CONCEPT NOTE

37TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL FOR TRYPANOSOMIASIS RESEARCH AND CONTROL (ISCTRC)

15th – 19th September, 2025 Nairobi, Kenya.

1.0 BACKGROUND

The International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC) is a statutory Council of the African Union Commission with the Secretariat at African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal resources (AU-IBAR) in Nairobi, Kenya. It was established in the early 60s as a vehicle to promote international cooperation in the fight against trypanosomiasis which is one of Africa's greatest constraints to socio-economic development, severely affecting human and livestock health, limiting land use, causing poverty and perpetuating underdevelopment on the continent.

The Membership of the Council includes Africa Union Member States, Africa Union Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC), International organizations, including Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In order to achieve its objectives, the Council facilitates information sharing and exchange on matters regarding tsetse and trypanosomiasis research and control by holding regular General Scientific Conferences since 1949.

The General Conference is a five-day event that is normally attended by 300 participants from the 38 affected African countries and international organizations with over 100 scientific papers being presented. The meeting disseminates scientific information on tsetse, human and animal trypanosomiasis problem, reviews control strategies and recommends appropriate approaches in research and control. It is as a result of these meetings that information on improving control of tsetse and trypanosomiasis has been acquired and has benefitted many countries on the continent resulting in improved livelihoods especially of the rural communities where the problem has the highest impacts. The research outputs emanating from the ISCTRC scientific community is providing new information necessary for smarter methods of tsetse and trypanosomiasis control.

The last (36th) ISCTRC General Conference was held in Mombasa, Kenya on 18th to 22nd September 2023 and the Executive Committee of ISCTRC proposed that the 37th ISCTRC Conference be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

2.0 OVERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE 37TH ISCTRC GENERAL CONFERENCE

To promote information sharing on tsetse, human and animal trypanosomiasis problem, review control strategies and recommend appropriate approaches for tsetse and trypanosomiasis research and control.

3.0 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To hold the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control, Executive Committee meeting ;
- To hold the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control General Conference:
  - To receive country reports on tsetse and trypanosomiasis interventions;
  - To receive reports from Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign;
  - To receive reports from international organizations/institutions/donors;
  - To receive scientific presentations on tsetse and trypanosomiasis research and control;
  - To conduct official side meetings;
  - To propose recommendations for tsetse and trypanosomiasis research and control activities for the following two years.

4.0 PROGRAMMES FOR THE MEETING

- Registration
- Opening Ceremony (Usually officiated by the Head of State)
- Presentations and discussions on the following subthemes; Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign; Human African trypanosomiasis; Animal African Trypanosomiasis; Glossina Biology; Socio-economic; Land use and environment
- Adoption of recommendations by the Council to guide research and control of tsetse and trypanosomiasis for the next two years
- Closing ceremony

5.0 OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

- Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis information shared and disseminated;
- Networking amongst the tsetse and trypanosomiasis research and control workers enhanced;
- Recommendations for tsetse and trypanosomiasis research and control activities for the next two years adopted;
- Capacity for tsetse and trypanosomiasis research and control workers enhanced;
- Visibility of African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources and the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control enhanced;

- The Visibility and the role of Government of Republic of Kenya in the fight against tsetse and trypanosomiasis in Africa enhanced.

6.0 PARTICIPANTS EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE MEETING

300 participants are expected to attend the meeting comprising of:

1. African Union Commission Staff
    - Commissioner of Agriculture Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment;
    - Director of the Agriculture and Rural Development;
    - Director African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR)
    - Staff from AUC Technical Department, AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC among others

2. Scientists/Researchers
    - Universities in Africa and elsewhere
    - Research Institutes in Africa and elsewhere

3. 37th General Conference of the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC), Nairobi, Kenya. ISCTRC Executive committee Members
    - Regional representatives for Western, Eastern, Central, Northern and Southern Africa regions;
    - Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO);
    - World Health Organization (WHO);
    - World Animal Health Organisation (WOAH);
    - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
    - Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT);

4. Thirty-eight (38) Member States where tsetse and trypanosomiasis remain a challenge.

5. Ministries in charge of animal health, human health and environment.