

**FAAR ADVOCATES AFRICA ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SETTING
SANITARY STANDARDS FOR AFRICA PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL TRADE OF ANIMALS
and ANIMAL PRODUCTS**

March 7, 2024

The World Assembly of Delegates are preparing to elect the 8th Director-General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) – founded as Office International des Epizooties (OIE), during the 91st General Session in Paris (France) from 26 to 30 May 2024. This organization was established in France and primarily managed by French veterinary specialists throughout its 100-year existence. Over time, it has evolved into a universally respected international standards setting organization for Animal health and Welfare. Over the years, the OIE/WOAH has progressively expanded its global status and been the champion and coordinator of Global Sanitary Standards for Animal and Animal Products. So, WOAH is now a member of the Quadripartite (comprising FAO/UNEP/WHO/WOAH), which guides the concepts and practices for One Health. WOAH works closely with the FAO-WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission for food standards. WOAH is also a partner of the World Trade Organization. Overall WOAH and FAO have a seamless partnership in matters of animal health and animal products so much so that the two organizations even run joint concepts and programmes, such as the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) and Joint Secretariats for global programmes for disease eradication e.g. *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR), Rabies etc. WOAH is a crucial partner of the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) on the continent.

The [Forum for African Animal Resources \(FAAR\)](https://networks.au-ibar.org/show/au-ibar/post/274/press-release-forum-for-african-animal-resources-faar) is a recently set up Africa Think-Tank organization of Members of diverse expertise and experience in animal resources in Africa (<https://networks.au-ibar.org/show/au-ibar/post/274/press-release-forum-for-african-animal-resources-faar>). We understand that there are two eminent candidates (from Argentina and France) competing for election to the position of WOAH Director-General. Both seem to be highly qualified. Surprisingly, Africa did not put forth a candidate.

From our think-tanking perspective, FAAR members wish to plead with the Chief Veterinary Officers of Africa as Delegates to WOAH, under the auspices of AU-IBAR to identify and campaign for an African specialist with relevant expertise and experience for appointment to the position of **Deputy Director-General**, WOAH.

With the global eradication of Rinderpest and now the PPR Global Eradication Programme underway, the opportunity is opening for ALL African countries Livestock Industry to actively aspire to international trade in animal and animal products. Such an opportunity will, inevitably, stimulate African countries to focus on sanitary standards, improve veterinary services (private and official from community to national levels), attention to profitable animal husbandry/welfare and pay attention to such global issues as climate change.

[Market access will be a stimulus because African animal farming and trading will have a stake in global sanitary standards.](#)