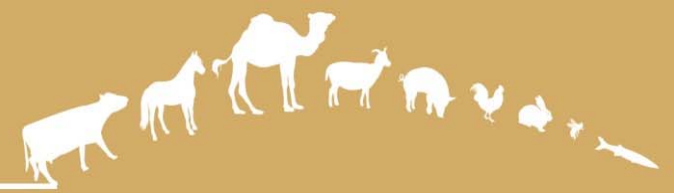




AFRICAN UNION  
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU  
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**



## WHY AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN STANDARD SETTING?

## THE AU PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING COMMON POSITION

Regional Workshop: OIE Standards-Facilitating Safe  
International Trade, Nairobi, Kenya,

20 – 22 March 2018

James Wabacha  
AU-IBAR



# Content

## The AU Process for Developing Common Position,

- ❑ Background/When it started
- ❑ How it works
- ❑ How Member Countries can best prepare and participate

# Background

## When it started

- ❑ **Before 2009:** One day meeting in Paris before OIE GS (General Session).  
Low impact on participation in the GS
- ❑ **2008:** PAN-SPSO II (2008-2015) (Participation of African Nations in Standard setting Organizations-EU funded) project activities start. One of the key results areas focused on improving the participation of AU MS and RECs in the ISSOs (OIE, CAC and IPPC).
- ❑ Specific activities included convening CVOs, National Codex Contact Point Officers, Expert meetings to develop science based arguments in response to the draft standards developed by OIE, CAC and IPPC
- ❑ **February 2009:** (OIE Regional Commission – N'djamena) OIE delegates express strong and clear demand to IBAR to organize CVOs meeting in preparation of 77th GS
- ❑ **Started, May 2009:** First, 2 days CVOs meeting under PAN-SPSO convened for common position

# Background

## When it started...

- ❑ Common positions since 2009 in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>) CVOs meetings under PAN-SPSO, VETGOV (2,5 days);
- ❑ 10<sup>th</sup> CVO meeting-23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> May 2018, AU-IBAR, Nairobi;



# Background

When it started.....2009 CVOs Meeting in Nairobi



# Background

## When it started.....2009 CVOs Meeting in Nairobi

- 36 countries participated
- No preliminary technical preparation meeting
- Meeting proposed basis of permanent coordination to coordinate common position for the whole OIE process (GA and Code Commissions)
- At this time nothing on aquatic code, scientific and biological commission reports
- Breaches in Pan African solidarity during vote (countries that did not attend CVOs meeting)
- Other teething problems

# Background

When it started.....2009: 77<sup>th</sup> General Session

## Lessons learnt

- ❑ Need to involve non ACP African countries at preparatory stage (CVOs meeting)
- ❑ Need to better prepare CVOs meeting and to improve preparation to GS (formulation of comments, choice of delegates taking the floor, preparation of delegates to understand and defend their positions)
- ❑ Need to participate in the other stages of the standard setting process (Code Commissions)



# Background

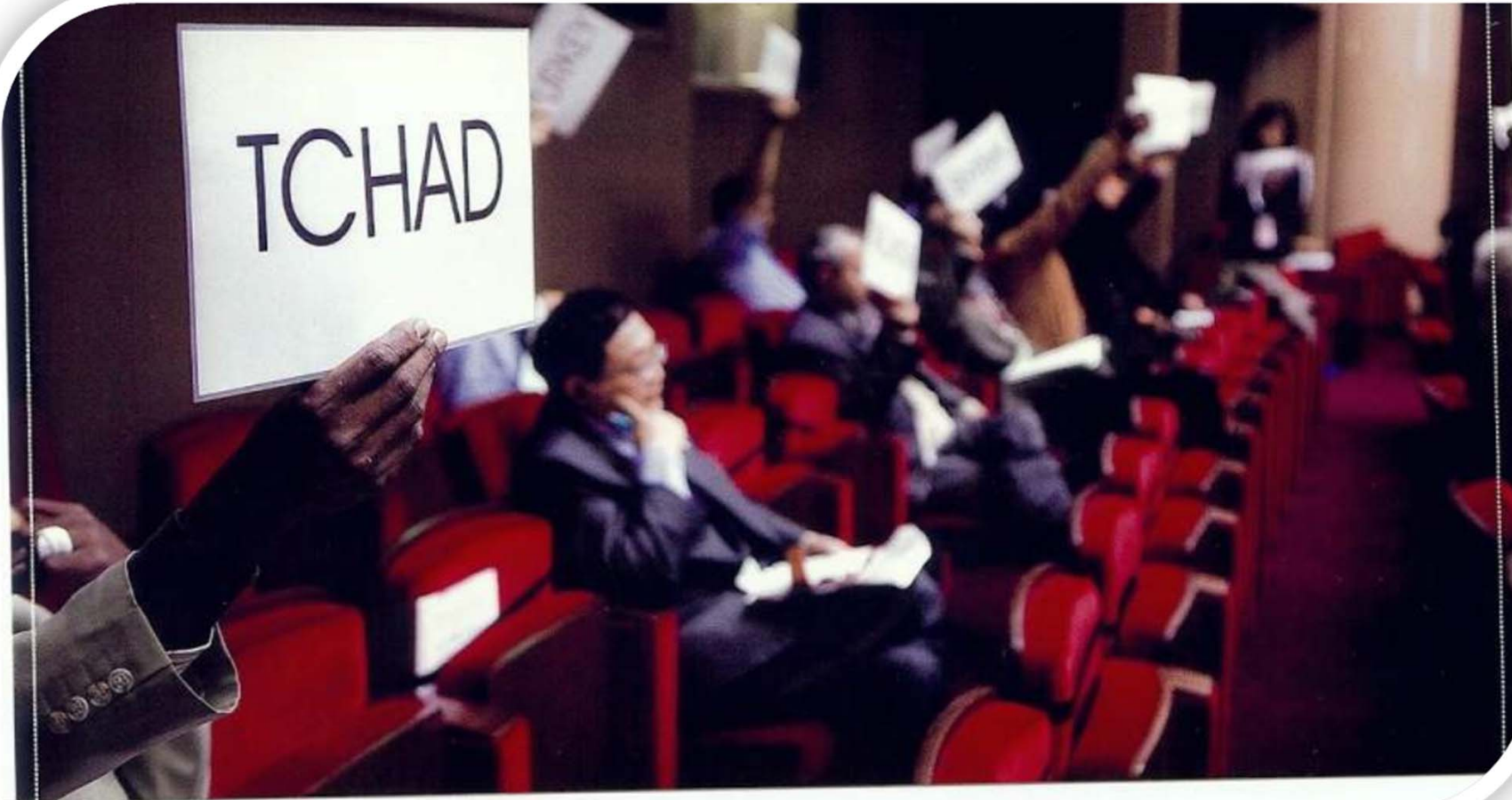
When it started.....2009: 77<sup>th</sup> General Session





# Background

When it started.....2009: 77<sup>th</sup> General Session



# Background

When it started.....2009: 77<sup>th</sup> General Session





# Background

When it started.....2009: 77<sup>th</sup> General Session





# Background

When it started.....2010: CVOs meeting in Entebbe

- ❑ 46 countries attended (including many African non ACP)
- ❑ Preliminary technical session for preparation and selection of topics
- ❑ Half day for simulation exercise (improved interventions)
- ❑ Quality (Science based) of interventions improved during the 78<sup>th</sup> GS
- ❑ AU-EU common positions
- ❑ Nothing on aquatic (first common positions on aquatic code done in 2011)
- ❑ In 2012 ECOWAS organizes a preparatory regional CVOs meeting

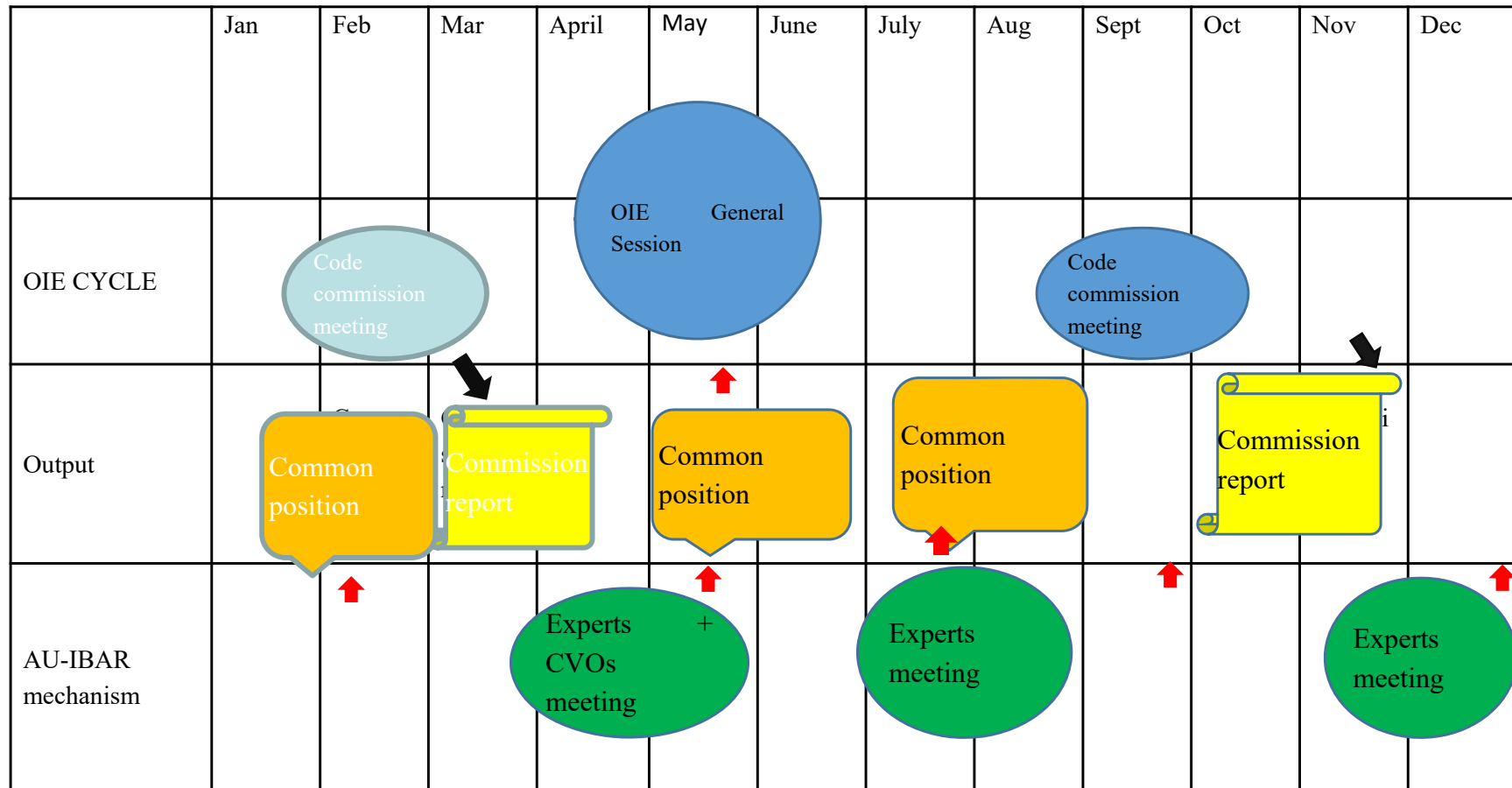
# The AU Process for Developing Common Position

## How it works

- ❑ The common position mechanism that has been established in AU-IBAR is aligned to the OIE standard setting cycle.
- ❑ 3 main steps in the OIE standard setting process are the two code commission meetings (September and February), where draft standards are consolidated with view to their adoption, and the General Session in May, where the draft standards are adopted.
- ❑ AU-IBAR has organized itself to be able to consolidate common positions for these three steps.
- ❑ The main instrument for coordinating the OIE common position is the annual CVOs meeting.
- ❑ It is preceded by an expert meeting that analyses issues of common interest and prepares draft common positions.
- ❑ The common positions are then discussed by all CVOs in a plenary meeting organized in Nairobi.



# The AU Process for Developing Common Position





# The AU Common Position building Process

## How it works...

- ❑ The positions are finalized and the speaker who will take the floor to defend the position in the OIE General Session is designated.
- ❑ Two experts' meetings are organized in December and July, where the reports of the previous meetings are scrutinized, and common positions drafted.

# The AU Common Position building Process

## HOW IT WORKS – Technical Meeting of Animal Health Experts

- ❑ **AU-IBAR convenes Technical meeting of Animal Health Experts twice every year**
- ❑ **Meetings are held develop common positions prior to the February and September meetings of the specialist commissions**
- ❑ **The meeting involves experts in veterinary public health, terrestrial animal health and aquatic health**
- ❑ **Discussions focus on draft Chapters of**
  - ❑ Terrestrial Animal Health Code,
  - ❑ Aquatic Animal Health Code

# The AU Common Position building Process

## HOW IT WORKS-PAN African CVOs/OIE Delegates Meetings

- ❑ **Panafrican meeting of CVOs/OIE Delegates held every year prior to the OIE General Session in May**
- ❑ **All CVOs/OIE Delegates from AU Member States are invited to a 3-day meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss and agree on Common Positions for the OIE GS**
- ❑ **The meeting decides on lead countries and alternate countries are assigned for the different agenda items**
- ❑ **A simulation exercise is conducted to enable countries better familiarize with the process of advancing positions during plenary sessions**
- ❑ **African Group meetings are held in the margins of the OIE General Session to further consolidate the positions and strategize on issues that may emerge during plenary discussions**



# The AU Common Position building Process

## How Member Countries can best prepare and participate

- ❑ Purpose of **CVOs** meeting is to consolidate national positions into continental positions hence there is need for more stakeholder engagement/national consultations on draft Chapters prior to **CVO/OIE Delegates** meeting
- ❑ Need to improve consultation among stakeholders at national level to consolidate national common position that represents all point of views, including the private sector one
- ❑ Outcome of national consultations should feed into the **Technical Meeting of Animal Health Experts**
- ❑ Relevance of regional coordination level prior to continental

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA