

Vote of Thanks

Director of Ceremonies;
Your Excellency The Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Ethiopia
Honourable Ministers here Present
President of WOAH
Deputy Director General of WOAH
All Protocol Observed

It is a great honour and privilege for me to propose a vote of thanks at the occasion of the opening ceremony of the 26th Regional Conference for Africa.

First and foremost, I thank our Guest of Honour, **His Excellency Temesge Tiruneh The Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**, who, despite his busy schedule, has found time to grace this memorable event - this is highly appreciated Your Excellency. This is a testimony of the importance you attach to the livestock sector – that is, political will, which is important to the support of the sector, especially animal health, which in turn translate to food security.

Director of Ceremonies;

In the same breath, I also express my heartfelt thanks to:

- **Hon. Dr. Girma Amente Minister** of Agriculture Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- His Excellency Dr Fikru Regassa, State Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Resources Development Sector of the Ministry of Agriculture and WOAH delegate for Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- Hon. Ministers for Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire and Uganda and Senior Government officials who graced this occasion.
- Dr Huyam Salih representing **H.E. Mrs. Josefa Sacko**, Commissioner Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment African Union Commission
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
- Representatives of International Organisations here present,

- **Dr Susana Pombo**, President, WOAAH World Assembly of Delegates and WOAAH Delegate of Portugal and all WOAAH Delegates here present,
- Dr Mabela Honoré Nlemba, President of the Bureau of WOAAH Regional Commission for Africa and WOAAH Delegate for the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission
- Representatives of Africa region in WOAAH Council here present,
- **Dr François Caya Deputy** Director General of WOAAH, and Staff of WOAAH here present,
- All participants

For their valuable contributions.

Your presence in this Regional Conference signifies the importance you attach to safeguarding animal health in the African region. WOAAH stands committed to work with Member Countries to improve animal health globally and ensure safe trade in animals and their products, as per our motto "*Protecting Animals, Preserving Our Future*".

I owe a special thanks to AU-IBAR for the financial support provided and all the members of the organising committee of Ethiopia including WOAAH staff, who have worked hard to ensure that this occasion becomes a memorable success.

I wish you all the very best.

THANK YOU!