

Appendix I

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AGENDA

Day 1

- 8.00 - 8.30 Registrations of participants
- 8.30 - 9.00 Arrival of guests of honour

Session 1 Introduction

- 10 min 0900 – 0910 Participants group/self introduction
- 5 min 09.10 - 09.15 EU Opening remarks
- 5 min 09.16 – 09.20 FAO/WHO Openings remarks
- 10 min 09.20 – 09.30 Welcoming statement from AU-IBAR Director
- 10 min 09.30 - 09.40 Official opening - Guest of Honour
- 30 min 09.30 - 10.00 Overview of the workshop

10.00 – 10.30 Morning coffee/tea break

Session 2 Food safety initiatives taken by RECS and International Organizations

- 30 min 10.30 - 11.00 **ECOWAS**
- 30 min 11.00 – 11.30 **IGAD**
- 30 min 11.30 – 12.00 **EDES**

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

Session 3

- 30 min 13.30 - 14.00 **EU**
- 30 min 14.00 - 14.30 **FAO**
- 30 min 14.30 - 15.00 **WHO**
- 60 min 15.00 - 16.00 **Presentation on establishment of an AU Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism**

16.00 -16 30 Afternoon coffee/tea break

- 60 min 16:30 - 17:30 Working groups (3) to deliberate on the establishment of AU Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism including a system
- 60 min 17.30 - 18.30 Final feedback from WGs: 20 min per /WG and plenary discussion

End of day 1 at 18.30

Day 2

Session 4: Discussions on the establishment of a AU System of Prompt Alert or Notification of eminent public health risks related to food and feed safety

- 45 min 8.30 - 9.15 Presentation on the European Union Food Feed Rapid Alert System

45 min 9.15 - 10.00 Presentation on the establishment of an AU System of Prompt Alert or Notification of eminent public health risks related to food and feed safety

10.00 – 10.30 Morning coffee/tea break

60 min 10:30 - 11:30 Working group (3) to deliberate on the establishment of an AU System of Prompt Alert or Notification of eminent public health risks related to food and feed safety

60 min 11.30 - 12.30 Final feedback from WGs: 20 min per /WG and plenary discussion

Lunch break from 12.30 - 13. 30

60 min 13.30 - 14.30 Discussions on the way forward

30 min 14.30 - 15. 00 Closing remarks

60 min 15.00 - 16.00 Review of the meeting (Organizers)

End of Day 2

Appendix III

OPENING STATEMENT BY DR. AHMED EL-SAWALHY, AU/IBAR DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF MISSION

**Hon. Francois Kanimba, Minister for Industry and Trade,
Representatives of the Government of Rwanda,
Representatives from AUC, and from the Africa Regional Economic Communities,
Representatives from EU, FAO, WHO and EDES
Workshop Participants
Representatives from the local and international media
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Greetings from Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and from Her Excellency Madam Rhoda Peace Tumusiime the Commissioner for the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) and from myself as the Director of African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and Head of Mission.

Let me also at this very beginning start by thanking the Government and the people of the Republic of Rwanda for agreeing this very important continental workshop to be held in your beautiful country and in Kigali in particular.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am particularly encouraged by the high level representation and participation in this workshop and AUC is highly appreciative of this response. This attendance does indeed indicate the importance and timeliness of addressing food safety issues from the continental perspectives.

The African Union, through the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the AU recognizes the importance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) matters, in terms of increasing market access for food and agricultural products - but also in terms of raising production levels and improving public health.

AU-DREA's vision as per the 2010 - 2012 Strategic plan is to achieve:

"A transformed African agriculture with diverse and sound environment that provides the basis for continental sustainable growth and prosperity, food security and poverty reduction, reinforced by prudent management of the natural resources including proactive responses to climate change"

For AU-DREA to achieve this vision, it considers important, to have a holistic food chain approach involving all stakeholders, including producers, extension services, importers and exporters, and the private sector. In this endeavor, DREA has adopted regional programme approaches in cooperation with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as well as external donor agencies.

The AU-DREA vision is also in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which was endorsed at the African Union Heads of State Summit as a New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) program in July 2003. The overall goal of CAADP is to “Help African countries reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development, which eliminates hunger, reduces poverty and food insecurity, and enables expansion of exports.”

Several RECs, including COMESA, EAC, SADC and ECOWAS have taken initiatives to come up with SPS Legislative Frameworks addressing the Health of Plants and Animals and the Safety of Foods in their respective regions.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen

AU-DREA, besides working with RECs, it has also established regional technical agencies to provide the needed political leadership; facilitate policy coherence, harmonization and coordination required in addressing the challenges related to agriculture, rural development, environment and natural resources. Some of these regional technical agencies include the Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) based in Nairobi, Kenya; the Inter African Phyto-Sanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) based in Yaoundé, Cameroon, the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC) based in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia and the Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD) based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. These technical agencies have been providing the technical guidance to AU in their areas of competence that is ensuring plant and animal health including safety of foods of animal origin.

For a long time now, there has been felt a need to have a similar technical agency to give guidance on holistic food safety management. We may recall that, in the First Africa Regional Food Regulators Meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe in 2005, Mr, Hartwig de Haen, then FAO Assistant Director-General, had said in his opening statement that: *“Building an effective food safety and quality regime throughout Africa has become an urgent necessity in order to save lives and create economic opportunity across the continent. The failure of many African produced food products to meet international food-safety and quality standards hampers the continent’s efforts to increase agricultural trade both intra-regionally and internationally, locking many farmers out of a chance to improve their economic well being. Establishing Pan-African food safety standards will not only save lives and improve the health of African people, it will go a long way toward helping Africa join in international trade and raise African living standards, particularly in rural areas where most of the poor are subsisting.”*

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

AU- DREA, besides working closely with the member states and RECs, has made efforts to source assistance from development partners to have food safety concerns in Africa addressed at the continental level. Already, AU-DREA together with the European Commission (EC) is running a programme known as “Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) in Africa which aims at strengthening SPS capacity in Africa. A meeting of AU and EU Heads of State and Government at the Lisbon Summit held on 9th December 2007 adopted a Joint Africa-EU Strategy including the need to strengthen capacities in the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) fields with the view to harmonizing SPS frameworks within Africa under the framework of the BTSF Programme.

Another important AU-EU programme is called Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organizations (PAN-SPSO) under which African countries have been supported to strengthen their national SPS coordination mechanisms including training of African SPS experts on the use of science-based methods and development of scientific arguments in regional and international standards-setting forums.

To strengthen these achievements and in efforts to implement the Lisbon Joint AU-EU Strategy, AU-DREA has initiated a process of exploring ways of putting in place an effective food safety management coordination system at the AUC level and one which can coordinate existing instruments within the RECs and within the individual member states to promptly address food safety risks and to enhance both domestic and international consumer confidence in food produced and or traded in Africa.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and gentlemen,

This brings me to the objectives of this two-days Continental Workshop of Food Safety Experts here in Kigali as organized by AU-IBAR under generous funding by EU. This workshop is a forum meant to provide an opportunity to Food Safety Experts from AU Member States to discuss thoroughly the feasibility of establishing a holistic food safety management coordination mechanism at the continental level. Such discussion shall include the institutional set up, modalities of functioning and the compliance or enforcement at the continental and individual member states' levels. In the course of these discussions, advantage can be taken of experiences and lessons learnt from other continents where organizations like Food Safety Authorities and systems of Rapid Alerts for Food and Feed risks have been in operation. It is important that the discussions should take into account the social, economic, political and scientific peculiarities of our continent. The workshop, at the end of the two days is therefore, expected to:

- re-affirm the need, the objectives, the structure and the functionality of an elaborate food safety management coordination system under AU-IBAR or under AU-DREA in the long run in the form of a Food Safety Authority;
- re-affirm the need, the objectives and modalities for establishing a mechanism for Africa rapid alert or notification on public health risks related to food and feed;
- set priorities for collection, modalities of dissemination and sharing of food safety information; and
- agree on a road map for implementing the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me at this juncture of my opening remarks thank again the government and people of the Republic of Rwanda for allowing this workshop to be held in this beautiful country and city. I wish to particularly thank you Honourable Minister for agreeing to open this workshop despite you busy schedule. I also wish to thank the representatives from RECs, EU, FAO, WHO and EDES for your willingness to share your knowledge and experiences on food safety management at institutional levels. As noted at the beginning of my statement, AU-DREA and in particular AU-IBAR would like to thank all the participants for accepting our invitation to take part in this important continental workshop.

AU-IBAR would like also to thank the national organizer of this workshop, the Rwanda Bureau of Standards under the Director General Dr. Mark Bagabe for the excellent logistical arrangements which have enabled this workshop to take place as scheduled.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

AU-DREA would like to thank EU in a special way for the generous technical and financial support to various Joint AU - EU programmes and particularly for funding this workshop.

I THANK ALL OF YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME

Appendix IV

OPENING STATEMENT BY HON. FRANCOIS KANIMBA Minister for Industry and Trade - Government of the Republic of Rwanda

Director, AU-IBAR

Representatives from AUC, and from the Africa Regional Economic Communities,

Representatives from EU, FAO, WHO and EDES

Workshop Participants

Representatives from the local and international media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Rwanda and on my own behalf, we are very happy to have you in our country and we warmly welcome all of you to Rwanda and to Kigali in particular. I know you have very busy two days here but still it is our sincere hope that you will find some hours to get to know more about us and appreciate the warm hospitality of the government and people of Rwanda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Again, as government and people of Rwanda, we are very delighted that our country and indeed our town - Kigali will, on this day, go down to the milestone of food safety management in Africa in the sense that it is here and on this day that concerted efforts are now starting for the establishment of Africa wide Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism including a system of Prompt Alert or Notification of eminent public health risks related to food and feed safety. And let us - Government and people of Republic of Rwanda - show at this very beginning, our commitment to see that Africa wide Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism including a system of Prompt Alert or Notification of eminent public health risks related to food and feed safety is established and effectively functional for the benefit of Africa and the world at large. We know, in other parts of the world like in the EU, there is what is called European Food Safety Authority and a Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). Africa thoughts could be along similar lines but taking into consideration the several food safety, cultural, social, economical, political and even scientific peculiarities of our continent.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There are several reasons why we are committing ourselves to seeing that an Africa wide Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism including a system of Prompt Alert or Notification of eminent public health risks related to food and feed safety is established.

First, as you very well know, there is no life without food. And food is never food if is not safe. So to us, safe food is synonymous to life. I am sure you all know as we do that one of the international cardinal human right is the right to life. This right is not only guaranteed by international law but also by the constitutions of the governments of AU member states.

Now that we are in a continental wide workshop, we should also remind ourselves of the objectives of AU Constitutive Act as contained in Article 3 (e) and (h) which state as follows - I quote:

“Article 3 (e) encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and Article 3 (h) promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments”

For this single reason alone, Rwanda and indeed Africa and the rest of the world have the noble duty of ensuring availability of safe food to all the peoples of the world through implementation of credible food safety management systems.

The other reason why Rwanda is committed to seeing an Africa wide Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism including a system of Prompt Alert or Notification of eminent public health risks related to food and feed safety being put in place as soon as possible is the fact that safe food is also important for the well being and prosperity of our citizens and our countries in totality. We strongly believe with safe food, we shall have healthy nation with energetic body mass leading to improved productivity and reduced medical bills.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Africa's economy including that of our country is very much dependent on Agriculture. Agriculture does not only employ more than 80% of our populations but agricultural products constitute major exports from Africa. This means any initiative, be it at AU or individual member state level aiming at improving food safety by particularly complying with international food standards like those published by the Codex Alimentarius Commission or those promulgated by AU major trading partners, will not only reduce food losses and increase food availability in the continent but also promote exports from our countries by taking advantage of international trade opportunities, thereby increasing incomes, prosperity and wellbeing of our citizens.

Ladies and gentlemen

It is from the above reasons that I wish to join hands with Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, AU-IBAR Director and Head of Mission to appreciate the good turn up and the high level of representation in this important continental workshop. I also learnt with great interest and commendation that the AU, through DREA recognizes the importance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) matters, in terms of increasing market access for food and agricultural products - but also in terms of raising production levels and improving public health.

I also commend the approach DREA has taken of involving all stakeholders, including producers, extension services, importers and exporters, and the private sector in all matters related to food safety. The recognition by AUC that the RECs form important building blocks in our continental frameworks is important and should be encouraged by all AU member states. This is notably important particularly in this context, that several RECs, including COMESA, EAC, SADC and ECOWAS have taken initiatives to come up with SPS Legislative Frameworks addressing health of plants, animals and safety of foods in their respective regions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have also learnt that DREA has made efforts to source assistance from development partners to have food safety concerns in Africa addressed at the continental level through programmes like “Better Training for Safer Food in Africa (BTSF)” and “Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organizations (PAN-SPSO)” all of which are aiming at strengthening of SPS capacity in Africa. I also recall that the meeting of AU and EU Heads of State and Governments at the Lisbon Summit held on 9th December 2007 adopted a Joint Africa-EU Strategy which includes the need to strengthen capacities in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) fields with the view to harmonize SPS frameworks within Africa in the framework of the BTSF Programme. As I understand now, DREA has seen the need to establish an Africa wide Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism including a system of Prompt Alert or Notification of eminent public health risks related to food and feed safety building from the achievements from the two programmes mentioned above and in line with the Joint AU-EU Lisbon Strategy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Having been briefed of the objectives of this workshop, and given what I have observed above , I would wish this workshop to be results oriented and come up with recommendations that can be taken through the appropriate decision making process of AUC and finally to the AU summit in the most expeditious way. In particular, we would wish the output of this workshop to include:

- A draft proposal for the establishment of an Africa wide Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism with the long term view of having institutionalized Africa Food Safety Authority;
- A draft proposal for putting in place Africa wide system of Prompt Alert or Notification of eminent public health risks related to food and feed safety; and
- Concrete road-map for post workshop follow-up process.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish at this juncture thank AU through AU-IBAR for deciding to hold this workshop in our country and for inviting me to officiate at this opening ceremony. I also wish to thank all the delegates and the representatives from RECs, EU, FAO, WHO, EDES for accepting to come to this workshop and to Kigali, Rwanda in particular.

I have been informed that EU has generously funded this workshop and on behalf of AU member states, I wish to thank EU for the continued technical and financial support to Africa and particularly for the funding of this workshop.

I also wish to commend the national organizers of this workshop, the staff of Rwanda Bureau of Standards under the Director General, Dr. Mark Bagabe and the other public officers who have been involved in one way or the other for the excellent logistical arrangements for this workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I NOW HAVE THE HONOUR TO DECLARE THIS CONTINENTAL WORKSHOP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY AND A RAPID ALERT SYSTEM FOR FOOD AND FEED -RASFF AT THE AFRICAN UNION OFFICIALLY OPEN

I THANK ALL OF YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME

Appendix XIV

CLOSING STATEMENT BY DR. AHMED EL-SAWALHY, AU/IBAR DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF MISSION

**Representatives of the Government of Rwanda,
Representatives from AUC, and from the Africa Regional Economic Communities,
Representatives from EU, FAO, WHO and EDES
Workshop Participants
Representatives from the local and international media
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are coming to the end of our two-days Continental Workshop on the establishment of Food Safety Authority and a Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed -RASFF at the African Union. I have been following the discussions in this workshop and I am very happy that all the participants accorded the due seriousness required basically due to the attention and urgency the of the issues at hand. I can comfortably report to the Honourable Francois Kanimba, Minister for Industry and Trade - Government of the Republic of Rwanda that, indeed the workshop has been results oriented and it came up with recommendations that shall be discussed through the appropriate decision making process of AUC and finally to the AU summit in the most expeditious way. In particular workshop has come up with some recommendations with regards:

- Institutional establishment and functional modalities of an Africa wide Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism under the facilitation of AU-IBAR with the long term view of having institutionalized Africa Food Safety Authority;
- Institutionalized Africa wide system of Rapid food and feed alert mechanism to eminent public health risks related to food and feed safety; and
- A clearly defined concrete road-map for post workshop follow-up process.

As AU-IBAR, we shall facilitate the process including sourcing for the requisite funds to ensure that AU mechanisms for coordination of food safety matters including a system for rapid food and feed safety alert are in place as soon as possible.

Let me again thank the Government and the people of the Republic of Rwanda for agreeing this very important continental workshop to be held in your beautiful country and in Kigali in particular.

Also, as I had mentioned during my opening statement I have been very pleased by the high level representation and participation in this workshop and AUC is highly appreciative (APPLAUD).

Let me once again thank the representatives from RECs, EU, FAO, WHO and EDES for your willingness to share your knowledge and experiences on food safety management at institutional levels. Their contributions have great facilitated positive discussions in the course of this workshop (APPLAUD).

To the food experts from the member states, much as you have been doing your rightful duties as sent by your respective governments, I wish to thank all of you for serious efforts put in this process and collectively we shall see the mechanisms put in place for the sake of the well being of the populations we represent and the continent at large (APPLAUD)

AU-IBAR would like also to thank the national organizer of this workshop, the Rwanda Bureau of Standards under the Director General Dr. Mark Bagabe for the excellent logistical arrangements and support in the course of this workshop. Again the success of this workshop as we have all witnessed is as result of the facilitation as the organization point to actual facilitations of the workshop. (APPLAUD).

Let me at this juncture thank my AU-IBAR participating in this workshop and those in Nairobi for their very hard work and productive efforts (APPLAUD).

The hotel management and staff both at Sportsview and Lemigo have done wonderful job and we all thank them (APPLAUD).

We have colleagues in the interpretation booths at the back who have always made us communicate - we really thank you for the good services (APPLAUD)

With these few words, we thank all of you and wish you a safe travel back and let us maintain contacts by networking.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND I NOW HAVE THE HOUR TO DECLARE THE WORKSHOP CLOSED.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

AU-DREA would like to thank EU in a special way for the generous technical and financial support to various Joint AU - EU programmes and particularly for funding this workshop.

I THANK ALL OF YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME