



**AFRICA PLATFORM FOR ANIMAL WELFARE
(APAW)**

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Final Version

July 2017

The operational guidelines describe the governance of the African Platform for Animal Welfare.

Purpose

The overall purpose of the African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) is to support the implementation of the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA).

Composition

The African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) is composed from the following two bodies:

- i. The African General Assembly for Animal Welfare (AGAAW); and
- ii. The Coordination Committee for Animal Welfare in Africa (CCAWA).

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the African Platform for Animal Welfare are the followings:

- i. to support the implementation of the Animal Welfare Strategy in Africa (AWSA);
- ii. to promote coordination, collaboration, information sharing and to foster partnerships on animal welfare among actors;
- iii. to coordinate support to animal welfare from continental to regional and national levels;
- iv. to promote animal welfare agenda across the continent through participatory approach and community engagement and ownership;
- v. to foster a holistic and multi-stakeholder approach ensuring good animal welfare practices in different contexts and situations in Africa
- vi. to provide recommendations to countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs); and stakeholders on priority intervention areas in Animal welfare based on African context.

Tasks

The African Platform for Animal Welfare tasks shall be:

- i. Coordinate and guide the process of the implementation of the strategy;
- ii. Enhance collaboration, cooperation, coordination and partnership with stakeholders' organizations;
- iii. Support the formulation of Africa's common positions on animal welfare during standard setting processes and the UDAW as an African Union resolution to the UN;
- iv. Support coordination and promote information sharing among stakeholders;
- v. Advocate for compliance to animal welfare standards by African Union Commission (AUC) Member States (MS)
- vi. Mobilize resources for the implementation of the 5-year action plan

Membership

The African General Assembly for Animal Welfare shall be composed of the following members:

- i. Relevant competent authorities of the African Member States (55 Member States);
- ii. Private sector and professional organizations having activities at continental level in food supply chains or production systems where animals or animal products are involved as well as in the keeping of animals for other purposes;
- iii. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) having activities at continental or regional level in relation to animal welfare;
- iv. International intergovernmental organizations having activities on animal welfare such as AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE, etc;
- v. International and continental donors;
- vi. Academic and research institutes
- vii. Expert from each region as observers

The total number of members of the General Assembly should not exceed 150% of the number of African Member States (87 members).

Member states shall nominate their representatives in the The General Assembly at senior-level and shall be responsible for ensuring that, their representatives are permanent and provide a sufficiently high level of expertise. The General Assembly may refuse a representative nominated by these members if it is considered, that the nomination is not appropriate. In such case, the MS or the Organization concerned shall be asked to appoint another representative. Experts appointed to seat in the General Assembly are observers and not representatives or delegates of countries or institutions.

Operation of the General Assembly

- i. The General Assembly shall be chaired by the Director of AU-IBAR.
- ii. The General Assembly shall act at the request of the Chair, in compliance with the horizontal rules.
- iii. The General Assembly shall meet at least once a year and whenever the Chair or the majority of the General Assembly considers a meeting necessary.
- iv. The AU-IBAR will ensure the secretariat
- v. In agreement with the the General Assembly by simple majority of its members, the Chair may, decide that deliberations shall be public.
- vi. Minutes on the discussion on each point on the agenda and the conclusions of the debates shall be meaningful and complete. Minutes shall be drafted by the rapporteur and the secretariat under the responsibility of the Chair.
- vii. The General Assembly shall adopt reports or conclusions by consensus. In the event of a vote, the outcome of the vote shall be decided by simple majority of the voting members.
- viii. The General Assembly should report every two years to the AU meeting of ministers in charge of animal resource about the progress and results achieved

Observers to General Assembly

- i. Individuals, organizations or public entities may be granted an observer status, in compliance with the horizontal rules, either by direct invitation or through a call for applications.
- ii. Organizations or public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives.
- iii. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the General Assembly and provide expertise. However, they shall not have voting rights.
- iv. The General Assembly shall not have more than 6 observers or otherwise decided after proposition by the Chair.

Governance and organization of the General Assembly

The Governance of the General Assembly is entrusted to the **Coordination Committee** for Animal Welfare in Africa, composed of:

- i. AU-IBAR : The Director or his representative, Chair of the Coordination Committee;
- ii. One CVO from a MS from each of the five regions on rotational principle;
- iii. RECs representatives;
- iv. OIE : Regional Representative for Africa;
- v. FAO : Regional Representative for Africa;
- vi. PAFO : Representative;
- vii. Four seats for stakeholders including the NGOs;
- viii. Academia and Research (2 representatives);

- ix. Animal Welfare experts (1 for each five regions);
- x. Donor representatives (2);

Coordination Committee for Animal Welfare in Africa

- i. The General Assembly will decide on the terms of reference and composition of the Coordination Committee of the Platform considering the balance of stakeholders candidates for seating in the coordination committee.
- ii. The criteria for selection of stakeholders should include: the activities on continental level and the priorities in the action plan of the AWSA.
- iii. The coordination committee is elected among the members of the General assembly
- iv. The coordination committee is chaired by the Director of AU-IBAR or his/her Representative.
- v. The Coordination committee reports to the General Assembly.
- vi. The Coordination Committee has a secretariat supported by AU-IBAR in collaboration with other members if deemed necessary.

Tasks of the Coordination Committee

- i. The Coordination Committee will work to ensure the implementation of the action plan of the AWSA under the guidance of African Union Commission ;
- ii. The coordination Committee is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress in the implementation of the action plan;
- iii. The coordination Committee meet every 6 months or more in different African countries on rotational basis.
- iv. The coordination Committee will set up the composition and the terms of reference of the Ad hoc groups on Animal welfare in Africa.

Ad-hoc groups on Animal welfare in Africa

- i. The General Assembly may decide to form Ad hoc groups on Animal welfare in Africa to study, provide advice and recommendations
- ii. Ad-hoc groups shall work on specific issues relevant to Animal Welfare in Africa such as welfare of wild animals, working animals, among others
- iii. The Ad hoc groups shall operate in compliance with the horizontal rules and shall report to the Coordination Committee. They shall be dissolved as soon as their mandate is fulfilled.
- iv. Members of Ad hoc groups that are not members of the Coordination Committee shall be selected via a public call for applications.

Invited experts to the Platform

The Chair may invite experts with specific expertise with respect to a subject matter on the action plan to take part in the work of the Platform or Ad hoc group(s), if deemed necessary, on an ad hoc basis and in consultation with the coordination committee.