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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

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AU COMMISSION URGES PRIORITISATION OF LIVESTOCK SECTOR TO END POVERTY



Addis Ababa, 20 May 2011 – The African Union Commission today urged for more prioritization of the livestock sector as a means to achieving economic growth and ending poverty on the continent.

In a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Alliance for Livestock and Veterinary Medicines (GALVIMED) Mr. Steve Sloan, the Commission's Deputy Chairperson Mr Erastus Mwencha said, with 70 percent of the poorest people in Sub Saharan Africa dependent on livestock, there is need for this sector to receive more prominence. He encouraged more cooperation between organizations such as GALVIMED and the AU, which can offer political, technical and intellectual support to the areas of vaccines, drugs and diagnostics for live stock. Mr Mwencha said this can be done through the Union's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture and its programmes such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD Agency) and the Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR).