



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States FAO Committee
on Agriculture**

Third session of the Sub-Committee on Livestock

(3-5 March 2026)

Item: Opening Statement

Mr Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. The EU and its Member States warmly welcome the opening of these discussions on the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Livestock Transformation and strongly supports the ambition of making this a practical, action-oriented instrument that accelerates progress in all regions.
3. The EU and its Member States see this Global Plan of Action as a key opportunity to make the livestock sector part of a sustainable global food system. We are determined to work constructively with all members so that this plan reflects the diversity of production systems, respects different national circumstances and capacities, and supports a just livelihood for farmers, workers and rural communities.
4. We attach particular importance to swift progress and a successful adoption of the plan. The challenges and opportunities that are core to the livestock sector do not allow for delay. At the same time, we need a text that is clear, coherent and implementable, and that enables countries to translate global guidance into national policies, strategies and investments.

5. We consider several elements of the draft plan to be especially valuable. We welcome its holistic approach, its emphasis on food security and nutrition, and its recognition of the contribution of well-managed livestock to fostering resilient livelihoods.
6. We strongly support the integration of One Health, including the emphasis on the interrelationship between animal health, public health, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and transboundary disease risks.
7. For our region, it is particularly important that actions in the relevant strategic priorities address climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, water, soil and land degradation and air quality in a joined-up and mutually supportive fashion.
8. We also support the focus on innovation and knowledge, equitable value chains and decent work, and the role of women, young people and Indigenous Peoples and local communities in livestock systems. Actions in these critical areas should be cross-cutting in nature.
9. In order to be successful and adopted by members, we believe that, first, the plan should be firmly anchored in science-based and evidence-informed approaches, while remaining applicable to countries with different capacities. Second, it should ensure clarity in how it relates to existing FAO and other relevant organizations' texts, strategies and action plans, including on climate, AMR, animal genetic resources and sustainable food systems while also ensuring alignment with other UN bodies and international organisations, including the Quadripartite alliance. Third, it must reflect the role of markets, trade and investment in driving sustainable livestock transformation, including enabling policy environments, responsible private sector engagement and improved access to finance for sustainable practices. Additionally, in a spirit of continuous improvement toward sustainability, Members should be encouraged to go beyond the proposed actions and pursue more ambitious measures
10. We approach these negotiations in a spirit of partnership and compromise. We are ready to engage constructively based on the text before us and will work positively to achieve an agreed text that supports all members in designing context-specific pathways towards sustainable livestock systems.

11. We look forward to working closely with you this week to adopt a Global Plan of Action that can be implemented effectively and without delay at country level.

Thank you, Mr Chair.
