Final COMMUNIQUE OF THE 7TH PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

VET-GOV

13th - 14th April 2016
Libreville, Gabon
The seventh VET-GOV Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting was held at the Boulevard Hotel in Libreville, Gabon, on 13\textsuperscript{th} and 14\textsuperscript{th} April 2016. It was attended by the Steering Committee Members, participants from AU-IBAR, OIE, FAO, PROPAC, EAAF, EISMV, CEBEVIRHA-CEMAC, BRENTEC and RECs (COMESA, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC) and invited representatives from countries such as Botswana, Kenya and Sao Tome and Principe (List of participants: Annex 1):

The meeting was officially opened by Honourable Gabriel TCHANGO, State Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Republic of Gabon, following remarks from Professor Ahmed El-Sawalhy, the Director AU-IBAR representing the Commissioner of DREA, Mrs. Clotilde Niguizama, the ECCAS Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Diego Zurdo, representing the EU; Dr Cyprien Biaou representing the FAO and Dr. Karim Tounkara representing the OIE.

The 7\textsuperscript{th} PSC Meeting deliberated on the following:

- Matters arising from the previous meeting;
- Consolidated Progress report and harmonized calendar of events (AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE, RECs);
- Financial reports by the project partners;
- Updates on the IGAD studies on contribution of livestock to GDP;
- Updates on pilot activity on Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) Scientific Network in the SADC;
- Updates on pilot activity on Advocacy and capacity building to support policy reforms in veterinary services delivery in Sao Tome;
- Updates on the new EU – funded OIE project, i.e. “\textit{Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries + Rabies}“ (SVSDC+R) project (2015 – 2018).

Following fruitful deliberations and,

\textbf{Considering} the mandate of the PSC Meeting to provide strategic guidance to the Programme and oversee coherent implementation of the different contribution agreements;

\textbf{Noting} the progress made by the Programme after the 6\textsuperscript{th} PSC Meeting held in Port Louis, Mauritius (July 2015);
Taking cognizance of the Programme implementation approaching the end of the second term of implementation;

Considering the need to fast track the programme implementation, enhancing budgetary absorption and ensuring achieving the project goals and demonstrate evidence of sustainability;

The PSC appreciates the efforts applied by VET-GOV implementing partners and the important progress made since the last meeting in Port Louis, Mauritius (July 2015).

The PSC endorsed the following:

1) The minutes of the 6th SCM
2) The progress on the implementation of the 6th SCM recommendations;
3) The technical consolidated progress report;
4) The financial reports presented by project partners

The PSC agreed on the following recommendations:
1. Programme sustainability and the exit strategy
   • AU-IBAR to convene a meeting to broaden the exit and sustainability strategy and circulate to steering committee members before end of June 2016;
   • Technical partners to critically analyse the remaining budget vis-à-vis the programme objectives and if need be submit a request for budgetary revision;
   • AU-IBAR and RECs to prepare addenda to the partnership agreements to be signed before the next steering committee meeting;
   • OIE to ensure seamless phase-over of some of its VETGOV activities into the new SVSDC+R project; and
   • FAO continue to support regional networks through EPT-2 and other projects including anchorage to RECs
2. Support to Regional Farmers Organizations (RFO)
   • Apex Farmers Organizations to report on the implementation of the action plan during the next steering committee meeting.
3. Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC)
   • AU-IBAR to support the operationalization of the Central African RAHC through VET-GOV.
4. Support to the operation of National Livestock Policy Hubs (NLPH)
   • AU-IBAR and FAO together with RECs to conduct a thorough review/assessment of the National Livestock Policy Hubs in selected countries across the continent, develop a plan to address the gaps and report to the next steering committee.
5. **Support the process of enactment of new and updated policies and legislation**

- AU-IBAR to allocate substantial resources and time to help the national policy hubs to engage cabinets and national assemblies for the enactment of policies and laws.

6. **Animal health networks (RAHN, EAREN, EARLN)**

- FAO to engage RECs and report on the sustainability of networks during the next steering committee meeting.

7. **Harmonization of veterinary legislation**

- Selected RECs to report on the implementation of the agreed veterinary legislation roadmaps (following joint regional seminars held in these RECs) during the next steering committee meeting.

8. **The 8th PSCM**

- The PSC decides to hold the next steering committee meeting in November 2016 in the IGAD region, i.e. in Khartoum, Sudan

**Acknowledgement**

The PSC Members thank the Government and people of the Republic of Gabon for hosting the meeting and ECCAS Secretariat for assistance provided in the organization of the meeting, AU-IBAR and partners for the support extended during the preparation and conducting the meeting, and the European Union for funding the programme.

Done in Libreville, Gabon on 14\textsuperscript{th} of April 2016