

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate release

### AU-IBAR to lead African Roundtable discussions at APIMONDIA Congress

**8<sup>th</sup> September 2019, Montreal, Canada** – The African Union Commission’s Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) will lead a two-hour African Roundtable side event on 12th September 2019 at the 46<sup>th</sup> APIMONDIA International Apicultural Congress in Montreal, Canada. The Congress runs from 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The African Roundtable will be a high level platform to discuss key issues of importance to Africa’s apiculture industry, including ways to attract funding for preserving the continent’s honey bees and to win greater business opportunities for African honey. Issues of pollination and trade standards will also be discussed. The rallying theme for the Roundtable is, *‘Africa Means Beezness’*.

The AU-IBAR, led by Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, will also take this opportunity to support Ethiopia’s bid to host APIMONDIA, which if successful, will be the second time for an African country to host the event.

The AU-IBAR will further be represented at the Congress by the Director, the Project Officer for Live2Africa, the chairpersons of ApiTrade Africa and African Apiculture Platform (AAP), representatives of nine member states who are on the Executive Committee of the AAP; and experts who will make presentations on strategic issues.

The invited experts include: Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, AU-IBAR’s Director, Dr Sarah Ossiya, Project Officer for AU-IBAR’s Live2Africa project, His Excellency Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda, former Prime Minister of Tanzania, and David Mukomana, President, APIMONDIA’s Regional Commission for Africa, among others. They will steer discussions under the following topics:

- a. Conserving the integrity of Africa’s honey bee genetic resources as a critical global resource in face of decimation of honey bee populations around the world.
- b. Review of global standards on C4 Sugar that constrain trade of tropical honeys: Soliciting for a review that takes into account that African and other tropical honeys naturally contain C4 sugars.
- c. The importance of supporting pollination services as critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goals for ending hunger, improving food and nutrition security and employment of youth in Africa.
- d. Africa Open for Beezness: Advocating for greater support for apiculture as a business for incomes, to boost global, intra and inter African trade, and for employment.

The invited guests will include the EU Commissioner in charge of Agriculture and Rural Development; Director General FAO, the Director General OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health), Director General IFAD, World Bank, USAID, among others.

The AU-IBAR will also participate in the African Pavilion exhibition, themed, *‘Africa Open for Beezness’*. Here, AU-IBAR will display reports from the Bee Health Project and AUSPII, and make a strong case for support for agribusiness development for youth and women and for enhanced pollination services for food and nutrition security.

## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

### **About AU-IBAR**

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is a specialised technical office of the African Union. It was established in 1951 and was initially known as the Inter-African Bureau of Epizootic Diseases. At inception, it was mainly concerned with rinderpest control, but its mandate was expanded to other major animal diseases in 1956 and finally to all aspects of animal resource development in 1970. The current AU-IBAR strategic programme running from 2018 to 2023 is focused on animal health and production as well as trade and markets. Read more: <http://ww.au-ibar.org>

### **About APIMONDIA**

APIMONDIA is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations. Its major objective is to facilitate the exchange of information and discussions on apiculture by organising congresses and symposia where beekeepers, scientists, honey-traders, development agents, technicians and legislators meet to listen, discuss and learn from one another. Participants get the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge research and to meet beekeepers and scientists from different parts of the world. Read more: <https://www.apimondia2019.com/>

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