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Thank you Chair,

We thank the Secretariat for its considerable work in preparing the revised draft Global Plan of Action, and we welcome the active engagement of Members and Stakeholders with the submission of comments to get us to this point.

We are pleased to see several of our suggestions incorporated to the current text, including strengthened references to rules-based trade and to the role of enabling markets. We believe it is critically important that the GPA recognises the central role that open, predictable and rules-based trade, grounded in science and risk-based decision-making, plays in supporting sustainable livestock systems. Trade can enhance producer viability and promotes innovation. Trade policies must be transparent and avoid market distortions that limit access or reduce returns to producers.

For Australia, sustainable livestock systems are integral to global food security, livelihoods and economic resilience. Livestock industries play a vital role in increasing access to high-quality nutrition and other animal products including fibre, leather and hides, thereby enhancing livelihoods for producers, and contributing to broader sustainable food systems.

We support a practical, outcomes-focused approach that strengthens productivity, while reducing emissions and environmental impacts, and addresses animal welfare and animal health matters through a One Health approach.

We look forward to working constructively with all Members to deliver a practical, balanced Global Plan of Action that strengthens sustainable livestock systems globally, recognising that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to sustainability.