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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**IGAD BRIEF UPDATE REPORT TO THE SPS COMMITTEE
MARCH 2023**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)

The following communication, received on 24 February 2023, is being circulated at the request of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

1. The IGAD Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) is a regional technical center of IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development), a regional economic community serving the seven member States in East Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Uganda).

2. Technical support provided for the above member States by IGAD/ICPALD during the reporting period to enhance transboundary animal disease control and livestock trade in the region, complementing the national development efforts of member States, includes:

1 REGIONAL SPS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE IGAD REGION

3. IGAD/ICPALD organized a three-day regional meeting (16-18 January 2023 in Ethiopia) to review the status of regional and national SPS committees; share good practices as well as get updates regarding IGAD member States' compliance status on matters of SPS measures. The meeting received presentations from IGAD/ICPALD, member States, WTO/SPS Secretariat; AfCFTA secretariat and WOAHA.

4. The key recommendations are: Enhance coordination mechanisms with SPS dealing institutions and harmonization of SPS measures and standards with the regional and international requirements; Develop the capacity of the actors along the value chain including the private sector; enhance reporting mechanisms/communication dissemination; advocate for the harmonization of halal standards and certification among importing GCC countries to minimize hassle for exporters; study the economic loss incurred in the region due to lack of SPS compliance to use as evidence, and strengthen national SPS committees and facilitate their participation in AfCFTA sub-committee.

5. Acknowledgement: IGAD/ICPALD is grateful to member States and USAID for their collaboration and/or financing the implementation of the above activity.
