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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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INFORMATION ON SPS ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AFRICAN UNION

The following communication, received on 4 November 2022, is being circulated at the request of the African Union.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The African Union Commission Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture is responsible for coordinating continent-wide initiatives in agriculture, fisheries, food and nutrition security, strengthening the resilience of African food production systems, facilitating harmonization of agricultural and knowledge support systems policies, mobilizing resources to address implementation of priority issues in the continent and advocacy for implementation of priority programmes in Africa.

2 SPS ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2022

2.1. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) secretariat convened two meetings of the AfCFTA Sub-Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures in 2022. The Sub-Committee meetings led to the finalization of the Programme of Work on SPS, which will be considered by the next meeting of the AfCFTA Committee on Trade in Goods for approval and implementation.

2.2. The Commission led the development of the Food Safety Strategy for Africa and the Plant Health Strategy for Africa. Both strategies have been approved by the Executive Council of the African Union in 2022. Development of implementation plans for the strategies is ongoing.

2.3. An Africa SPS Index has been developed and adopted in July 2022. The Africa SPS Index tracks and monitors the progress in achieving the objective of safe trade in agricultural produce. The SPS Index also serves as a tool to identify SPS capacity gaps for targeted investment. The Index has been integrated into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review Process and serves as a continental accountability mechanism for reporting on development in the implementation of SPS measures in Africa.

2.4. The Commission convened two meetings of the African Union SPS Coordination Forum this year. The Forum promotes mainstreaming and implementation of SPS issues into CAADP implementation, AU trade-related, health and environmental initiatives and frameworks. The Forum is composed of AU Institutions working on SPS issues, Regional Economic Communities and Development Partners.

2.5. The African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-BAR) organized the 13th Pan African Chief Veterinary Officers meeting in May 2022, Africa Common Positions on draft OIE Chapters were developed and presented during the 89th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates in May 2022.
