

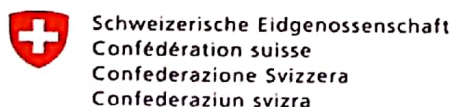
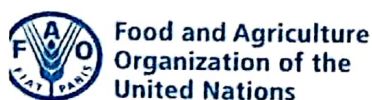
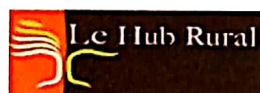


**Ministerial Session of the 6th Edition of the High Level Regional Consultation for peaceful Transboundary Transhumance between the Sahel and the Coastal Countries**

**Accra, Ghana, October 10, 2019**

**Final release**

**In partnership with:**



## 1. Introduction

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1. The Ministerial Session of the 6th edition of the Regional high-level policy dialogue for a peaceful cross-border transhumance between the Sahel and Coastal countries in West Africa was held in Accra, Ghana, on 10 October 2019, at the joint initiative of ECOWAS, the Government of the Republic of Ghana and the Billital Maroobé Network (RBM).
2. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the implementation status of the recommendations of the consultation held in Cotonou, in November 2018 and to take stock of the 2018-2019 transhumance campaign and the 2019-2020 campaign's prospects. The session was also intended to provide participants with an opportunity to learn more about the initiatives and sustainable recovery efforts of the Livestock and Pastoralism Task Force in the West Africa and Sahel region.
3. The ministerial meeting was chaired by His Excellency, **Dr. Nurah GYIELE**, Minister of State for Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana
4. Country delegations were led by:
  - a. Honourable **DR NURAH GYIELE**, Minister of State for Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana,
  - b. **Honourable, KOURÉTA NOEL BATAKA**, Minister of Agriculture, Animal and Fishery Production of the Republic of Togo,
  - c. **Honourable, MOHAMMED BOUCHA**, Minister Delegate to the Minister of State in charge of Agriculture and Animal Production, in charge of livestock of the Republic of Niger,
  - d. **Mr INNOCENT TOGLA**, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Benin, representing the Minister,
  - e. **Mr LABLA JEREMIE DIOMANDE**, Director of Training, Extension services and Product development, representing the



Minister of Livestock and Animal and Fisheries Resources of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,

f. **Mr HAMADO OUEGRAOGO RIMOUAOGOLO**, Director General of Spaces and Pastoral Development, representing the Minister of Animal and Fishery Resources of Burkina Faso,

g. **Mr ADAMA CAMARA**, Technical Advisor, representing the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Mali.

5. Also taking part in the Ministerial session,

a. Honourable, **Dr. DJIME ADOUM**, Executive Secretary of CILSS,

b. Honourable, **JEAN DE DIEU SOMDA** special representative of the honorary president of CSAO,

c. Mr. **SEKOU SANGARE**, Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources of ECOWAS,

d. Dr. **WORA SALAMI IBRAHIM**, from the FAO Regional Office in Ghana,

e. Mr. **ABDOUL AZIZ AG WALI**, RBM Representative,

6. The Ministers reviewed the Experts' report and expressed appreciation for its quality.

7. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the good level of implementation of the recommendations of the 5th High-level Consultation held on November 16, 2018 in Cotonou, Benin. They congratulated the countries, socio-professional organisations, non-governmental organisations and technical and financial partners who have spared no effort to achieve these results.

8. The Ministers also noted with satisfaction the progress of the 2018-2019 transhumance campaign, which is marked by (i) the relative availability of fodder resources, which has made it possible to cover livestock needs in many areas during the lean season with, however, poor access to pastures in





insecure areas of Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali; (ii) a decline in conflicts in many countries, as well as a significant reduction in damage and loss of life associated with competition for access to natural resources.

9. However, the Ministers noted with concern the persistence of some problems related to non-compliance with regulations on cross-border transhumance. They also deplore the continuing security crisis, which, while affecting the people and their property, greatly disrupts cross-border transhumance, including early departures, late returns, as well as settling of transhumant herders in host countries
10. Ministers congratulated the coastal countries for the regulatory policy measures they are implementing to regulate cross-border transhumance. They welcome the efforts of the Sahelian countries to make national transhumance committees dynamic to make them a robust instrument for managing livestock mobility, on the one hand, and dialogue between countries on the other.
11. They congratulated ECOWAS, CILSS and socio-professional organisations for decentralizing the multi-stakeholder dialogue and consultation on pastoralism, including the holding of the 1st Consultation of Lake Chad Basin stakeholders and the consultation envisaged in November 2019 in Dakar on the Western corridor that brings together the States of the Mano River Union, Senegambia plus Mauritania and Mali.
12. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in the formulation process of the regional strategy to promote milk value chains. They encourage ECOWAS, the States and the socio-professional organisations to accelerate the process to provide the region with an instrument to enhance the regional potential in local milk and to provide employment and empowerment opportunities for women and youth.
13. The Ministers congratulated the experts for laying the foundations for a sustainable revival of the Livestock and Pastoralism Task Force in West Africa. This ad hoc institution is of paramount importance to: (i) **provide advice** and guidance to IGOs, and (ii) **keep watch** over the coherence of initiatives.



14. The Ministers considered the 2019-2020 transhumance campaign prospects. They noted the environment of its implementation, marked in particular by unfavourable conditions for good forage production in western Mali, in parts of Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad and especially in western Mauritania and Northern Senegal. In Senegal and Mauritania the areas are experiencing their third consecutive year of fodder deficit. In addition, there is still a lack of access to natural pastures due to insecurity in parts of Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria and Chad. This situation, however, needs to be confirmed and validated by the countries.
15. The Ministers are concerned about the potential impacts of this situation, including risks of i) significant fodder deficit and rapid drying up of temporary water points and; ii) early departure for transhumance well before the opening of the transhumance campaign in the host areas. This much feared situation could lead to conflicts between pastoralists and farmers
16. They also lament the persistent problem of low quality of statistical data on transhumant herd flows, both in the host countries and those of departure. This situation is detrimental to appropriate decisions in favour of a well-organised, peaceful and secure cross-border transhumance.
17. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the efforts made by all stakeholders to improve the coordination and synergy of livestock and pastoralism interventions. In particular, they welcome the commitment of the partners to become more involved in this cause. To this end, they stressed the need for a comprehensive mapping of existing hydraulic, commercial and animal health infrastructure, (ii) mapping of initiatives and other dialogue mechanisms for the prevention and management of conflicts over access to natural resources.
18. The Ministers invited ECOWAS to take leadership and create the necessary conditions to strengthen coherence and synergies of project and programme actions that relate to the livestock and pastoralism sub-sector. To this end, they urged ECOWAS to: (i) intensify its dialogue with partners to promote the alignment and coordination of their activities as well as for consistent mobilisation of resources for the livestock sub-sector, (ii) facilitate joint planning and implementation of complementary actions by the projects and states, and (iii) enhance the Task Force to accelerate the synergy of livestock and pastoralism intervention.



19. Ministers are concerned about the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel and its consequences for rural households, in general and pastoralists in particular. To this end, they invite States, Financial Partners and Non-Governmental Organizations to give special attention to women and children in strategies and measures to relieve the victims of abuses of all kinds. The ministers endorsed the plan adopted by the Heads of State in Ouagadougou on September 14, 2019 and pledge to accompany it with concrete actions.

20. At the end of their deliberations, the Ministers adopted the experts' report and made the following recommendations:

**a. At the level of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS**

- i. Make the Livestock and Pastoralism Task Force functional by providing it with adequate means.
- ii. Support States in mobilizing funding for project implementation. To this end, they remind ECOWAS for the implementation of the recommendation of the 5th consultation on the official communication towards the main potential financial partners.
- iii. Carry out mapping of hydraulic infrastructure, functional market in the central basin,
- iv. Support the strengthening of multi-stakeholder dialogue in the main transhumance corridors: Lake Chad Basin, Central Corridor and West Corridor.
- v. Support States in conducting in-depth analyzes of the impacts of security crisis as well as the search for mitigation measures.
- vi. Strengthen advocacy for the mobilization of resources for structuring investments in the various links of value chains in the livestock and pastoralism sub-sector





**b. At the level of the States,**

- i. Strengthen public policies for transhumance,
- ii. Accelerate the process of setting up and boosting the national transhumance committees (NCT) by providing them with adequate means. In this regard, the Ministers urge States with the support of IGOS to invest in the search for sustainable financing mechanisms for the functioning of the NCTs.
- iii. Work in synergy with professional organizations in the search for appropriate tools and methodologies for the collection and analysis of statistical data on cross border transhumance, capitalizing on the digital solution for the traceability of transhumant animals.
- iv. Capitalize on and enhance the lessons learnt from cattle market management experiences and the functioning of cross-border inter-community committees in the countries to make them replicable model.

**21. The Ministers were informed:**

- a. The holding in Togo from May 7 to 10, 2020, of the International Livestock and Meat Show,
- b. Of the organization in Burkina Faso of the Livestock Fair of Burkina running November-December 2020
- c. Of the organization running from November 22 to December 1, 2019 of the Fair of Agriculture and Animal Resources of Côte d'Ivoire
- d. Prospects offered by the World Bank to promote a project of fodder production and livestock modernization and production of livestock feed in West Africa.

21. The Ministers express their profound gratitude to His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo- Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, the Government



and people of Ghana for the quality of the welcome and the facilities made available to them and which had ensured the success of the 6th edition of the High-level Consultation for cross-border transhumance between Sahelian and coastal countries. They also thank ECOWAS, the RBM and the technical and financial partners who facilitated the organisation of the meeting. They urge them to continue providing this support as part of the Regional Community's efforts to make livestock and pastoralism a sub-sector that can strengthen not only the regional integration processes but also the resilience of vulnerable populations.

22. The Ministers appointed **DR. NURAH GYIELE**, Minister of State for Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the resolutions of the meeting.

23. The seventh edition of the High Level Consultation for a peaceful transhumance between the Sahelian and coastal countries will take place in Lome, Republic of Togo in September 2020.

Done in Accra on 10th October, 2019



**DR. NURAH GYIELE,**

Minister of State for Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana