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## REMARKS

BY

HER EXCELLENCY MRS RHODA PEACE TUMUSIIME  
COMMISSIONER FOR RURAL ECONOMY AND  
AGRICULTURE OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup>  
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC  
COUNCIL FOR TRYPANOSOMIASIS RESEARCH (ISCTRC)  
AND CONTROL.

16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011 BAMAKO, MALI.

- **Honourable Minister of Public Health, of Republic of Mali Mme Diallo Madeleine Ba**
- **The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Hon Bokary TRET**
- **The Minister of State of Uganda for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Hon. Bright Rwamirama**
- **WHO Regional representative, Dr.Mme Diallo Fatoumata**
- **Chairman of the ISCTRC, Dr Nicholas Kauta**
- **President of the General Conference Dr. Maiga**
- **Executive Committee Members of the ISCTRC**
- **Representatives of International Organizations**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **The National Organizing Committee Members**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

**I congratulate you all for your patience and input since this Conference started four days ago and appreciate, very much, the role the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC) has continued to play in bringing together eminent researchers, Member States, International Organisations**

and other stakeholders to share and exchange information on tsetse, human and animal trypanosomiasis research and control.

As you recall during my keynote note address on Monday, read for me by Dr. Karim Tounkara, Director PANVAC, I highlighted the Conference theme you have been discussing, 'Refocusing Research and Control of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis: A development agenda' which is appropriate and relevant given the constraint posed by trypanosomiasis to rural development. You recall that I observed that tsetse and trypanosomiasis continue, to cause human suffering and mortality and substantial loss to the livestock industry with subsequent negative effects on sustainable agriculture and rural development.

We are encouraged that a high number of participants totalling 319 attended the meeting and were drawn from 34 Member States, the African Union Commission, Universities and Research Institutions from all over the world, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization

**(WHO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) ; the Programme against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT), the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), the CIDREs, the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), the Drugs for Neglected Diseases (DNDi) and the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicine (GALVmed).**

**I have noted with appreciation that this Conference a total of 133 papers were presented and deliberated on and covered various aspects of T&T challenge and they included; twenty (20) Country reports, covering T&T research and control activities in Member States; six (6) reports from International organisations and fifteen (15) reports from PATTEC activities. Other presentations covered Human African Trypanosomiasis; Animal African Trypanosomiasis; *Glossina* Biology, Control and eradication; and Socio-Economics, Environment and Land Use. I am informed that the papers and posters were of very high quality and I appreciate the efforts of all the contributors and presenters, the Scientific Committee, Chairpersons of sessions and the rapporteurs for a good job well done.**

**Again, as you would recall, in my keynote address, I highlighted the importance of the regional approach in T& T interventions and I am glad to note that the various programmes being implemented are more and more embracing the approach, for controlling, eliminating and eventually eradicating tsetse and trypanosomiasis from the Continent of Africa. I wish to reiterate that given the transboundary nature of the fly and the attendant threat of re-invasion it is impossible for any single country to control tsetse without collaborating with neighbouring countries.**

**This meeting has been informed that the number of sleeping sickness cases has dropped, thanks to the continued efforts by the various players. However, I urge all concerned to keep vigilance to avoid outbreaks of the disease as has happened before. I am happy to note that this meeting has deliberated at length new approaches for managing sleeping sickness and I am delighted to note that new molecules for possible use against sleeping sickness are being developed.**

**This meeting has also addressed at length the planning and implementation of T&T interventions. The meeting has emphasized that prioritization of areas of intervention is a prerequisite for T&T control to contribute to rural development and discussed novel approaches for identification of areas for interventions. The African Union Commission will work with all the partners to ensure that capacity building in Members States is undertaken to allow them undertake evidence based identification of areas for intervention for sustainable rural livelihoods.**

**The 31<sup>st</sup> ISCTRC General Conference has provided us with renewed energy and inspiration to go another extra mile to bring tsetse and trypanosomiasis in Africa under control and it is my believe that substantial progress in addressing the recommendations made during this Conference will be recorded during the 32<sup>nd</sup> ISCTRC General Conference to be held in 2013.**

***Ladies and Gentlemen let me take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of Republic of Mali for gracefully hosting the 31<sup>st</sup> Conference. In particular I***

wish thank the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Bokary TRETÀ for his personal interest and support to the organisation of the Conference. The excellent arrangement made the participants comfortable and made their stay in your beautiful country enjoyable and their deliberations productive.

I thank the national organizing committee for doing a commendable job, the ISCTRC Executive Committee for steering the activities of the ISCTRC and the scientific committee for ensuring quality of the presentations made during this conference. I thank the Director of AU-IBAR, Prof. Ahmed El-Sahwaly for ensuring that the ISCTRC Secretariat continues to serve the interests of the Council. Let me also use this opportunity to introduce to you Dr. Hasane Mahamat, who has recently been appointed Director of PATTEC; please offer him your cooperation and support.

*Ladies and gentlemen,* Let me take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the ISCTRC for his strong leadership and commitment and the President of the Conference for steering the conference very well.

**To you all who participated in this Conference I thank you most sincerely for coming to share your work and the experiences of others. I wish all of you a safe journey back home and continued partnership in our common pursuit.**

**Thank you.**