition infrastructure, access to credit, geographic indication systems, and improved market linkages, while also calling for harmonized tax regimes, competitiveness improvements, and reduced production costs through better feed systems. ILRI reaffirmed its partnership, offering expertise in feed and fodder systems, digital livestock technologies, climate-smart solutions, and One Health, and committed to supporting data generation and evidence synthesis for investment cases. Several interventions stressed harmonized disease control, vaccine production, and cross-border biosecurity, linking the programme to ongoing initiatives in PPR eradication, One Health, and pandemic preparedness within IGAD and ECOWAS regions.

In summary: Session 1 established the IRLVC programme as a cornerstone for Africa's livestock transformation, combining continental governance, regional prioritization, and national interventions, while emphasizing sustainable investment, partnerships, and innovation to build resilient, inclusive, and competitive value chains.

3.2.2 Session 2 – Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategic Resource Mobilization & Implementation (2026–2027)

The second session addressed AU-IBAR's strategic priorities for fisheries, aquaculture, and aquatic biodiversity management, with a focus on ongoing projects, policy alignment, achievements, and resource mobilization proposals.

a. Policy Framework and Progress:

All fisheries and aquaculture work remain anchored in the *Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS)*, guiding modernization toward sustainability, wealth creation, and food security.

b. Ongoing Projects:

Key initiatives included the EU-funded *FishGov II Project* (2021–2026), AU-IBAR's flagship fisheries governance program aimed at strengthening evidence-based AU positions in global fora, harmonizing national and regional policies with the PFRS, and enhancing Africa's participation in international negotiations. The *SIDA-funded Aquatic Biodiversity Project* (extended to 2027) focused on ecosystem

conservation, climate resilience, and gender inclusion, while support from the Kingdom of Norway advanced *implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy* through development of national and regional strategies and capacity-building.

c. Achievements:

Seventeen (17) Member States have aligned their national policies with the PFRS, with ten (10) more slated for support, while RECs such as COMESA have finalized regional frameworks with AU-IBAR's assistance. FishGov II achievements included Africa's representation in global fora (e.g., COFI), the development of 29 knowledge products, and the operationalization of eight Centres of Excellence in Fisheries and Aquaculture, which now provide capacity-building, research, and technical expertise in aquaculture feed, seed, water quality, and biodiversity. The Aquatic Biodiversity Project strengthened institutional capacity, aligned policies with global instruments, and promoted gender mainstreaming, leading to the identification of three continental Centres of Excellence in blue economy, fisheries, and aquatic ecosystems. The Kingdom of Norway supported *implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES)* project has assisted 3 RECs and 16 MSs to develop ABES-aligned regional and national blue economy strategies, implementation plans and governance frameworks.

d. Resource Mobilization Proposals:

Seven proposals were presented, covering fisheries governance, aquatic biodiversity, fish trade, women and youth empowerment in the octopus value chain, small-scale fisheries rights, aquatic animal health and biosecurity, and the AFADATA System for fisheries data harmonization. These were developed jointly with RECs and technical partners, reflecting a multi-actor implementation model.

e. Discussion and Alignment with RECs and Member States:

Participants emphasized the need to strengthen inland fisheries, biosecurity, aquaculture development, and support for landlocked countries. Key challenges identified included gaps in hatchery systems, production infrastructure, seed and feed quality, transport, and vaccine access for aquaculture species. AU-PANVAC highlighted work on fish vaccine quality control with ILRI and AU-IBAR, while WOAH stressed linking aquatic animal health to production objectives, AMR management, and biosecurity. FAO called for stronger integration between livestock and fisheries supply chains, particularly in feed systems, cold-chain infrastructure, and AMR surveillance. AU-IBAR responded by outlining ongoing efforts to improve hatchery systems, seed distribution, feed guidelines, and regional aquaculture development through Centres of Excellence, while exploring mechanisms with the African Development Bank to support bankable aquaculture projects.

In summary: Session 2 reinforced AU-IBAR's leadership in fisheries and aquaculture transformation, highlighting progress through flagship projects, policy alignment, and Centres of Excellence, while advancing resource mobilization proposals and addressing Member States' priorities to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable aquatic value chains across Africa.

3.2.3 Session 3 – PPR Eradication Phase 2 and Resource Mobilization

This session focused on advancing efforts to eradicate Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) across sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa. AU-IBAR reported progress under Phase 1 of the eradication project, which was funded by the EU with €8 million, and outlined plans for Phase 2, including the submission of a new €50 million action document to the EU.

A key emphasis was placed on the need for stronger political commitment from AU Member States, noting that only 16 out of 55 countries had submitted the required affirmation letters. AU-IBAR also highlighted ongoing efforts to engage North African countries through collaboration with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD).

Additionally, AU-PANVAC provided updates on vaccine standardization initiatives across AU Member States, aimed at facilitating vaccine registration and supporting local manufacturing capacity. These measures are expected to strengthen continental coordination and accelerate progress toward the eradication of PPR.

In Summary: The session underscored AU-IBAR's progress on PPR eradication, highlighting Phase 1 achievements, a €50 million Phase 2 proposal, the need for stronger political commitment, expanded collaboration with North Africa, and AU-PANVAC's vaccine standardization efforts—all aimed at accelerating continent-wide eradication.

3.2.4 Session 4 – Partners' Presentations and Interventions

This session showcased contributions from AU-IBAR's key partners, highlighting progress, synergies, and opportunities for deeper collaboration in advancing animal health and livestock transformation across Africa.

a. **FAO's Animal Health Initiatives:**
   FAO presented its ongoing work to strengthen veterinary systems, enhance disease surveillance, and control transboundary animal diseases. Achievements included building technical capacity, operationalizing disease information systems, and implementing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) mitigation programs. Looking ahead, FAO's strategic focus will reinforce animal health systems, accelerate One Health integration, and strengthen climate resilience in livestock-dependent communities. AU-IBAR emphasized the need for harmonized tools and standards that can be institutionalized within Member States, agreeing with FAO to hold a follow-up technical session on livestock investment planning and standardized policy toolkits.

b. **WOAH's Support for Continental Animal Health:**
   WOAH outlined its role in standard setting, disease reporting, and capacity building, with recent workshops in South Africa and Côte d'Ivoire strengthening compliance with standards and diagnostic capacity. It reaffirmed support for the Pan-African PPR Eradication Programme through vaccination

campaigns and laboratory networks, while also promoting trade facilitation via safe commodity concepts and harmonized disease control protocols. AU-IBAR welcomed WOAH's update, stressing the importance of consistent application of sanitary measures and alignment between continental aspirations and national implementation, with both institutions committed to deeper collaboration in trade facilitation, disease intelligence, and governance frameworks.

c. ILRI–AU-IBAR Partnership Update:

ILRI reaffirmed its commitment to evidence-based livestock transformation, highlighting joint work on resilient feed systems, livestock indicators within CAADP, and contributions to PPR eradication. Its broader research portfolio spans genetics, food safety, productivity, and conservation. A new MoU signed in February formalized collaboration, enabling joint programs and technical support for RECs and Member States. ILRI also emphasized its expanding work on AMR, diagnostic networks, and One Health systems through its Nairobi-based research center. Partners discussed strengthening synergies in AMR, climate adaptation, and livestock innovation, agreeing to review progress in 2026 under AU-IBAR's Strategic Plan (2024–2028).

d. Cross-Cutting Synergies:

The session concluded with open discussions on programme alignment and REC participation. IGAD reaffirmed its priority on red meat and leather value chains and highlighted ongoing One Health and pandemic preparedness initiatives. AU-IBAR stressed that programme implementation would be co-owned by all actors, requiring integrated resource mobilization and coordinated models where partners such as IFAD, AfDB, FAO, WOAH, RECs, and Member States contribute within their mandates to a unified continental framework.

In summary: Session 4 reinforced the importance of harmonized standards, evidence-based research, and coordinated partnerships, with AU-IBAR and its partners committing to collaborative frameworks that strengthen animal health systems, advance One Health, and drive sustainable livestock transformation across Africa.

4.0 Conclusions

1. The meeting validated AU-IBAR's **Integrated Regional Livestock Value Chains (IRLVC) Transformative Programme** as a cornerstone for Africa's livestock transformation, with strong consensus on harmonizing policies, data systems, and investment frameworks across RECs and Member States.
2. Significant progress was consolidated in fisheries and aquaculture, with achievements under FishGov II, the Aquatic Biodiversity Project, and the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES). Centers of Excellence are now operational, providing technical expertise and capacity-building.
3. Momentum for PPR eradication was sustained, with Phase 1 delivering EU funding (€8M) and vaccine standardization. Planning for Phase 2 is underway with a €50M proposal, though stronger Member State political commitment is required.
4. Partnership synergies were reinforced, with FAO, WOAH, ILRI and RECs contributing to disease control, One Health, AMR governance, and investment facilitation.
5. Cross-cutting priorities such as climate-smart practices, gender inclusion, youth empowerment, private sector investment, and data-driven systems (ARIS, AFADATA) were highlighted as essential enablers of sustainable transformation.

5.0 Recommendations

1. **Finalize IRLVC Programme**: Refine design with REC and Member State inputs, establish governance mechanisms, and mobilize bankable investments.
2. **Scale Fisheries & Aquaculture**: Expand Centers of Excellence, strengthen hatchery systems, feed quality, cold-chain infrastructure, and aquatic animal health; advance proposals on fish trade, women/youth empowerment, and AFADATA operationalization.
3. **Accelerate PPR Eradication Phase 2**: Secure stronger Member State commitment, enhance vaccine production and biosecurity, and mobilize African resources alongside EU funding.
4. **Deepen Partnerships & Financing**: Institutionalize collaboration frameworks with FAO, WOAH, ILRI and RECs; shift toward blended financing models that attract private sector and climate funds; align initiatives with AU-IBAR's Strategic Plan (2024–2028).
5. **Mainstream Cross-Cutting Issues**: Embed climate resilience, gender inclusion, and youth participation across programmes; strengthen One Health integration; expand use of IRIS and AFADATA for evidence-based decision-making.
6. **Ensure Follow-Up & Accountability**: Circulate refined **IRLVC** programme drafts by early 2026, maintain stakeholder engagement through consultations, and review progress at the Fourth **Coordination Meeting (Nov 2026)**.

6.0 Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks

The meeting concluded with appreciation to all participants for their robust contributions. AU-IBAR reiterated its commitment to convene the next annual coordination meeting in November 2026, during which partners would report on progress made under the proposed programmes. In the interim, AU-IBAR committed to sharing drafts, conducting consultations with RECs, private sector, financial institutions and other actors, and aligning Programme development with the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan (2024–2028).

The Director, AU-IBAR thanked participants for their engagement, and the meeting adjourned.

Annexes

Annex 1: Concept Note and Agenda –

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Annex 2: Presentations-

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FAO - *https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:32adc638-7489-47fa-a9d8-ff4fa276b469*

ILRI - *https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:634c7a21-94fc-422a-886e-3050cfe3e4e3*

WOAH - *https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:902a7ee2-8e35-4865-be0d-50b9d580c670*

Annex 3: Action Points and Next Steps –

https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:8c6d46a3-5fd9-4e06-8f93-bae6ef69bca0

Annex 4: List of Participants -

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