Recommendation No. 1

Promoting intra-Africa trade of animals and animal products

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Effective promotion of intra-African trade could help production within the continent to meet African demand for animal products;

2. The intensification of production systems in Africa is low and animal products are insufficiently optimised, thereby rendering Africa producers uncompetitive;

3. Consumption of animal products in the continent of Africa is still low despite the abundance of animal resources;

4. The demand for animal products is increasing in the African continent and this demand is not being met by domestic production;

5. The African continent is a net importer of animal products, while the opportunities for intra-African trade are insufficiently exploited;

6. Non-sanitary constraints to commercial transactions relating to animals and animal products exist in Africa, in particular customs tariffs, legislation and tariff policies unfavourable to trade, failure to apply regional measures, difficulty for operators in animal production sectors to access credit, all types of red tape, as well as frequently dilapidated or unsuitable production, processing, and marketing infrastructure and transport facilities;

7. Sanitary constraints to trade in animals and animal products exist in Africa, in particular the persistence of major epizootic diseases and zoonoses, the lack of quarantine infrastructure, failure to comply with standards and regulations, the lack of product control laboratories, labelling deficiencies and the absence or non-conformity of certificates of origin;

8. Laws and regulations relating to veterinary medicine and the protection of animal health, and regulation relating to the control of animal diseases, veterinary inspections at border posts, notifiable diseases, animals and food of animal origin, specific rules on the organisation of official controls for products of animal origin intended for human consumption, official animal health checks, risk analysis in animal health, animal movement control and animal identification and traceability already exist at the level of Member Countries;

9. Support policies and programmes for livestock production already exist or are planned by African States: livestock censuses, policies for building or improving transport infrastructure, construction programmes for abattoirs and livestock markets, legislation on livestock routes, institutional organisation of industry operators, facilitating access to credit and setting up of information systems on markets.
THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to help consolidate cooperation between the Member Countries of Africa in the veterinary domain;

2. The OIE help to facilitate information exchanges on sanitary aspects of methods used to prepare, process and manufacture animal products;

3. The OIE continue to support cooperation and technical assistance among the laboratories of Veterinary Services of the various Member Countries through twinning projects, among others;

4. The OIE help to strengthen the capacities of Veterinary Services in terms of animal disease surveillance, diagnosis and control and to strengthen the capacities of quality control laboratories for animal products;

5. The OIE continue to recognise the disease status of Member Countries with respect to foot and mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, African horse sickness, and that this recognition be extended to include other diseases, such as peste des petits ruminants;

6. The OIE continue to provide technical support with the preparation of dossiers for countries wishing to apply for official recognition of a given disease-free status;

7. The OIE participate in the organisation of symposia and seminars aimed at achieving enhanced ownership, by Member Countries, of OIE standards and the measures contained in the WTO SPS Agreement;

8. The OIE continue, by means of the PVS Pathway, to help Member Countries to sustainably improve the quality of their Veterinary Services;

9. The Member Countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the Africa region take full ownership of the recommendations of the various missions conducted within the framework of OIE PVS Pathway missions;

10. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region develop policies and programmes aimed at improving the competitiveness of products of animal origin;

11. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region be encouraged to develop or apply policies designed to overcome sanitary and non-sanitary constraints to intra-African trade of animal and animal products, notably on the basis of the OIE standards;

12. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region be encouraged to develop or apply bilateral, sub-regional and regional policies for harmonisation of the sanitary and non-sanitary standards, reference systems and procedures governing trade in animals and products of animal origin; and

13. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region put in place or strengthen the capacity of information systems on markets for animal and products of animal origin.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 22 February 2013 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)