

Press Release N° .../2018

## Visit of H.E. Dr. Monique Eloit, Director-General of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), to the African Union



**Addis Ababa, 12 September 2018** – H.E. Amb. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) welcomed H.E. Dr Monique Eloit, Director-General (DG) of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), to the African Union. The OIE DG was accompanied by Dr. Karim Tounkara, the OIE Regional Representative for Africa and Dr. Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer at the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa. Both parties discussed areas of cooperation in relation to livestock development and animal disease control in Africa. The meeting took place in the presence of the Director of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre an African Union Agency (AU/PANVAC), Dr. Nick Nwankpa, the Acting Coordinator of the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) and other high officials of the AUC.

The Commissioner acknowledged and appreciated the partnership between the AU Technical Offices (IBAR, PANVAC and PATTEC) and the World Organization for Animal Health. “The African Union asks for the intervention of the OIE especially in the participation of AU-IBAR in the executive of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) platform, the full designation of AU-PANVAC as a rinderpest holding facility Categories A and B; and the use of the

rinderpest bovine old Kabete (RBOK) strain only by vaccine producing laboratories in Africa for the production of emergency preparedness rinderpest vaccine” said the Commissioner.

H.E Amb. Josefa also recognized and commended the initiatives of the OIE in supporting global efforts for animal disease control. Some of the initiatives include: The Global Rabies Eradication Campaign which is being jointly supported by the OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO) through the One Health Programme; the Establishment of Vaccine Banks in Africa for the supply of Rabies and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Vaccines in support of Member States disease control and eradication Campaigns; and the huge support to African Union Member States Veterinary Services in terms of training and capacity building.

“OIE will continue to support and collaborate with the African Union and its Technical offices particularly in the control of Rabies and PPR in Africa” said the Director General of the OIE.

The Director-General was later received by the Chief of Staff and Chief Adviser from the Bureau of the AUC Chairperson, Mr. Wane El-Ghassim on behalf of the AUC Chairperson, H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat. Mr. Wane informed H.E. Dr. Monique Eloit that she will have an opportunity to meet with the Chairperson in the upcoming meeting between the AUC and the French Government, in October, to further discuss the possible areas of cooperation.

Accompanied by officials from the AUC department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, the Commissioner and the Director General later visited the AU- PANVAC facilities in Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia.

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