

**SPEECH BY Dr. MODIBO TRAORE, DIRECTOR AFRICAN UNION INTER AFRICAN  
BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES (AU/IBAR) ON THE OFFICIAL, HANDING OVER  
CEREMONY OF THE PACE ASSET TO THE AFRICAN UNION  
NAIROBI, KENYA 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007.**

**Your Excellency, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

May I take this opportunity to welcome you all to this House of Africa for the ceremony of handing over of equipment and assets bought for the Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE). As you are all aware, the PACE programme was a major livestock development programme covering 32 Sub Saharan African countries. The structure of the Programme included national operations planned and implemented in each participating country and regionally coordinated under the auspices of IBAR. The financial Agreement for 72 million Euros was signed in August 1999 between the African Union and the European Union for five years; later on an extension phase was agreed for 5 millions euros ; the project activities were terminated in February 2007.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The idea behind the PACE Programme was to build on the headway made in the campaign against Rinderpest conducted by the Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC) from 1986 to 1999 to establish lower-cost national and continental epidemiological surveillance networks for the main animal diseases, provide the countries with the capacities needed to organize economically and technically justified control programmes and develop effective and sustainable distribution of veterinary products and services.

PACE has introduced and developed epidemio-surveillance networks and disease report analysis throughout the Continent, and introduced indicators and evaluation criteria to measure and monitor their performance.

To analyse and evaluate animal disease information generated by the epidemio-surveillance systems, PACE has developed and introduced across the region an electronic Animal Resources Information System (ARIS).

PACE has also facilitated the development of animal disease control contingency plans for emergency preparedness and rapid reaction in the face of animal disease emergencies.

The diagnostic capacities with regard to transboundary diseases of veterinary laboratories has been improved by training and through the introduction of lab equipments and diagnostic kits.

I am very happy to report to you that Rinderpest has been effectively and efficiently eradicated from west, central and virtually from eastern Africa. PACE, with the support of EU also designed the Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Coordination Unit with the ultimate aim for the final eradication of rinderpest from Africa and consequently from the world.

PACE has played an important role in control of the outbreaks of Highly pathogenic avian influenza that have occurred in some PACE countries.

PACE also supported institutional development policies and facilitated the delivery of veterinary services in Africa. I would like to note that PACE has established a rinderpest vaccine bank of 500,000 doses, put in place an emergency fund valued 500,000 Euros and provided 18 millions of HPAI vaccines to Cameroon, Egypt, Mali, and Senegal.

In terms of applied research, PACE was involved in a number of important joint research programmes with several world and regional reference laboratories, namely, Pirbright, CIRAD-EMVT, ILRI, CDC, KARI-Muguga on PPR Vaccine trials as well as sero-monitoring of livestock and wildlife.

**Your Excellency,**

I would like to thank the European Union, our main Development Partner, for all the efforts deployed in the Continent to control transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is important to note that we have had over the past seven years regular audited reports by independent audit firms appointed by the European Union. I am happy to report that all operations were transparent without any kind of resource mismanagement.

In terms of technical auditing, the project was evaluated by a management support mission in December 2001, a Mid Term review in March 2003 and a final evaluation mission in August 2006. The programme also organised three meetings of Ministers responsible for Animal resources and Directors of Veterinary services in Africa to oversee policy and decision making in the management and follow up of animal resources in Africa.

The achievement of PACE were commended by all the review missions. The programme will leave behind a set of valuable lessons learnt reports, teaching in veterinary schools, training of communities and promotional material for future use.

**Your Excellency,**

I can testify that the programme has successfully achieved its objectives. Over the years the PCU has spared no effort in the effective and efficient management and monitoring of PACE. I wish to congratulate the PACE team and all the stakeholders who worked very hard and in good harmony to achieve a very good result.

**Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Among the major items, EU is handing over today, I wish to indicate that the Local Area Network has served the programme purpose and is serving AU, AU-IBAR, Regional Coordination offices and Regional Animal health centres in West/Central and Eastern Africa, that are hosting FAO, OIE and AU-IBAR. It should be noted that the 12 vehicles, the computers, the fully equipped Local Area Network facility, will assist in facilitating adequate animal resource information sharing, mobility in the rural areas for the sustainability and smooth running of the recent EU funded projects, namely: SPINAP-AHI, SOLICEP, SERECU.

It was a privilege for AU-IBAR to be requested to assume the responsibility of Regional authorising office (RAO) on behalf of the 32 African Governments. IBAR keeps working with the countries to sustain these achievements.

In conclusion, I wish to once again thank the EU for having availed the funds to implement this unique and important programme. I also wish to thank all our Development Partners who have and are supporting AU-IBAR in its objectives to improve livestock development programmes in Africa. The USAID, DFID, French Cooperation, FAO, IAEA have been supporting African countries through AU-IBAR.

I thank you.

