

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

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**Integrated and Secure Cattle Farming Systems and Pastoralism in West Africa
Project (PEPISAO)**

**REGIONAL MEETING BETWEEN PASTORAL ORGANISATIONS
OF SAHELIAN AND COASTAL COUNTRIES TO SHARE
EXPERIENCES IN PREVENTING AND MANAGING CONFLICTS
RELATED TO PASTORAL MOBILITY**

29 - 31 October 2019 in Lome, Togo

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Financial Support :



Implementing Institutions:



The regional meeting between pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and agricultural producer organisations from the coastal and Sahelian countries was held in Lome, Republic of Togo, from 29 to 31 October 2019, at the joint initiative of CILSS and ECOWAS. The meeting is part of the implementation of the Integrated and Secure Cattle Farming Systems and Pastoralism in West Africa Project (PEPISAO), funded by the French Development Agency (AFD). It aimed at sharing and capitalising on conflict prevention and management experiences, methods, and approaches related to pastoral mobility between the countries of departure and reception of cross-border transhumance.

The meeting brought together four key stakeholder groups, namely: (i) leaders and representatives of pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and crop agricultural producer organisations from coastal (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo) and Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad); (ii) representatives of the Inter-Governmental Organisations, namely ECOWAS and CILSS; (iii) representatives of apex agricultural, pastoral, civil society and private sector professional organisations (APESS, RBM, ROPPA CORET, COFENABEVI); and (iv) representatives of technical partners (GIZ / ZFD).

During the meeting, participants followed, with special attention, presentations on, (i) PEPISAO's objectives and planned actions, (ii) the types of conflicts related to pastoral mobility and (iii) many experiences of mechanisms, arrangements, methods and practices developed for conflict prevention and management related to pastoral mobility.

The participants expressed concerns about the rise in insecurity in West Africa and the Sahel, which is seriously affecting pastoral mobility and exacerbating the nature of conflicts.

Participants noted the wide variety of conflict prevention and management methods and approaches deployed by different actors at local, national, regional levels. The presentations highlighted many good practices resulting from the implementation of experiments at different scales.

Participants appreciated the commitment of all the two main actors involved in conflicts related to pastoral mobility, particularly crop farmers and cattle farmers, to favour consensual and inclusive approaches to preventing and managing conflicts to prevent violence.

Based on shared experiences and following thorough discussions, both in plenary and group work, participants decided to deepen the research and documentation around five conflict prevention and management practices and tools related to pastoral mobility, which are:

- Defence and Security Forces involvement in conflict prevention;
- Negotiating and securing pastoral resources to prevent conflicts;
- Dialogue and consultation as a means of conflict prevention;
- Women's and youth involvement in conflict prevention and management;
- Role of information systems in conflict prevention

On each of the selected instruments and tools, participants agreed to deepen the documentation on:

- + The conditions and process of generation,
- + The stages, precautions and principles of their implementation,
- + The modalities of their operation,
- + The operation of the practice,
- + The effects and expected results, including evidence underlying them and especially the behavioural changes they induce, and
- + Factors limiting replication and scaling up of the practice.

To this end, participants voluntarily committed, as part of a virtual platform, to:

- Continue sharing good experiences at national and regional levels;
- Promote best practices to reduce pastoral conflicts;
- Help raise awareness of the key actors involved in transhumance to reduce and resolve conflicts;
- Develop and implement appropriate initiatives and approaches to conflict prevention in the West Africa and Sahel sub-region.

Participants invite:

- ECOWAS, UEMOA, and the States to continue updating the regional and national regulatory documents governing pastoralism; to ensure their coherence and effective implementation, while taking into account the security context that affects pastoral mobility in West Africa and the Sahel
- States, to ensure the implementation of structural investments in the agro-pastoral sector;
- CILSS, to reinforce its system of capitalization, dissemination and sharing of tools and instruments for preventing and managing conflicts related to pastoral mobility.
- Agricultural and pastoral professional organisations to develop, with communities, best conflict prevention and management practices, tools, instruments, procedures, approaches and methods related to pastoral mobility.
- Technical and financial partners to continue to support peace-building and conflict prevention initiatives.

Done in Lome, on October 31, 2019

The participants