

**REMARKS BY HON. PROF. MARGARET KAMAR LEADER OF THE KENYAN
DELEGATION DURING THE SPECIAL EVENT ON MARKING OF THE GLOBAL
ERADICATION OF RINDERPEST, HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2011, VIENNA,
AUSTRIA**

Chairman

Director General of the IAEA,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure and honour for me to join you on this important occasion when we celebrate the global eradication of rinderpest. First, let me begin by thanking the Director General and his staff for organizing this important event. Indeed, rinderpest has been the most devastating infection of livestock and some wildlife for centuries and as a result, causing widespread famine and poverty among the world community and particularly Africa. This is therefore indeed a landmark event in the history of mankind.

In many countries of Africa, livestock production plays a key role in the agricultural economy, contributing over 25% of the total value of agricultural production. In Kenya for example the livestock sector contributes 12% of Kenya's GDP, 40% to the agricultural GDP and employs 50% of agricultural labour force. The sector has the potential to provide adequate supply of all animal products and by-products to meet domestic needs and generate surplus for export. Therefore a vibrant livestock industry can play an important role in reducing the poverty levels and significantly contribute to the nation's economic growth as articulated in Kenya's Vision 2030 and the National Livestock Development Policy.

In view of this, the Vision 2030 has identified two within the livestock sector initiatives, namely the creation of Disease Free Zones (DFZs), and the support of value addition and local processing. It is in this regard that the eradication of rinderpest in Kenya and the global community is a remarkable achievement for the veterinary science. We in Kenya are proud to be associated with this success as a lot of work on the development of a rinderpest vaccine was undertaken in Kabete laboratories, the results of which provided protection to over 15 million cattle in Eastern and Central

Africa. The eradication of rinderpest, therefore, is associated with many benefits including increased livestock production, wildlife stability, access to export markets for livestock and livestock products and consequently to poverty eradication.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya appreciates the high priority assigned by the Agency to agricultural and livestock development in Africa and appreciates the contributions provided by some Member States and the United Nations specialized agencies in support of these efforts. In this regard, Kenya stresses the need for continued synergetic efforts by the Agency and other international partners with the aim of supporting the African Union Commission and Member States through the Provision of guidance and quality assurances in planning and implementing sound national and sub-regional AU-PATTEC Projects.

In conclusion may I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the IAEA and the FAO/IAEA Joint Division for the lasting legacy that they have provided not only to Kenya but to the international community in eradicating this disease. We are also grateful for the capacity building and infrastructural support we have received during the campaign against rinderpest which culminated in Kenya being certified by the World Organization for Animal Health as a country free from Rinderpest in May 2009. Through this assistance Kenya now has the diagnostic capabilities, the disease surveillance methodologies and communication network that will allow us to more readily control other major transboundary diseases including the highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and foot and mouth disease.

Finally on behave of the people of Kenya, allow me to appreciate all those who have contributed in one way or another to this great success of rinderpest eradication.

Thank you, Excellencies and distinguished delegates for your attention.