1.0 Introduction

As a follow-up to the meeting held in Khartoum, Sudan from 30th September -1st October 2015 that initiated the regional network for quarantines, a meeting was held at Hargeisa from 5th to 6th June 2016 to launch the network amidst participation of stakeholders involved quarantine stations and systems from the greater horn of Africa. A total of 23 participants drawn from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia (Somaliland, Puntland) South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda, AU-IBAR and ICPALD attended the meeting.

In his remarks, Dr Joseph Magona, on behalf of Dr Solomon Munyua, the Acting Director of the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), stated that quarantines had been championed in the IGAD region as a feasible model for promoting livestock trade, given that several transboundary animal diseases being endemic in the region. Such facilities gave an opportunity for animals to be screened for diseases and for negative and health animals to be shipped to export markets, especially in the Middle East and North Africa. Given that fragmented way the quarantine stations operated, there was need to regulate Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Standards in quarantine stations across the region, taking in account consumer and end market interests in importing countries. Hence the regional network for quarantines was a good initiative to unite all stakeholders operating quarantine stations and quarantine systems in the region. Finally he thanked participants for honouring their invitations, Somaliland Government for hosting the meeting and AU-IBAR and USAID for the support.

In his remarks, Dr Hiver Boussini, on behalf of Prof. Ahmed Elsawalhy, Director of African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), he stated that livestock marketing and trade was one of the main assets of the Greater Horn of Africa (GHoA) region. A region that annually exports approximately 10
million heads of livestock to the Middle East and Northern Africa. This, he said, is done mainly through the quarantine stations. AU-IBAR through the Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health (SMP-AH) project had developed the Standard Methods and Procedures (SMP) for export quarantine and trained veterinary staff operating quarantine stations and systems in the region. In addition, AU-IBAR had initiated the regional network for quarantines and was in the process of developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for livestock quarantine systems in the region. He stated that the regional network for quarantines was established on 30th September 2015 in Khartoum, Sudan, to act as a platform for addressing several challenges affecting livestock exporting countries in region. The network was also intended to act as an avenue for overseeing standardization of quarantine practices in the region, share market intelligence, promote livestock trade and guide implementation of the SMP for export quarantine and quarantine SOPs. He stated that it was gratifying to witness the official launch of the regional network for quarantines. For sustainability, the network had to be anchored at IGAD/ICPALD. He called upon participants to be proactive in order to meet the expected outputs of the network. Finally, he thanked ICPALD for the strong collaboration and partnership, USAID for financial support and Somaliland for accepting to host the meeting.

In his remarks, Dr. Dawud Ahmed Issa, the Coordinator for the Regional Network for Quarantines stated that the network was formed in Khartoum, Sudan in 2015 to enforce SPS standards in order to secure end markets. He stated that the capacity for livestock export was very large, given a large population of livestock-dependent communities in the Greater Horn of Africa. He further stated that if the region does not take advantage of the large concentration of livestock, such large concentration of livestock could likely lead to negative environmental impact. He said there was need to promote livestock exports for that matter sustain export markets was critical. He envisaged the regional network for quarantines to play a purely technical role rather than a regulatory role, especially in assisting different actors operating quarantine systems. Finally, he thanked AU-IBAR and ICPALD for supporting the network, USAID for financial support and Somaliland for hosting the meeting.

In his remarks, Mr Abdi Ahmed Nour, Director-General of Livestock in Somaliland thanked participants for coming to Somaliland. He also thanked ICPALD for choosing Somaliland for the meeting. He stated the Ministry of Livestock in Somaliland had enormous interest in Livestock quarantines in Berbera. He further stated that the Ministry had set-up a taskforce for quarantine inspection. In the most recent inspection visit, the taskforce had inspected all the three quarantines in Berbera. After the inspection visit, the ministry called all quarantine operators for a meeting and the findings were discussed to allow quarantines comply with SPS standards. This, he said, was to allow secure export markets and improve livestock trade. Finally he launched the regional network for quarantines.

2.0 Meeting objectives
The meeting had the following objectives:

• To make an inspection tour of Berbera quarantine facilities to acquaint members of the regional network for quarantines with practical application of SPS standards during operations
• To identify key roles for the regional network for quarantines as regards helping quarantines systems to re-inforce compliance to SPS standards in the region
• To deliberate the need for more positions for office-bearers of the regional network for quarantines
• To officially launch and operationalize the regional network for quarantines
3.0  Proceedings

3.1  Visit to Berbera Saudi Emirates Quarantine in Somaliland

The team visited Berbera Saudi Emirates Quarantine on 5th June 2016. They were taken around various components of the quarantine facilities including the laboratory. The management of the quarantine facilities indicated they handled between 1-4 million small ruminants with about 200,000 camels and 200,000 cattle, annually. The laboratory performed tests according to requirements of the importing countries. It was observed that trade in livestock was seasonal according to the seasonal demand of livestock by importing countries. Trade climax was during the festive period in the Middle East and North Africa.

3.2  Country presentations

3.2.1  Djibouti

In Djibouti, Prima International Regional Quarantine is the key facility, whose main objective is to (1) apply sanitary requirements for export of disease free livestock, (2) conduct research on livestock diseases and trade in the horn of Africa, (3) promote livestock production in the region by opening market opportunities—a partnership with Ethiopian, Djibouti and Somali traders of Livestock, (4) to serve as a source of livestock market information center in East Africa, (5) maintain sustainable livestock trade by applying strict sanitary measures in international livestock trade, (6) to act as a market source for fodder and concentrate feed for traders in the region, and (7) to provide short term training for veterinarians and laboratory Technicians.
The quarantine facility is established on the total area of 605 hectares. The facilities include the following: Diagnostic Laboratory, Pre-Quarantine, Station A and B, Station C, Administration Office, Post mortem hall, Slaughter house, General store, Garage, Incinerator, Feed store and others. The laboratory is equipped with state of the art laboratory equipments and materials. Tests are done based on importing countries requirements. All the tests put as pre requisite by importing countries are done in the lab. Currently, Djibouti is setting up a port for export of livestock at Damerjog. This port will have the capacity of 2 million head of cattle per year. Major challenges faced by Djibouti include: (1) Political instability of the importing countries such as Yemen and Libya, (2) Emergence of new diseases such as MERSCoV, (3) Lack of national strategies on livestock, (4) scarcity of Livestock due to drought, and (5) exclusive dependence on few countries for livestock exports.

3.2.2 Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, Mille quarantine has a capacity of 600 hectares. Only 48 hectares have been utilized, holding 87 pens with 11 being for small ruminants and 76 for larger stock, including 44 for cattle and 30 for camels. The quarantine facility is planned for approximately 1.5 million sheep or goats, 4 million cattle and 6 million camels. The facility is planned to handle upto ten quarantine cycles per year with each cycle having 15,000 sheep and goats, 20,000 cattle and 4,000 camels, giving a total of 39,000 animals. The specific objectives of establishing quarantine facilities in Ethiopia were: (1) To certify Ethiopian animals as free from TADs, (2) To apply importing country requirements and other international standards to live animal export of the country, (3) To prevent bans as a result of trade related animal diseases, and (4) To sustain and further develop markets for Ethiopian live animals by increasing the competitiveness of the country at international markets. Currently, the principal quarantine has the following minimum provisions, (1) Main gate with foot and tyre bath for vehicle disinfection, (2) loading and unloading ramps, (3) working facilities such as crushes, spray races and scales, (4) livestock pens and shade areas, (5) feeding and watering troughs, (6) ground water and underground reservoirs, (7) feed stores and feed processing facilities, (8) isolation pens, (9) laboratory facilities, (10) refrigeration equipment and facilities; (11) vaccination and treatment equipment; (12) veterinary supply store, (13) emergency slaughter, post mortem and incineration facilities, (14) access roads and lighting, (15) electric power line and standby generator, (16) inner and outer fences, (16) staff houses and washing rooms, and (17) administration blocks. Putting in place of biosecurity measures, Standard Methods and Procedures, Standard Operating Procedures and laboratory testing Standard Operating Procedures is being undertaken.

Major challenges experienced include, (1) Repeated livestock bans; (1983 RP KAS; 1997/98 RVF gulf states; 2000 RVF KSA and others; 2001 FMD KSA; 2006 FMD Egypt; 2007 RVF UAE; 2009 KSA sanitation; 2013/14 UAE sanitation), (2) Competition with other countries who have met health and quality standards, (3) Market limited to MENA, (4) Difficulties in accessing high priced markets, (5) Weak regional trade between countries, (6) Compliance with SPS, and (7) requirements are getting stringent.

3.2.3 Kenya

In Kenya, the Livestock Export Zone has been established at Bachuma in Taita Taveta County. In 2013, the Ministry adopted a holding ground – quarantine station linked concept. Bachuma Livestock Export Zone is sited at the former Bachuma LMD holding ground along Voi – Mombasa road. The Holding ground spans about 15,000 acres. It is surrounded by large ranches that are under lease to individual and group ranchers. The selection of Bachuma was informed by its proximity to the port and is surrounded by ranches that have been used for the live animal export in Kenya previously. The programme is to be implemented in four components namely: (1) Animal health improvement, (2) Infrastructure improvement, (3) Livestock productivity improvement, and (4) Livestock marketing improvement. Currently, the following are being
undertaken: (1) Construction of bio-security fence (Veterinary), (2) Construction of support facilities, and (3) The Government of Kenya has planned to establish two (2) export quarantine stations at Kurawa in Tana River County and Miritini in Mombasa County.

Major challenges experienced include, (1) Inadequate finances to meet huge financial investment required, (2) Lack of acceptable export certification and handling facilities and livestock marketing infrastructure such as holding grounds, quarantine stations, stock routes and sale yards in the country, (3) lack of a credible National Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS) in Kenya that is critical in production, breeding, disease surveillance, food safety certification and food quality assurance, (4) failure to meet the EU and other valuable markets by Kenya, (5) free movement of livestock and livestock products across borders for pasture or trade pausing a challenge regarding control of Trans-boundary Animal Disease (TADs), (6) Change in governance structure after 2013 election, involving 47 counties each with its own disease control management style, (7) Different animal health regulations amongst the countries and uncoordinated disease surveillance and control programs, and (8) Recurrent livestock trade bans by importing countries.

3.2.4 South Sudan

In South Sudan, quarantine points and checkpoints have been established at Nimule along the South-Uganda border, Nadapal along the South Sudan-Kenya border, Juda, Kaya along the South Sudan-Uganda border and at Juba International Airport. Nimule quarantine point is the most active, handling up to 15,400 cattle, 40,505 goats, and 7,600 sheep. Torit quarantine point as well handles interstate livestock trade with a capacity of 30,000 cattle and 45,000 goats.

The major challenges experienced include, (1) Inadequate human, financial and physical resources, (2) Uncontrolled livestock movement, (3) Rampant Livestock diseases, (4) negative cultural and social attitude towards livestock marketing by livestock owners, (5) uncompleted infrastructure development at Nimule quarantine point, and (6) the landlocked nature of the country that increases the cost of doing business in South Sudan.

3.2.5 Sudan

Sudan has major quarantines in Swakin, Kassala, Alkadro, Nyala, Wadi Haifa, Elrahad, Khartoum Airport, Gedarif, Hamrat Elsheikh, Melit and Gelabat. The annual target capacity is 7,000,000 sheep and 300,000 cattle for Suakin, 1,500,000 sheep and 160,000 cattle for Kassala, 1,800,000 sheep and 100,000 cattle for Alkadro, 500,000 sheep and 50,000 cattle for Nyala, 1,000,000 sheep and 600,000 sheep for Wadi Haifa, 900,000 sheep and 20,000 cattle for Elrahad, 1,000 sheep and 500 cattle for Khartoum Airport, 2,500,000 sheep and 40,000 cattle for Gedarit, 6,000 sheep and 6,000 cattle for Hamrat Elsheikh, 500,000 sheep and 30,000 cattle for Melit and 50,000 sheep and 100,000 cattle for Gelabat. Sudan has an annual target capacity for quarantines of 15,811,000 sheep and 12,485,000 cattle.

3.2.6 Uganda

Uganda is establishing a private quarantine facility at Nakaseke. The facility is owned by the Uganda Meat Producers Cooperative Union. It has a target capacity of 200 goats and 200 cattle per day. Major challenges experienced include Feeding of animals, Infrastructure improvement, Unified standards, Consistency of supply to facility, Low research and capacity building and disease outbreaks.
3.2.7 Puntland State of Somalia

Bossaso is a major export quarantine facility in Puntland. It was established to (1) to promote the quality control of livestock exports executed along the entire value-chain, (2) to promote quarantine services, and (3) to boost the economic growth of exporters and importers.

Major port sanitary measures carried out at Bossaso quarantine facility, include, (1) Export certification endorsed by private/public veterinarians for each administrative area – Somali Port Veterinarian and Arab expatriate veterinarians manning the quarantine facility, (2) physical examination of animals on entry into the quarantine facilities, (3) holding of animals for 2 to 3 weeks within segmented facilities, and (4) watering and feeding of animals on hay and concentrates supported by continuous clinical examination.

The quarantine has the biggest sites where animals are gathered, but sensitive data are not shared with the responsible authority. At the first step, animals are and they undergo visual inspection to assess the general conditions of the herd followed by the removal of all suspected animals. The animals are treated for external parasites to ensure that they are visibly free of the parasites prior to shipment. Blood sampling is carried out for laboratory testing to ensure that animals passed at the first stage are in compliance to the importers’ requirements before they are tagged for identification purposes. Rejected animals are moved to the countries of less stringent requirement conditions. The quarantine veterinary authority provides vaccinations requested by the importers with utmost care.

Major challenges experience include, (1) livestock traders do not select animals according to quality as per import requirements in terms of grade, age and weight, (2) Lack of awareness among livestock traders regarding compliance to veterinary regulations, (3) livestock traders purely concentrates on commercial transactions paying little attention to law and law enforcement, and (4) Livestock transport ships cannot conveniently dock in Bossaso Port due to the shallowness of depth, (5) Lack of synchronized information sharing between public institutions and quarantine facilities, (6) inaccessibility to technical aspects by the competent authorities, (7) Lack of technical and financial contributions from quarantines to the sections responsible for surveillance, (8) Increased number of livestock consignments within limited period, jeopardizing smooth running of livestock trade, and (9) Lack of awareness on increased WTO trade barriers which favor developed countries with high advanced technology rather than poor countries.

4 Recommendations

To Member States
- To allow free sharing of information within countries culminating from the network meetings
- To roll out the SMP for Export Quarantine and SOPs

To the Regional network for quarantine
- NEALCO to be represented on the Regional network for quarantines
- To link the regional network for quarantines to the Regional Animal Health networks (RAHN)
- To facilitate more visits to other quarantine stations for lesson-learning and best practices
- To mobilize resources for sustainability

To AU-IBAR and IGAD/ICPALD
- To expedite development of SOPs for markets, holding grounds, pre-quarantine, quarantine and post-quarantine practices and procedures
- AU-IBAR and ICPALD to support members in rolling out the SMP and SOPs
- Other partners to support regional network for quarantines
5 **Way forward**

- Facilitate network meeting every six months and one annual meeting with GCC countries supported by AU-IBAR and ICPALD
- Draft a strategic plan for the network (Dr Hadgo, David Adwok, Joshua Waiswa, Dr Issa, Dr Sheldrin, Dr Khalid) within the next three months
- To anchor the network with ICPALD and to have a responsible Desk Officer
- Dr Joshua Waiswa nominated as the secretary for the Regional Network for Quarantines
- ICPALD to introduce to FAO, Oxfam, OIE and other key stakeholders about the existence of the regional network for quarantine
- The next network meeting will be in Uganda in the third week of November 2016

Done on the 6th June 2016

6 **Annexes**

6.1 **List of participants**

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## Action plan for the quarantine network, July to December 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Funding source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Facilitate network meeting</td>
<td>Quarantine Stakeholders</td>
<td>Every six months and annually</td>
<td>SMP-AH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Draft a strategic plan for the network</td>
<td>Dr Hadgo, David Adwok, Joshua Waiswa, Dr Issa, Dr Sheldrin, Dr Khalid</td>
<td>By September 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Disseminate the SMPs for Export Quarantine</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator and National Focal person</td>
<td>Continuously</td>
<td>SMP-AH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Hold next network meeting</td>
<td>All member countries</td>
<td>Third week of November 2016</td>
<td>SMP-AH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time/Session</td>
<td>Activity (Facilitators: Dr Joseph Magona &amp; Dr Ameha)</td>
<td>Responsible</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOUR TO BERBERA QUARANTINE FACILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>Participants assembly at Ambassador Hotel and take a Bus</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.30-11.30</td>
<td>Travel from Hargeisa to Berbera</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30-14.30</td>
<td>Tour of the facilities of Berbera Quarantine</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.30-17.30</td>
<td>Wrap up session on lessons-learnt at Berbera Quarantine</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:30</td>
<td>Travel from Berbera to Hargeisa</td>
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<td><strong>End of Day One</strong></td>
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**Day two, Monday (6th June 2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time/Session</th>
<th>Activity (Facilitators: Dr Joseph Magona &amp; Dr Ameha)</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Facilitator: Dr Ameha Sebsibe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:30</td>
<td>Welcome remarks</td>
<td>Dr. Solomon Munyua</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Opening remarks</td>
<td>Director, ICPALD</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-9.40</td>
<td>Objectives and expected outputs of the meeting</td>
<td>Dr. Joseph Magona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.40-10.00</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee break and photo</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00-10.20</td>
<td>SMP-AH Overview and status of quarantine activities</td>
<td>Dr Joseph Magona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20-10.30</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>ALL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country presentations on status of quarantines facilities, status of trade; challenges and recommendations</td>
<td>Facilitator: Dr Dawud Ahmed Issa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-11:30</td>
<td>Djibouti (Djibouti quarantine)</td>
<td>Quarantine and country</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ethiopia (Mile initiative)</td>
<td>Representatives</td>
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<td>Kenya (Bachuma initiative)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>South Sudan (planned quarantine along Uganda-South Sudan border)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sudan (Port Sudan quarantine)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30-12.30</td>
<td>Somaliland-Berbera (three quarantines)</td>
<td>Quarantine and country</td>
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<td>Somalia-Jazeera</td>
<td>Representatives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Puntland-Bossaso (two quarantines)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tanzania (Tanzania Meat Board initiative)</td>
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<td>Uganda (UMPCU and Government –initiative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-13:00</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00-14:00</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NETWORK ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00-15:00</td>
<td>Overview of the Regional Quarantine Network meeting held in Khartoum</td>
<td>Dr. Dawud Ahmed Issa, Network Coordinator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ToR and the roles of the Regional Network for Quarantine in reinforcing SPS Standard in quarantine stations and systems across the region</td>
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<td>Network positions and other Office-bearers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time/Session</td>
<td>Activity (Facilitators: Dr Joseph Magona &amp; Dr Ameha)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOUR TO BERBERA QUARANTINE FACILITIES</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Revised workplan of the Network</td>
<td>Dr Ahmed Mahmoud Shekheldin, Deputy Network Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00-15:20</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>ALL</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.20-15.40</td>
<td>Conclusions and recommendations/Wayforward</td>
<td>Dr Joseph Magona</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.40-16.00</td>
<td>Closing</td>
<td>ICPALD/ AU-IBAR/ DG -Somaliland</td>
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<td>END OF DAY TWO</td>
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