FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Exchange Workshop of Pan African Parliamentarians on Livestock policy and pastoralism in Africa
12-16 November 2013
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
I. INTRODUCTION
1. An Exchange workshop on livestock policy and pastoralism in Africa was organized by the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), from 12th to 16th November 2013 for Members of the Pan African Parliament of the African Union.

2. This Exchange Workshop was organized within the framework of the on-going collaboration between the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission and the Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of the Pan African Parliament (PAP).

3. The objectives of the workshop were to:
   o Raise awareness of the Parliamentarians on the need for policy and institutional reforms in the livestock sector so as to realize the full potential of the livestock sector for food and nutritional security, poverty reduction and economic development on the continent
   o Share experiences on policy and institutional frameworks governing livestock mobility and transhumance
   o Discuss and agree on the role of the Parliamentarians in enhancing governance on natural resources use and regional trade in livestock and livestock products.

4. The meeting was attended by 27 parliamentarians from the PAP, 15 Parliamentarians from the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, and 40 Experts from Burkina Faso, IGAD, CORAF, IUCN, PAP and AU-IBAR, on issues related to pastoral development and livestock mobility.

5. In his welcoming remarks Dr Simplice Nouala, representing the Director of AU-IBAR, highlighted the potential of the livestock sector in Africa, the various institutional and policy challenges of the livestock sector and the role legislators could play in advancing reforms in the sector.

6. The Honourable Dr Allan James Chiyembekeza, Chairperson of the the Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of the PAP. In, in his remarks, he thanked the Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union for organizing the exchange visit and workshop especially at the time the continent was grappling the search for solutions to the myriad of challenges faced by its population, particularly from the effects of climate change and high population growth.

7. He highlighted the critical role of Parliamentarians in policy formulation within their legislative and oversight roles to improve the general wellbeing of the African citizenry and in particular of target groups such as pastoralists.

8. He highlighted the importance of the forum for learning and sharing experiences on how parliamentarians could play a key role in strengthening legislative, administrative and representative functions in relation to better management of Africa’s natural resources and the need for policy and institutional reforms in the livestock sector for better returns in terms on food and nutritional security, economic development and regional integration on the continent.

9. His Excellency, Mr Jeremy Ouedraogo, Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources of Burkina Faso, stressed the importance of livestock in the economy of Burkina
Faso and the importance of pastoral production system which is the predominant systems and therefore, the importance of strategic mobility of livestock in search of pastures and water.

10. The Minister also pointed out constraints on land in pastoral areas due to encroachment of agriculture. He thanked AU-IBAR for its interventions in Burkina Faso in support of pastoral development and improvement of livelihoods in pastoral areas.

11. The meeting was officially opened by His Excellency, the Honorable Mr. Soungalo Appolinaire Ouattara, Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso. He thanked the African Union IBAR for having chosen Burkina Faso for this first workshop and exchange visit Exchange for the Parliamentarians of the PAP on livestock development.

12. He made reference to the ECOWAS International Transhumance Certificate as an example of regional cooperation, despite the many challenges in its implementation. These challenges include the low involvement of the communities in the identification of transhumance corridors, the weak coordination between various stakeholders, and weak governance in the management of resources especially at the borders.

13. The meeting was organized in two segments: the first one was the plenary session in Ouagadougou and the second one being the field visit to Fada N’Gourma located at about 200 km North East of Ouagadougou, in the eastern part of the country.

14. During the plenary the following presentations were made by AU-IBAR, the PAP, the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources of Burkina Faso, IGAD and CORAF:

- AU-IBAR and animal resources development in Africa
- The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and the role of committees
- Status of transhumance in Burkina Faso
- Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa
- Animal Health Policies and veterinary legislation
- Access to Markets and SPS
- Policy and institutional framework for livestock mobility in West and Central Africa
- Cross border transhumance as a factor of regional cooperation and integration in West Africa: case of country sharing the Park W complex
- Overview and evolution of livestock mobility in East Africa

15. The presentations highlighted the importance of livestock in the socio economic development of the continent and the importance of pastoral production, especially in extreme ecologies. Emphasis was also placed on livestock mobility especially the trans-boundary (in search of water and pasture) as a climate change mitigation strategy, a factor of regional integration and cooperation and the various conflicts attributed to mobility. The presentations also stressed the importance of policy and regulatory frameworks to support transhumance, with the example of the ECOWAS transhumance pass as a best practice that could be used in other regions of Africa.

16. Building on some achievements of AU-IBAR on enhancing governance on the use of natural resources, rehabilitation of degraded land, Natural Resources conflict
management, establishment of policy platforms to foster inclusive policy formulation at national level, and on standards setting and compliance, to facilitate regional trade of livestock and livestock products.

17. The presentations also highlighted the need to sustain and support pastoral development in Africa with mobility as a central factor, promote regional trade and the policy reforms for increased productivity of the sector to meet the growing demand.

18. Some key future initiatives of AU-IBAR were also mentioned, mainly the formulation of a Livestock development strategy for the continent, a formulation of a Pan African Fisheries Policy Framework and a Comprehensive Strategy for the Reform of the Fisheries Sector in Africa and the formulation of Continental Livestock Development Program. When these initiatives are formulated and adopted, there will be need to have them domesticated in the national policies and strategies.

19. The parliamentarians paid a courtesy call to the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of Burkina Faso, His Excellency Ernest Paramanga Yonli. During the exchange the President of the ECOSOC highlighted the contribution of livestock and pastoralism in the socio economic development of Burkina Faso.

20. During the field visit the parliamentarians from the PAP exchanged views with their counterparts from B/F and the communities from Burkina Faso and Niger (transhumant pastoralist) in the eastern region (Fada N’Gourma) on livestock trade, livestock mobility and its challenges, conflict management over natural resources use and pastoral livelihoods enhancement in general.

21. Discussions on the presentations and the field visit focused on the role of AU-IBAR in advancing the animal resources development agenda on the continent, the challenges to meet the growing demand for livestock products while sustaining and supporting pastoral production systems in the context of resources constraints, the challenges of increased regional trade, the various perceptions of livestock mobility and related constraints, the need to create an enabling policy and institutional environment to unlock and realize the potential of the livestock sector, the role of the parliamentarians, the role of the PAP and the collaboration between the PAP and AU-IBAR in advancing the animal resources development agenda on the continent.

II. OUTCOMES OF THE Exchange workshop:

22. Cognizant of the various challenges and constraints that continue to undermine the realization of the full potential of the livestock sector to the socio-economic development of the continent, including economic benefits, food and nutrition security and social welfare;

23. Agreeing with the fact that weak governance systems as manifested by low level of investment in sector, incoherent policy and legislative frameworks, weak regional trade linkages, negative impacts of climate change poor exchange of information and knowledge sharing;

24. The meeting agreed on the following:

i. Pastoralism and livestock mobility should be sustained and supported, while at the same time, sustainable intensification of production should be
promoted and encouraged to meet the growing demand of livestock and livestock products;

ii. AU-IBAR to strengthen its collaboration with the PAP through regular exchange meetings/workshops with a view to sharing information on initiatives and achievements with the PAP;

iii. AU-IBAR to undertake a study in form of an inventory on livestock development policies in general and more specifically pastoral policies indicating where and why these policies should be reviewed;

iv. The Parliamentarians to contribute to raising awareness on livestock issues at national level to increase investments in the livestock sector, in accordance with the Maputo declaration of 2003 on allocating at least 10% of national budget to agriculture of which 30% should be allocated to livestock in relation to the contribution of the subsector to agriculture, and constantly monitor its compliance;

v. Joint activities to be organized between the Committees on Agriculture of National Assemblies and the National Policy Platforms established by AU-IBAR to foster policy coherence. These activities will be supported by AU-IBAR;

vi. AU-IBAR and the PAP to identify concrete actions that will enable the PAP and the Parliamentarians at the national level to facilitate and support livestock development initiatives;

vii. The PAP to facilitate the domestication of animal resources related continental policies and strategies at national level and monitor their implementation;

viii. The PAP to facilitate the domestication of the African Union Pastoral Policy framework at national level and the formulation/revision of pastoral policies aligned to it;

ix. AU-IBAR to engage regional parliaments on development and harmonization of policy and institutional frameworks, supportive of development of animal resources and safe trade in animals and animal products within and between RECs in Africa;

x. Annual Exchange Workshops with PAP to be instituted;

xi. AU-IBAR and the PAP secretariat to develop a mechanism to monitor implementation of the above recommendations.