

Opening Statement of the Philippines
3rd Session of the FAO Sub-Committee on Livestock of the Committee on
Agriculture (COAG)
03-05 March 2026

Distinguished Chair, Fellow Members of the Livestock Sub-Committee, Sub-Committee Observers, FAO Secretariat and Officials, Good morning.

The Philippines would like to thank the FAO and all those who have contributed to the development of this current draft of the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Livestock Transformation, which we will refer to as GPA for brevity.

In general, the GPA aligns with the Philippines' initiatives and may contribute further ideas into the country's National Animal Industry Development Plan which the Department of Agriculture is currently refining in view of new legislation " The Animal Industry Development and Competitiveness Act" signed into law by the President of the Republic of the Philippines last 25 September 2025.

The new law creates an annual fund of about USD 345 million to boost local livestock, poultry and dairy production to support the Philippine government's repopulation and herd build-up efforts, providing opportunities for accredited countries to expand exports of live animals and livestock and poultry genetics. Tariff revenue collected on imported livestock, poultry and dairy products will be utilized for this newly created fund. Additionally, the law restructures the governance of the country's animal industry to strengthen developmental and regulatory functions, create the Animal Emergency Response Task Force to address animal diseases, and establishes the Animal Management Information System to consolidate animal industry data.

The Philippines looks forward to working constructively with this Sub-Committee in finalizing and endorsing the GPA, which may serve as a universal benchmark for sustainable livestock transformation, tailored to our respective national and local contexts, priorities and needs and as reference for further international collaboration to improve our global, regional, national and local agrifood systems, for the betterment of the lives of the people we are bound to serve today and in the future.

We will reserve our detailed text suggestions as we go along in reviewing the draft GPA. Thank you.