



African Union

Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

**MECHANISMS TO ORGANIZE BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL TRADE
DISCUSSIONS AND AVOID OR SETTLE TRADE DISPUTES – THE REGIONAL
PERSPECTIVE**

***Regional Workshop: OIE Standards-Facilitating Safe International Trade, Nairobi, Kenya,
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www.au-ibar.org



Content

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- Historical background of current coordination mechanism**
- Mechanisms to organize bilateral and multilateral trade discussions and or settle trade dispute - the Regional Perspective**



The Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Context

- ❑ **Exporting countries need to prove that the standards they are applying are:**
 - science-based,
 - meet international standards;
 - are equivalent to those of their importing-country trading partners
 - and does not constitute a barrier to trade.

- ❑ **Inadequate inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms at national and regional level to respond to SPS issues**

- ❑ **Inadequate consultation processes for building common position at regional and continental levels**

- ❑ **Inadequate attendance of African delegates in International Standard Setting Organizations (OIE, CAC & IPPC) meetings/Low visibility of Africa's interests in ISSOs**

- ❑ **Inadequate engagement of private sector stakeholders in standard setting processes at the national level**



Historical background of current coordination mechanism



Past Interventions to address the deficiencies

- ❑ **The Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organisations (PAN-SPSO) Project**
- ❑ **PAN-SPSO was an EU funded programme that was implemented between 2008 and 2015 in two successive phases**
- ❑ **Implemented by the African Union–Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), in partnership with international organizations and Regional Economic Communities (RECS).**



Interventions to address the deficiencies cont'

Specific Objective PAN-SPSO

- ❑ To improve, strengthen and sustain the effective participation of African countries in the activities of the OIE, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius Commission during the formulation of international standards on animal health (terrestrial and aquatic), food safety and plant health



Key Results Areas of PAN-SPSO

R2: Consultation and coordination mechanisms established for building common positions on sanitary and phytosanitary issues at national, regional and continental levels.

R3: Technical capacity of African countries to develop standards and science-based arguments strengthened

R4: Participation of relevant public and private stakeholders in standard setting processes strengthened through establishment or reinforcement of inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms (SPS committees)

- The project ended in 2015 and its activities are now being implemented as regular activities by the Standards and Trade Secretariat for Animal Health and Food Safety at AU-IBAR***



Mechanisms to organize bilateral and multilateral trade discussions and or settle trade dispute - the Regional Perspective



The Standards and Trade Secretariat for Animal Health and Food Safety

- ❑ **Permanent SPS coordination mechanism in AU-IBAR established after the closure of PAN-SPSO Project**

Global objectives

- ❑ **To coordinate, strengthen, and sustain the effective participation of African countries in the negotiations and activities of the OIE and Codex Alimentarius Commission during the formulation of international standards on animal (terrestrial and aquatic) health and food safety**
- ❑ **To coordinate, strengthen and sustain participation of AU Member States in trade negotiations of the WTO SPS Committee**
- ❑ **To promote intra-regional trade**



Why Common Position (African Voice)?

- ❑ **To address Africa's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (Animal Health and Food Safety) concerns on a larger platform**
- ❑ **To ensure effective participation in OIE, Codex and WTO/SPS Committee meeting with a stronger voice**
- ❑ **To build synergy in order to resolve animal health and food safety issues of mutual concern**
- ❑ **To share with other blocs and make sure they understand our positions**
- ❑ **To negotiate, where necessary, with other regional blocs for support and in case their positions are conflicting with Africa's interests**



Coordination Approaches used to build unified positions on SPS issues

- ❑ **Expert meetings to build common positions for draft OIE standards (terrestrial & aquatic) prior to meetings of OIE specialist commissions**
- ❑ **Annual CVOs meetings to develop common positions prior to OIE General Sessions**
- ❑ **Expert meetings to develop common positions on draft Codex standards prior to priority Codex committee meetings**
- ❑ **Annual Codex Contact Point Officers meetings to develop common positions prior to Sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission**
- ❑ **Electronic forum/physical meetings to discuss specific trade concerns prior to WTO/SPS Committee sessions in March, July and October**
- ❑ **Supporting physical participation of AU MS in sessions of OIE, CAC and WTO SPS Committee**
- ❑ **Trainings to strengthen national SPS coordination mechanisms**



9th PAN African CVOs/OIE Delegates Meeting, 2017





Technical Meeting of Animal Health Experts





Other Coordination Approaches undertaken by AU-IBAR

- ❑ Bilateral missions and conferences between countries in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHoA), with support from AU-IBAR, ICPALD, USAID and EU.
- ❑ Promoting disease free livestock exports to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).
- ❑ Building trust





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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