AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, AU-IBAR

Stronger Together

From Strategy to Action

World Rabies Day 28 September 2026

As Africa joins the world in commemorating World Rabies Day under the theme **"Stronger Together,"** we are reminded that eliminating dog-mediated human rabies is a shared continental responsibility that requires coordinated action across countries, regions, and sectors.

Africa, under the leadership and technical guidance of AU-IBAR, has already taken an important step forward by developing the **Pan-African Strategy for the Elimination of Rabies in Africa (PASERA) 2026–2030**. PASERA provides a common continental framework to align our efforts, strengthen coordination, and translate our collective commitment into action toward eliminating dog-mediated human rabies by 2030. It aligns with the United Against Rabies Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030, while also being anchored in key continental frameworks, including AU Agenda 2063, the Animal Health Strategy for Africa, and the AU Zoonotic Disease Prevention and Control Strategy (2025–2029).

This is what **"Stronger Together"** must mean for Africa.

It means Member States, RECs, AU institutions, technical partners, development partners, research institutions, and communities must work in a shared direction, bringing their respective mandates, capacities, and comparative strengths to the elimination effort.

Member States	For **Member States**, this means translating PASERA priorities into nationally owned and adequately resourced action; strengthening dog vaccination and population management, surveillance and reporting, access to post-exposure prophylaxis, community engagement, policy and sustainable financing.
Regional Economic Communities (RECs)	For **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)**, it means strengthening regional coordination, harmonising approaches, facilitating information exchange and supporting cross-border collaboration, particularly where rabies transmission and dog movements do not follow administrative boundaries.
AU technical institutions	For **AU technical institutions**, it means providing continental leadership, coordination and a platform through which countries and regions can align priorities, share evidence and address common challenges.
Technical and development partners	For **technical and development partners**, it means aligning expertise, innovation, research, financing and technical support with nationally and regionally identified priorities, strengthening existing systems and contributing to sustainable implementation.

Communities	For communities, it means ensuring that prevention and elimination efforts are understood, locally owned, and sustained, because communities are not simply beneficiaries of rabies interventions; they are essential partners in achieving them.

SEVEN INTERCONNECTED PRIORITIES

PASERA brings these contributions together around **seven interconnected priorities**: coordination and policy harmonisation; surveillance, diagnostics and data; community awareness and engagement; mass dog vaccination and dog population management; access to PEP and integrated bite management; sustainable financing and partnerships; and evidence, research and innovation.

01
Coordination and policy harmonisation

02
Surveillance, diagnostics and data

03
Community awareness and engagement

04
Mass dog vaccination and dog population management

05
Access to PEP and integrated bite management

06
Sustainable financing and partnerships

07
Evidence, research and innovation

PASERA
2026–2030

Our message to the continent is therefore clear: we do not need parallel efforts. We need connected, collaborative efforts.

We need to identify where gaps remain, where capacities can be strengthened, where resources can be better aligned, where knowledge and data can be shared, and where countries and regions can act together.

The opportunity before us is to move from commitment to implementation, from fragmented action to coordinated action, and from individual efforts to collective continental progress.

I therefore call upon Member States, RECs, AU institutions and partners to take PASERA forward within their respective mandates, align ongoing and planned interventions with its priorities, and identify concrete opportunities to contribute to its implementation.

PASERA provides the common framework however, our collective action will give it effect.

As Africa moves towards 2030, let us strengthen our partnerships, align our efforts and sharpen our actions.

Together, we can turn continental commitment into measurable progress towards a rabies-free Africa.

Stronger Together. From Strategy to Action.

Dr Huyam Salih
Director, AU-IBAR