

AU-IBAR's Role to support the UDAW as an African Union resolution to the UN General Assembly

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About UDAW and its connection with API

- The campaign for UDAW calls for a formal international acknowledgement of a set of principles giving AW due recognition among governments and the international community
- The campaign aims to firmly establish AW on the global political agenda and set the scene for introducing urgently needed safeguards to protect animal welfare worldwide – **e.g. biodiversity protection as a measure to protect AW & Human Welfare is urgently needed**
- Declarations are instruments of international law that can be used to declare a commitment to certain principles, and nations commit to addressing them by adopting higher principles
- Each nation can implement these principles according to its own legislative processes – **and hence the value of API to support the countries to develop the legislations**



Adoption of Universal Declarations by United Nations General Assembly

- Before declarations can be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), endorsement by the majority of UN Member States of the proposed text is vital
- Although international declarations generally do not have legally binding authority, they can apply moral pressure on governments – **If AU supports UDAW as an UNGA resolution, it is at a better position to protect itself from Animal Welfare Unfriendly foreign maneuvers that may disadvantage Africa**

The UDAW in the APAW

- Composition of APAW: - AGAAW, CCAPAW & Secretariat
- The overall purpose of the **African Platform for Animal Welfare** is to support the implementation of the **Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa**
- Importantly, CVOs from the 55 AU MS belong to the AGAAW and the CC-APAW **are in this Conference**— they are at center strategy of the implementation of AW, although other actors including experts in Animal Production, Conservation & Management of Wildlife Services are important and are also in this conference
- Specific objective number 4 of the APAW is to coordinate support to animal welfare from continental to regional and national levels
- The specific task number 4 of APAW is to support the UDAW as an African Union resolution to the UN

I therefore urge these important delegates to support UDAW Ratification



Why is the declaration important?

- If adopted, a UDAW will promote and enable the spread of animal protection legislation and initiatives
- Including animal welfare in environmental and development policies can bring about enormous benefits [**sustainable development**]
- It would **simplify the regulatory process** for raising **AW standards** [as per OIE guidelines], **reduce concerns** about the use of regulations for **trade protection**, and provide a platform to enhance competitiveness and promote development
- It is noteworthy that bringing the disorganized, unregulated and informal animal management sector into a regulated and competitive framework could have a transformational effect on the **rural economies** of many emerging and **developing countries** and that this could probably be achieved at a **lower cost than expected**, and with **quicker and wider-reaching results**



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What Animal Welfare is, and its Benefits

- AW refers to the physical and psychological wellbeing of an animal [fit, healthy, free to express natural behavior, and free from suffering]
- Such an animal is free from hunger and thirst, discomfort, pain, injury or disease, free to express normal behavior and free from fear and distress
- Science is making major contributions to our understanding of AW, and is getting included in veterinary curricula and other courses
- Good AW benefits animals, people and the environment and contributes to the achievement of the **Agenda 63** and **SDGs**
- It is beneficial to integrate AW in development issues about Public health, Poverty reduction, Hunger reduction, Livelihood security, Disaster management, and Environmental sustainability
- High welfare standards in farming enhance **overall productivity**, without the negative side effects delivered by **low-welfare** intensive livestock production systems [**e.g. Factory Farming Systems**]

Support for UDAW

- The declaration currently has the support, in principle, of 46 countries along with Intergovernmental Organizations such as the OIE, several NGOs and other organizations
- In recent years, awareness and support for animal welfare has grown all over the world – **it has impact on trade, and therefore National Development**
- For a UDAW to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, issues relating to AW need to gain a critical mass of understanding and acceptance locally and regionally – **and hence this conference has come at the right time and is serving a very important role!**

Conclusion

- This conference has shown that AW is important to African community
- The theme speaks to Aspiration Number 1 of the Agenda 2063; that is **‘A prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development’**; The Aspiration is anchored on **5 Goals**; namely:
 - (1) A high standard of living, quality of life and wellbeing for all citizens
 - (3) Healthy and well-nourished citizens
 - (5) Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production
 - (6) Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth
 - (7) Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities.

UDAW Ratification by all Member States of African Union as Common position as well as support the Adoption of UDAW by UN General Assembly

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- FAO
- OIE
- Brooke Hospital for animals
- African Network for animal welfare (ANAW)
- Donkey Sanctuary,
- World Animal Net
- World Horse Welfare
- Coalition for Animal Welfare in Africa (CoAWA)
- RECs: IGAD, ECCAS, ECOWAS and SADC
- Member States of African Union and all other agencies and organizations

Thank you for your kind attention

APAW: Unique Platform for Coordination and Partnership in Driving Animal Welfare Agenda across Africa

