



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**SPEECH BY H.E. RIGATHI GACHAGUA, THE DEPUTY
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 36TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL FOR
TRYPANOSOMIASIS RESEARCH AND CONTROL
(ISCTRC) AT HOTEL PRIDE INN, MOMBASA COUNTY, ON
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

**The Principal Secretary, State Department for Livestock
Development, Jonathan Mueke;**

Mombasa Governor, Abdullswamad Sherrif Nassir;

Political and other Leaders;

**The Director of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal
Resources, Dr. Huyam Ahmed Salih;**

Representatives of the African Union Member States and the African Union Commission;

Representatives of the Food Agricultural Organisation;

Representatives of the World Health Organisation;

Representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

Representatives of Research Institutions;

Researchers;

Distinguished Partners;

Distinguished Delegates

On behalf of President William Ruto and the People of Kenya, I welcome you to the home of African hospitality.

Besides hosting this 36th General Conference, we welcome you to the home of Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources.

We hold this conference under a timely theme when States in Africa have engaged the high gear in implementation of national development Blue-prints in line with Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

Under these development frameworks, Agriculture is identified as a major Sector that will propel the Continent to a better Africa.

Distinguished Delegates;

Livestock contributes between 30% and 80% to the GDP of Sub-Saharan Africa. But this contribution is under threat from the Tsetse Fly disease, which has been linked to economic losses of up to 4.5 billion US Dollars annually.

With over 2.1 billion heads of chicken, 490 million goats, 420 million sheep, 370 million heads of cattle and other economically useful animals, resistance to multiple drugs has been noted in 21 countries in Africa- Kenya included.

This is a major threat to controlling the disease; it is also a major threat to the economy of the Continent. With millions of people also depending on livestock for food, the Continent will be insecure unless urgent action is taken.

The meat market has been projected to rise by more than 100% in most countries in Africa.

For instance, poultry meat demand will rise by 214% by the year 2050.

On the other hand, globally, it is estimated that the meat demand will increase by 80% majorly due to urbanisation.

Distinguished Delegates;

With these prospects, we must lay strategies of sweeping the Continent clean of this disease.

While I note that Kenya has managed to control the spread in humans, a replication in animals will not only save our farmers over 143 million US Dollars annually, but also put the subsector on track in building our economy.

Distinguished Delegates;

That is why this Conference is important. With over 300 participants from across Africa and beyond, we have an opportunity to evaluate in detail, the strategies we have employed for decades.

With advancement in technology, this meeting brings different experts to the table. It is through blended ideas that we can innovate to banish the disease.

Further, it is a moment to look at the contribution of research in solving contemporary challenges. It is not about the quantity of research; it is the quality of research for positive impact.

Distinguished Delegates;

On the other hand, research has established that livestock contribute 10% Methane, one of the key greenhouse gases driving Climate Change.

Furthermore, over 48% of rangelands degradation in Sub-Saharan Africa has been attributed to livestock.

In this regard, this meeting is important in contributing to sustainable Food Systems through integration of Climate Smart Agriculture.

As we also protect the environment from destruction, especially vegetation, we must find a balance for elimination of the Tsetse Fly.

This is how we will meet our commitment to the Lomé, Resolution of the year 2000, of eliminating tsetse flies through the PATTEC Campaign.

Distinguished delegates;

Indeed, Kenya remains steady in eliminating the Tsetse Fly. Under the current development policy, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, Manufacturing is key Pillar. In two years, Kenya will stop importing leather items. That is why expelling this Tsetse Fly disease is important as we look forward to spurring the

In conclusion, I call upon all stakeholders to work towards impact outcomes in policy and operational research.

On this note, it is my pleasure to declare the 36th General Conference officially opened.

THANK YOU