

- Dr Nick Nwankpa: Acting Director of AU-IBAR, Director of AU-PANVAC and President of the Bureau of the Regional Steering Committee
- Dr Honoré Nlemba WOAHA delegate for Democratic Republic of Congo and President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa
- Members of the Bureau of the Regional Steering Committee
- Members of the Regional Steering Committee
- WOAHA Delegates
- My WOAHA Colleagues
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen
- All protocols observed

Before starting I wish to recognize Dr Neo Mapitse WOAHA Head of Regional Activities Department and Member of the Management of GF-TAD and Dr Bouda Ahmadi from FAO Headquarter and Member of GF-TAD Global Secretariat. We are honored to have you physically here with us. Karibu!!!

Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of Dr Monique Eloit, The Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAHA) I am very pleased to welcome you all to the 11th GF-TAD Africa Regional Steering Committee Meeting.

Eight months after our last meeting held online, we are gathered today physically in Nairobi as planned to discuss GF-TAD Africa. This day is a great day for many reasons, but I will mention only two. First it marks the real resumption of GF-TAD activities in Africa after a very long break and secondly the sanitary conditions allow us to meet physically after two years of break due to COVID19.

Once again : Welcome !!!

The Joint FAO, WOAHA initiative the GF-TAD Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases was launched almost two decades ago with an objective to achieve the prevention, detection and control of transboundary animal diseases worldwide. This facilitating mechanism assists regions to establish programmes for the specific control of certain TADs based on regional priorities.

We enjoy Rinderpest global eradication since 2011 and we are currently embarked on eliminating PPR by 2030.

Our continent identified five priority TAD namely Foot and Mouth Disease, Peste des petits ruminants, African Swine fever, Rift Valley Fever and Contagious Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia. These diseases are endemic in many parts of Africa and called for a strong collaboration for their control in today's world characterized by globalization with an increase in the human population: one billion every 10 years during the last 3 decades.

Yes, indeed collaboration, cooperation, complementarity, synergies are key for controlling and eliminating Transboundary Animal Diseases in our planet which became a small village with an unprecedented movement of people and commodities and with them a rapid movement of pathogens, which are transported faster than the average incubation period of most epizootic diseases.

In our regional steering committee are represented all main stakeholders involved in improving animal health situation in Africa (public and private sectors) : African Union technical agencies and REC, regional representations and bureaus of International organisations, regional specialised organisations, veterinary education establishments, funding donors, farmers just to list few.

We have guiding reference documents: WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals and many other.

We are also technically supported by international veterinary community.

As you would agree with me, we are well prepared to catch up with the lost 8 years time. A failure is not an option because We can. Yes, We can if we accept to work hand in hand.

I take this opportunity to thank all experts, all distinguished guests for accepting our invitation and for their attendance.

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- Ladies and gentlemen

During the coming 3 days we have opportunity to exchange thoroughly and openly and make smart recommendations as our contributions towards the socio-economic development of Africa leading to the improvement of the wellbeing of our populations.

Now it is my pleasure to wish you all very fruitful deliberations.

Thank you for your kind attention.