



**African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
(AU-IBAR)**

**EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES IN
AFRICA
13-14 May 2010
Entebbe, UGANDA**

***THEME: "Improving access to markets for African animal resources to significantly
contribute to economic growth and reduction of poverty"***

**REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND
RESOLUTIONS**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Eighth Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa was held in Entebbe, Uganda from 13 to 14 May 2010 at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel. The conference was organised by the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) under the auspices of the African Union Commission (AUC).. The theme of the conference was ***“Improving access to markets for African animal resources to significantly contribute to economic growth and reduction of poverty***, and its main objectives were to review progress made since the last Conference of Ministers held in Kigali, Rwanda in November 2005 and to consider other contemporary matters related to the development and utilisation of animal resources in Africa.
2. The conference was attended by Ministers from Cameroon, Côte-d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia as well as Heads of Delegations from Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Sao Tome & Principe, Seychelles, Sierra-Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe
3. Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), namely Communauté des Etats Sahélo-Sahariens (CEN-SAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), were also in attendance.
4. The African Union Commission-Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (AUC-DREA), and its other technical offices, namely the African Union Pan-African Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), the African Union Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC) and the African Union Semi-Arid Food Grains Research and Development (AU-SAFGRAD) were also represented.
5. Also in attendance were representatives of the European Union (EU), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, the World Bank (WB), the Arab Organisation for Agriculture Development (AOAD), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Standards and Trade Development Fund (STDF) Secretariat .
6. Civil society and private sector representatives from the Global Alliance for Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) the African Veterinary Association (AVA), Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) and Association por la Promotion Juridico-Economique de la Femme et de L’Enfant (PROMODEF), a farmer association for Central Africa were also in attendance.
7. The detailed list of Delegates is attached in Annex 1 of this report.

II. OPENING SESSION

a. Remarks by the Director, AU-IBAR

8. The Director of AU-IBAR, Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy welcomed the distinguished guests and participants to the Eighth Conference of African Ministers responsible for Animal Resources and thanked the Republic of Uganda for hosting the Conference. He highlighted the mandate and mission of AU-IBAR in the African animal resources sector and informed the participants that AU-IBAR had mobilized US\$ 53 million for different animal resources programmes for the year 2010 alone. He said that in support of the AU-IBAR mandate, a strategic plan for the period 2010-2014 had been developed. With these remarks he invited the Hon. Minister of State for Animal Industry of the Republic of Uganda to open the conference.

b. Remarks by H.E. the Minister of State for Animal Industry of Uganda

9. The Hon. Minister of State for Animal Industry, Mr. Bright Rwamirama welcomed the guests on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uganda to the Eighth Conference of African Ministers responsible for Animal Resources. He requested participants to stand for a minute of silence in honour of the departed President of Nigeria and the victims of the recent plane crash in Libya.
10. The Minister noted the significance of livestock to the economic development of most of African countries was. He further noted that well organized veterinary services and political will were essential for the prevention and control of animal diseases. He expressed great concern over the status of Africa as a net importer of livestock products with an average annual trade deficit of 4.8 billion US Dollars. He informed delegates that in an effort to improve livestock production in Uganda, several studies were undertaken which culminated into the development of a strategic plan. Against this background, he urged AU-IBAR to advocate for positive change in the animal resources sector to avoid the dependency syndrome that characterizes Africa. He further emphasized the need for more investment in processing livestock products to ensure value adding for better markets. The Minister thanked AU-IBAR for the excellent organization of the conference and declared the conference officially open.

c. Adoption of the agenda

11. The meeting unanimously adopted the following agenda:
 - i. Opening Session
 - ii. Adoption of the agenda
 - iii. Keynote address on the Conference Theme
 - iv. Discussion on the Theme of the Conference
 - v. Presentation of the Report of Experts
 - vi. Ministers Remarks
 - vii. Statement by the Head of the EU Delegation in Uganda
 - viii. Signing Ceremony between AUC and EU
 - ix. Address by partners
 1. OIE
 2. FAO
 3. ILRI
 4. WTO-STDF
 - x. General Discussions
 - xi. Guided visit, Poster Presentation and Film on SPS Agreement

- xii. Presentation and Adoption of the Report of the Eighth Conference of Ministers Responsible for Animal Resources in Africa
- xiii. Closing Ceremony

d. Keynote address of the Conference Theme

12. The African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, welcomed the Ministers, the Head of the EU Delegation in Uganda, Representatives of International Organizations, Representatives of Development Partners and all the participants to the Eighth Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa. She paid tribute to the host country, Uganda with appreciation for the support provided by His Excellency the President, the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies and the people of Uganda in the organisation of the Conference. She also thanked the many development and technical partners particularly the European Union for their continued support to the African Union Commission (AUC), the Regional Economic Communities and the specialised technical offices of the AUC including AU-IBAR.
13. H.E. Tumusiime emphasized the key role of agricultural development in economic and social development in Africa and informed the meeting that the AUC and NEPAD were jointly implementing the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). H.E. Tumusiime reiterated the theme of the Eighth Ministerial Conference i.e. "Improving access to markets for African animal resources to significantly contribute to economic growth and reduction of poverty".
14. She highlighted the eradication of rinderpest from Africa as a major milestone in global history and attributed this to the political goodwill of AU Member States, commitment of the national veterinary services, international technical partners and development partners. She singled out the EU for the sustained financial support totaling more than 250 million Euros over the last 60 years. She invited AU Member States to support the sequestration of rinderpest virus strains and biological materials at the AU-PANVAC Laboratory in order to permanently remove the threat of virus escape and possible re-emergence of the disease. The Commissioner urged participants to focus their attention on other trans-boundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonoses to improve market access. She lauded the efforts of the AU-PATTEC programme towards the eradication of trypanosomiasis from Africa and emphasized the need for enhanced regional coordination in the prevention and control of TADs.
15. H.E. Tumusiime drew the attention of the participants to the status of Africa as a net importer of animal commodities and the large outflow of valuable hard currencies from Africa for the importation of meat and dairy products with a net trade deficit of more than 3.5 billion US Dollars recorded in 2007. She emphasized the need for Member States to enhance intra-African trade in livestock commodities and the competitiveness of Africa's animal resources by investing in means to lower production costs and value addition. She emphasized the need to enhance compliance to international standards and improve the participation of African Countries in standards setting organisations. She advocated the establishment of national and regional Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) committees to better advise governments on SPS issues and promote the formulation of regional common or coordinated positions on SPS matters.

16. The Commissioner cited the threats of the increasing population pressure, urbanization, rising incomes and climate change to the livestock sector and advised African governments and institutions to devise new ways of facing these challenges. She highlighted the political commitment of the African Heads of State and Government to increase investments in the livestock sector but noted the lack of appropriate policies and strategies to translate this into national and regional action plans. She emphasized the need for complete, accurate and timely data and information to facilitate the formulation of appropriate policies and strategies and the targeting of investments in animal resources.
17. The Commissioner briefly outlined the AU-IBAR strategic plan for 2010 – 2014 and appealed to AU Member States and the development partners to support its implementation. She also called upon the Ministers to enhance project Monitoring and evaluation in order to ensure that political and bureaucratic hurdles do not impede the delivery of technical outputs of projects that are crucial for the development and improvement of Africa's animal resources.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF EXPERTS

18. The Rapporteur of the Eighth Meeting of Experts responsible for Animal Resources in Africa held in Entebbe, Uganda from 10 to 12 May 2010 presented the report of that meeting to the conference . The Experts recommended as follows:
 - a. That Ministers responsible for Animal Resources endorse the AU-IBAR strategic plan 2010-2014;
 - b. That Member States implement the Maputo decision to invest at least 10% investment of national budget in Agriculture of which 30% should be in Livestock.;
 - c. That AUC organizes a Livestock Summit to engage the AU Heads of State and Governments in decisions on livestock policies and investments;
 - d. That AU-IBAR, in consultation with RECs, monitors implementation of the Maputo Decision (2003) and the recommendations of the conferences of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa;
 - e. That AUC to support AU-IBAR to institutionalize annual meetings of directors of animal health and animal production to discuss and exchange information on animal resources issues and to consult and coordinate common positions;
 - f. That AU-IBAR continues working closely with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and assist countries and RECs in developing their compact and investment plans for the Livestock sector under the CAADP;
 - g. That Member states improve the quality and timeliness of disease reporting to AU-IBAR including emergency reporting and for AU-IBAR, OIE and FAO to ensure inter-operability between their respective information systems;
 - h. That donors support AU-IBAR to effectively implement its strategic plan 2010-2014;

- i. That AUC strengthens and sustains AU-IBAR's and AU-PANVAC human capital to ensure they have critical mass of expertise to execute their respective mandates;
- j. That AU Member States speed up the process of rinderpest virus sequestration, by completing the FAO/OIE questionnaire regarding the inventory of the virus (samples, vaccines), without any further delay;
- k. That all rinderpest virus strains held in Africa be destroyed and what is deemed necessary handed over to AU-PANVAC for safe storage;
- l. That Member States maintain and regularly update their rinderpest contingency plans and establish syndromic surveillance systems for trade-sensitive TADs, especially in high risk areas;
- m. That AU-IBAR mobilises resources for the progressive control of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and other priority TADs;
- n. That Member States enhance the governance of veterinary services which encompasses appropriate legislation, technical authority and capability, human, physical and financial resources and interaction with stakeholders (Livestock owners, private sector and civil society) in order to facilitate access to markets;
- o. That Member States create/strengthen national coordination mechanisms such as national SPS committees and replicate these at regional level to facilitate harmonization;
- p. That AU-IBAR leads, in collaboration with the RECs and the veterinary faculties in Africa, the revision and harmonization of veterinary curricula and certificates at regional and continental level;
- q. That RECs embark on harmonization of relevant legislations to facilitate sustained livestock mobility in pastoral areas;
- r. That AU-IBAR embarks in the formulation of continental programs supporting animal production including genetic conservation/improvement and pasture/feed improvement, and mobilizes the required resources;
- s. That Member States support research and uptake of packages on technologies for breed substitution and feeds in response to climate change;
- t. That AU-IBAR and RECs in partnership with other relevant institutions, develop and facilitate implementation of early warning systems for supporting disease control, stocking/destocking/animal movement decisions and crop management practices of agro-pastoralists ;
- u. That AUC finalizes the Pastoral Policy Framework as soon as possible to facilitate its implementation by Member States and RECs;
- v. That Member States take advantage of services and facilities of AU-PANVAC for quality assurance, certification of veterinary vaccines, provision of diagnostic reagents, training and advisory services;

- w. That AU-PANVAC plays a leading role in supporting Laboratory networks in Africa; and
- x. That all tse-tse and trypanosomiasis affected countries harmonize and intensify actions and inputs for the control and eradication of tse-tse and trypanosomiasis and PATTEC coordination offices be established at the regional level.

IV. STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE EU DELEGATION IN UGANDA

- 19. The Head of the EU delegation in Uganda expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Eighth Ministerial Conference organised by AU-IBAR and for the EU to contribute financially to the facilitation of the conference.
- 20. He drew the attention of agricultural professionals to the growing momentum the agricultural sector is gaining in the national development agendas. He made reference to the long-standing development cooperation between the EU and AU, exemplified by the implementation of several major continent-wide programmes such as JP 15, PARC, PACE, SPINAP and PAN-SPSO, among others and highlighted the results achieved, especially the final eradication of rinderpest from Africa.
- 21. The Head of the EU Delegation in Uganda emphasized the importance the EU attached to regional integration and the role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in enhancing regional cooperation. He reiterated the importance that the EU attached to the development of the livestock sector in general and pastoral production system in particular. He urged the Member States to engage in and complete the CAADP roundtable process in order to fill the gaps in the livestock sector.

V. ADDRESS BY PARTNERS

a. WTO-STDF

- 22. The WTO-SDTF Secretariat was represented by Mr. Melvin Spreij. He highlighted the capacity constraints that Developing countries face in their ability to implement and benefit from WTO agreements, the key element of which was their ability to control sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) risks and to meet the relevant international standards set by the OIE, the Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention for plant health.
- 23. Mr. Spreij pointed out that building the capacity in developing countries to address these and other SPS constraints in accordance with the relevant international standards would not only have some impacts on market access, but could also be highly relevant in terms of food security and enhancing net welfare.
- 24. He informed the conference that the Standard and Trade Development Facility (STDF), a global partnership of FAO, OIE, WHO, WTO and WB that was assisting developing countries in building their SPS capacity, enhancing awareness on SPS issues and mobilizing resources in this area, was acknowledged. Some observation in relation to SPS capacity building in Africa based on the experience of WTO were also highlighted..

b. ILRI

25. The Director General of ILRI Dr. Carlos Seré thanked the hosts, organizers and participants of the conference and made a presentation on the Development Challenges and Opportunities of the African Livestock sector.
26. He shared four key messages as follows: (i) Increasing international awareness of food security created new opportunities to invest in livestock development. (ii) CAADP and AU IBAR strategic plan provide an effective framework (iii) ILRI was working closely with a number of partners on practical ways to improve livestock sector productivity in Africa and (iv) New strategic partnerships amongst public and private partners were necessary to develop effective interventions.
27. On **Livestock markets** he indicated that access to markets was restricted by SPS measures (due to endemic diseases in Africa) and low productivity. He indicated that there were opportunities in the Regional markets within Africa and there was need to enable smallholders to access markets and case by case analysis of national value chains to stimulate investments necessary to increase the markets.
28. On **Improving Productivity** he indicated that dual purpose crops and regional projects on Napier grass offered good opportunities
29. Concerning **animal health** he stated that **East Coast Fever (ECF) vaccine was available in several countries** and that it offered life-long protection. He also mentioned the key role of GALVmed and AU-IBAR in fostering its commercialisation. The **latest developments** in Animal Health were the improvement of vaccine quality, ILRI backstopping and capacity building at AU-NEPAD/ILRI biosciences platform and the risk based approaches to tackling animal health and the use of Participatory Epidemiology as an additional tool.
30. On **animal genetics** Dr. Seré mentioned the development of approaches for genome wide selection of dairy cattle which had a high potential in animal production while on **Production policy** he indicated the need for reliable data and streamlined policy frameworks to stimulate investments, the need for investments and improving livestock services, including through service hubs for smallholders. He also reiterated the main **Climate change** challenges for Africa, reminded the participants of the opportunities that emerged from the Stockholm Summit on Climate Change and urged countries to develop National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs) and National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).

c. FAO

31. Dr. Modibo Traoré, the Assistant Director-General of FAO thanked the host country and the African Union for giving FAO the opportunity to address this important meeting. He also commended the team of AU/IBAR for the excellent work in organizing the conference.
32. Dr. Traoré drew the attention of the conference to the growing trend of importation of meat and dairy products in Africa while in 1973, during which Africa was exporting up to 143 000 tonnes of meat. He added that Africa lost an estimated 4.8 billion USD of scarce foreign exchange in imports of meat and dairy products. The factors contributing to this situation included i) rising incomes with the resultant increase in the consumption of animal proteins and ii) the rapid growth of the population compared to the low growth of livestock production in Africa.

33. Dr. Traoré indicated that there was a need to implement appropriate policies that took into account the potential role of smallholder producers in reversing this situation. The key constraints affecting smallholder producers included: limited access to inputs, services and markets chain. In order to increase the contribution of smallholders to the markets, Dr. Traoré proposed a number of measures including investments in farm and market infrastructure, value addition and development of appropriate infrastructure at regional level. Dr. Traoré urged the African Union to look for the means to support the Member States in these aspects.
34. He emphasized the need for harmonization of policies and legislations to reduce the regional trade barriers and stressed the importance of information for the development of national and regional trade. He congratulated AU-IBAR for the eradication of rinderpest and expressed optimism that this process will be completed globally by next year.

d. OIE

35. Dr. Vallat, the Director-General of OIE pointed out that the worldwide demand for animal protein was expected to rise by more than 50%, with more than a billion people around the world moving from poverty to a middle class lifestyle with an accompanying improvement in the quantity and quality of their meals, which will include increasing amounts of meat, milk and eggs. He reiterated the position of Africa as a net importer of animal products.
36. He emphasized the potential for animal production in Africa and the priority need for efficient production and marketing of products to recapture the domestic market, without overlooking the highly lucrative export niche markets in Europe and the Gulf Region. Dr. Vallat also emphasized the need to strengthen disease control especially in the globalised world with the effects of climate change that have increased the risks of rapid spread of diseases.
37. He drew attention to the need to equip the public and private sectors with the necessary tools to combat diseases in line with the principles of good veterinary governance and the need for African national veterinary services to be aligned with the models proposed in international standards. He appealed to African Member States to request for the application of the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) pathway in their countries in order to attain this objective. Dr. Vallat confirmed that Africa's influence in the process of adopting new standards has increased considerably due to the coordination of joint positions organised by AU-IBAR. He congratulated the African Union Commission and AU-IBAR for this achievement.

VI. MINISTERS' REMARKS AND DISCUSSIONS

38. The Ministers Responsible for Animal Resources from the following countries made statements during the conference: Kenya, Libya, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Mali, Somalia, Sudan and Zambia.
39. Statements were also made by the following Heads of Delegations: Benin, Chad Comoros, Congo, D. R. Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

40. The Ministers congratulated H.E. Madam Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, for a well researched keynote address and for her excellent presentation. They expressed concern over the position of Africa as a net importer of animal products while opportunities for intra-African trade were not fully exploited. They concurred that there was need to enhance intra-African trade and proposed that the AUC should consider investing in a trade information centre/facility where Member States could exchange information on demand and availability of livestock commodities, and for the facilitation of exploratory visits of trade delegations between African countries.
41. The Conference of Ministers also proposed that AUC should consider establishing a fund specifically for use in eradication of TADs and other priority diseases.
42. They further expressed concern over the low level of public and private investments in the livestock sector and the low compliance rate in the implementation of the Maputo Decision by Member States on increasing national budget allocations in Agriculture including the livestock sector
43. H.E. Tumusiime acknowledged the key concerns related to trade and investments. She indicated that only 18 out of 53 countries had completed the CAADP compact. She, however, informed the participants that very few countries had raised their budget allocation as proposed by the Maputo decision, and this had instead decreased. She singled out Malawi and Sierra-Leone as some of the few countries that had made significant efforts in increasing investment in agriculture.

VII. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION RESOLUTIONS OF THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA

a. Resolutions

44. The Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa having met in Entebbe, Uganda on the 13th and 14th May 2010 for their Eighth Conference with the theme "Improving access to markets for African animal resources to significantly contribute to economic growth and reduction of poverty", with the objective of reviewing progress made since their last Conference held in Kigali, Rwanda in November 2005 and to consider other contemporary matters related to the development and utilisation of animal resources in Africa, adopted the following resolutions:

1. On Investment in the Livestock sector

45. **Concerned about** the low level of public and private investments in the Animal Resources sector and the low compliance rate in the implementation of the Maputo Decision by Member States on increasing national budget allocations in Agriculture including the Animal Resources sector and other decisions from conferences of Ministers;
46. **Recognizing** that the current policy and institutional environment in the Animal Resources sector is not conducive to attract private investment;

47. **Recognizing** the need for reliable data, tools and mechanisms to develop quality investment plans;
48. **Recognising** that the structural adjustment programmes led to weakened capacity of livestock support services;
49. **Urge** Member States to implement the Maputo Decision on investing at least 10% of national budget in Agriculture of which 30% should be allocated to livestock and AU-IBAR and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to monitor the implementation;
50. **Urge** donors to harmonise their support to the Animal Resources Sector;
51. **Urge** AU-IBAR to continue working closely with the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) and to assist countries and RECs in developing their CAADP-Compact and investment plans for the Animal Resources sector under the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP);
52. **Urge** Member States to enhance capacity for timely collection, analysis and sharing of quality data to guide policy, strategy and investment programmes;
53. **Urge** Member States with the support of AU-IBAR to review what should be delivered by the public sector and which services should be privatized;
54. **Recommend** That African Union Commission (AUC) organises a **Livestock Summit** to engage the AU Heads of State and Governments in decisions on Animal Resources sector policies and investments.

2. On AU-IBAR strategic plan

55. **Recognizing** that the AU-IBAR strategic plan 2010-2014 is aligned to the priorities of Animal Resources development in all Member States and the CAADP which is the continental agenda set by Heads of State for the advancement of agricultural development on the continent;
56. **Endorse** the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan 2010-2014;
57. **Urge** the donor community to support AU-IBAR to effectively implement its Strategic Plan 2010-2014;
58. **Concerned** about the inadequate AU-IBAR human and financial resources to effectively deliver on its mandate;
59. **Urge** AUC to strengthen and sustain AU-IBAR's human capital to ensure a critical mass of expertise for execution of its mandate;
60. **Recommend** that AU-IBAR embarks on the formulation of continental programmes to achieve the objectives of its six (6) strategic programmes;

61. **Recommend** that AUC supports AU-IBAR to institutionalize annual meetings of directors of animal health and animal production to discuss and exchange information on Animal Resources issues and to consult and coordinate common positions;

3. **On access to market**

62. **Concerned** about the position of Africa as a net importer of animal products while opportunities for intra Africa trade are not fully exploited with an estimated outflow of on average of 4 b USD per year;

63. **Concerned** about the poor competitiveness of African producers in domestic, regional and global markets;

64. **Concerned** about the constraints for intra and inter regional trade in Africa caused by poor infrastructure, legislative barriers, persistence of non-tariff barriers including sanitary regulations, inadequate market intelligence and limited involvement of stakeholders along the value chain;

65. **Concerned** about the inadequate participation of African Member States in international Standard Setting Organizations and the low level of compliance with international standards by Member States;

66. **Recognizing** the role of AU-IBAR in strengthening the participation of Member States in international Standard Setting Organizations and WTO-SPS committee, in particular the coordination of common positions on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards;

67. **Urge** AUC, and the RECs to sustain and strengthen the mechanism initiated by AU-IBAR aimed at supporting and coordinating the participation of Member States in Standard Setting;

68. **Urge** Member States to take measures including investment in infrastructure, value addition and supporting economies of scale by strengthening smallholder farmer organisations to enhance Animal Resources sector competitiveness;

69. **Urge RECs** and AU-IBAR to strengthen animal resources marketing information systems;

70. **Urge RECs** to promote inter and intra regional trade and task AUC to promote the process

71. **Urge** AU-IBAR to assess the competitiveness of livestock sector and proposed alternatives for improving intra African trade and improve competitiveness;

72. **Recommend** that Member States create/strengthen national and regional coordination mechanisms to harmonize SPS related activities;

73. **Recommend** AU-IBAR to establish a dedicated desk in support of intra African trade in animal products through information sharing and on demand facilitation of contacts between commercial partners

4. **On rinderpest eradication and control of Transboundary Animal Diseases(TADs)**

74. **Recognizing** the benefit from the eradication of rinderpest and the need for progressive control of other TADs;

75. **Recognising** the need for a regional approach for effective and sustained control of TADs and zoonosis;

76. **Concerned** about the risk of rinderpest virus escape from the laboratories and the possible re-emergence of the disease;

77. **Recognising** the support provided by the AUC to AU-PANVAC to establish a level 3 Biosecurity laboratory (**BSL3**);

78. **Concerned** about the inadequate AU-PANVAC human and financial resources to effectively deliver on its mandate;

79. **Recognising** the role of AU-PATTEC in the control of tsetse and trypanosomiasis and the success in the control and eradication in Botswana and Namibia and the ongoing initiatives in other infected countries and the need for coordination of actions among affected countries;

80. **Concerned** about the lack of awareness on AU-PATTEC activities in some Member States and the absence of the programme in some tsetse infested countries;

81. **Encourage** Member States to speed up the process of rinderpest virus sequestration, by completing the FAO/OIE questionnaire regarding the inventory of the virus (samples, vaccines), without any further delay;

82. **Urge** Member States to maintain and regularly update their rinderpest contingency plans and establish syndromic surveillance systems for trade-sensitive TADs, especially in high risk areas and AU-IBAR to mobilise resources to support this endeavour;

83. **Urge** Member states to improve the quality and timeliness of disease reporting to AU-IBAR including emergency reporting and for AU-IBAR (ARIS) and FAO (TADInfo) to ensure inter-operability between their respective information systems and connecting them to the OIE WAHIS, and FAO GLEWS/EMPRES global systems;

84. **Urge** AUC to strengthen AU-PANVAC human capital to ensure a critical mass of expertise for execution of its mandate;

85. **Urge** all tsetse and trypanosomiasis affected countries to harmonize and intensify actions and inputs for the control and eradication of tsetse and trypanosomiasis and AU-PATTEC to establish coordination offices at the regional level;
86. **Recommend** RECs to establish well-structured livestock governance systems to achieve effective coordination of TADs and zoonosis at regional level;
87. **Recommend** Member States to destroy all rinderpest virus strains held in Africa and to hand over what is deemed necessary to AU-PANVAC for safe storage;
88. **Recommend** that AU-IBAR mobilises resources for the progressive control of PPR and other priority TADs;
89. **Recommend** that AUC establishes a trust fund for the progressive control and eradication of TADs and trade sensitive diseases.

5. On Pastoral production systems and climate change

90. **Concerned** about increasing incidence of natural resources based conflicts in different farming systems being exacerbated by climate change and the movement of animals within and across national borders;
91. **Recognizing** the need for Member States to strengthen the capacity of pastoral communities to adapt to climate variability;
92. **Urge** AU-IBAR and RECs in partnership with other relevant institutions develop and facilitate implementation of early warning systems for supporting disease control, stocking/destocking/animal movement decisions and crop management practices of agro-pastoralists;
93. **Urge** Member States to support research and uptake of packages on technologies that will strengthen adaptation and mitigation to climate change and implement the index based livestock insurance;
94. **Urge** AUC to finalize the Pastoral Policy Framework as soon as possible to facilitate its implementation by Member States and RECs.

6. On the conference of Ministers Responsible for Animal Resources

95. **Recognizing** the importance of the joint periodic review of the status of Animal Resources sector in Africa by Experts and Ministers responsible for Animal Resources;
96. **Commend** AU-IBAR for the successful organisation of the 8th conference held in Entebbe, Uganda on 13th and 14th May 2010;
97. **Acknowledge** the Financial support of the European Union for the organisation of this convening;

98. **Concerned** about the constraints that prevent the regular convening of this conference;
99. **Recommend** that the AUC institutionalise the Bi annual Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa (COMAR)
100. **Propose** that the next meeting be held in 2012 in Cote d'Ivoire

b. Vote of Thanks

101. On behalf of the Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa, the Minister of Livestock from Cameroon extended sincere gratitude to H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda and the People of Uganda for the exceptional warmth and hospitality extended to all the participants attending the Eighth Conference.

VIII. CLOSING CEREMONY

a. Closing Remarks by the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AUC

102. H.E. Tumusiime thanked the guest speakers and all the participants who contributed to drafting the resolutions which would lead to the improvement of the livestock sector in Africa. She recalled the theme of the conference "Improving access to markets for African animal resources to significantly contribute to economic growth and reduction of poverty" and noted that a key challenge to practitioners in the livestock domain was to assist and empower poor African poor farmers to fully benefit from the huge opportunities offered by the rapidly expanding demand for products of animal origin. She reminded the participants of the key highlights of the discussions during the conference including the following:
 - i) The need for enhanced control of animal diseases such as rinderpest and avian influenza.
 - ii) The need for improved coordination and harmonisation of livestock development.
 - iii) The need for increased animal production and trade.
 - iv) The need for AU Member States to take measures to comply with WTO SPS Agreement.
103. She also expressed her gratitude to the development and technical partners represented at the conference. She invited the Minister of State for Animal Industry to deliver his speech.

b. Closing Remarks by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Industry, Uganda

104. The Minister of State for Animal Industry of Uganda acknowledged the presence of the Right Hon. Henry Kajura, the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, of AU officials, EU, officials and representatives of International Organizations to the closing ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa.

105. The Minister noted that the conference had created a high level of awareness and enhanced advocacy on the role of livestock in the development of Africa. He thanked the participants for their cooperation and support in ensuring the success of the conference.
106. The Minister urged the participants to use the recommendations of the conference to transform disease control and livestock marketing systems to enhance the competitiveness of the African livestock sector. He emphasized the need to avoid resource based conflicts, increasing intra-African trade and value addition to enhance access to markets.
107. The Minister thanked the AUC, participants and development partners, the AU-IBAR team and the National Organising Committee for their support and commitment. He then called upon the Guest of Honor, the Rt. Honorable 2nd Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda to officially close the conference.

c. Closing Remarks by the Rt. Hon. Henry Kajura, 2nd Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda.

108. The Rt. Hon. Henry Kajura welcomed the participants to Uganda and expressed his gratitude for the honour bestowed on him to officiate at the closing ceremony of the Eighth Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa. He highlighted the key role and contribution of livestock to the economy and the need for Africa to invest in the livestock sector for self sufficiency and exports.
109. He expressed optimism that the threat of climate change to livestock production had been addressed by the conference. He then proceeded to read the speech on behalf of H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. In the message, H.E. the President expressed Uganda's honour in hosting the conference and the confidence of Uganda in the African Union. He described the theme of the conference as very timely considering the current trends in human population growth and animal production in Africa. The President noted that with a human population growth rate of 1.5% that was expected to double by 2050, Africa needed to do more to meet the demands of the growing population. Additionally, economic growth would result in improved incomes that would lead to higher demand for animal products.
110. He informed the participants that Uganda will soon invest 7.5 % of its national budget in Agriculture but the country still faces a meat deficit of 600,000 – 800,000 metric tonnes annually. He reminded Member States of the Maputo Decision of 2003 and urged all African Countries to allocate the required budgetary support to the livestock sector. He expressed concern over the rapid desertification and exceeding of human and animal carrying capacities on available land. Additional concerns related to the access of animal products from outside Africa to African markets at the expense of local livestock products with Africa as a net importer of meat and dairy products. H.E the President noted that Africa's competitiveness in global trade is undermined by the high cost of production and other factors and highlighted the need to transform African production systems to enhance competitiveness. The President pointed to the need to avoid the cycle of poverty and ignorance in the management of animal resources. He urged AU Member States to encourage interafrican trade and value addition to avoid outflows of foreign currency.
111. H.E the President thanked the participants and officially closed the Eighth conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa at 14:12.

