

**4TH Africa Animal Welfare Conference 2020 – Action 2020 (Virtual)**

**VOTE OF THANKS**

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen;  
All protocols observed**

**In 2017 and 2018, the first and second Africa Animal Welfare conferences were held in Nairobi, Kenya; while the 3<sup>rd</sup> conference was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where 34 countries were represented, 27 from across Africa and 7 from the rest of the continents.**

**Please help me appreciate with a round of virtual applause the following dignitaries who have graced this conference:**

**Hon. Peter Munya, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries who was represented by Harry Kimutai, Principal Secretary, State Department for Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.**

**Dr. Mohammad A. Mahmoud; Minister of Environment, Nigeria.**

**Jorge Laguna Celis, Director of Governance Affairs Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

**Alexander Juras, Chief, Civil Society Unit, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

**Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director and Head of Mission, African Union Intra-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**

**H.E. Francisca Ashietey – Odunton, Ghana High Commissioner to Kenya**

**Hon. Garba Datti Muhammad, Member, House of Representatives of the National Assembly, Nigeria.**

**Dr. Samuel Wakhusama, Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa - World Organization for Animal health (OIE) who represented Dr. Karim Tounkara, Africa Regional Representative, OIE.**

**Dr. Newman Scott**, *FAO Regional Office for Africa*

**Mike Baker**, *Chief Executive, The Donkey Sanctuary*

**Wolf Gordon Clifton**, *Executive Director, Animal People*

**Tennyson Williams**, *Regional Director - Africa, World Animal Protection*

**Dr. Marosi Molomo**, *Director of Epidemiology, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Kingdom of Lesotho and Board Member – Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW).*

**Prof. James Nkansah Obrempong**, *Conference Patron and Board Chair, Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)*

A special thank you goes to the **Government of Kenya** for the continued support since the start of the conferences in 2017.

Please help me to virtually, yet most sincerely thank the following partners **without whom**, it would have been a challenge to host this conference. Many thanks for the financial, technical and kind support and for standing with the secretariat in making this conference a great success:

1. Africa Network for Animal Welfare – USA
2. Animal People
3. Animal Welfare Institute
4. A Well-fed World
5. Brighter Green
6. Center for Animal Law Studies, Lewis & Clerk University
7. Compassion in World Farming
8. Four Paws
9. Humane Society International
10. Regis University
11. The Donkey Sanctuary
12. Wellbeing International
13. World Animal Protection and,
14. WTS – **Welttierschutz**-stiftung

We are most grateful to our **Conference Co-hosting Partners**: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the Government of Kenya, through the ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, and Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW).

We appreciate the UNEP's Civil Society Unit Secretariat representatives; Alexander Juras and Isaiah Otieno; the AU-IBAR office represented by Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Prof. James Wabacha and Dr. Hiver Boussini; the ANAW International Representatives covering all the 5 regions of Africa; Conference Organizing Committee and the Secretariat led by the Patron of the conference, Prof. James Nkansah Obrempong.

I would also like to appreciate the ANAW staff team for their technical and logistical support to the Organizing Committee. You have done an exemplary job.

Last but not least,

All of the participants, presenters, and session moderators for enriching the discussion which participation includes representatives of government from 37 countries, of which include 35 from Africa and 2 from Latin America that is Chile and Nicaragua. It is interesting to note that the Conference generated interest to the extent that 1049 delegates registered for the conference of which 202 were government officials. For various reasons, not all registered delegates attended the conference. We however, had a steady average attendance of 250 delegates every day.

This conference would not have been possible without you all.

As I conclude this vote of thanks, allow me to point that from the 1<sup>st</sup> conference in 2017 to last year's in 2019, the discussions have proven that animal welfare is an important integral part of sustainable development in Africa, and the Africa Animal Welfare Conference has underscored that animal welfare, environmental protection and sustainable development are intertwined in the realization of One Health and One Welfare for the goodness of humanity and the world.

**It is with this realization that the delegates in last year's conference adopted a resolution to start a process of mainstreaming animal welfare on the global environmental agenda. This, as you have heard from an earlier presentation, is that the civil society is facilitating a journey towards attaining a resolution at United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA). We call on you government representatives and especially the CVOs and heads of animal production to lend your professional advice to your member countries in support of this process. Further, we are calling our like-minded partners to mobilize similar efforts in your respective countries globally for a successful global outcome.**

**Today as I make this speech, one person who would have been listening to me as a delegate to this conference, and this I know, for her love and dedication to animal welfare, is Dr. Rhea Dodd. However, this is not the case because she passed on 5<sup>th</sup> September last week. We want to recognize and honor her for being a steadfast partner in the course of animal welfare and humanitarian service to Africa as a dedicated member of the Board for the Africa Network for Animal Welfare -USA.**

Thank you all once again and we hope to see you, next year, post-pandemic, in Accra - Ghana. **God bless you and keep you.**

Josphat Ngonyo  
Africa Network for Animal Welfare  
Executive Director