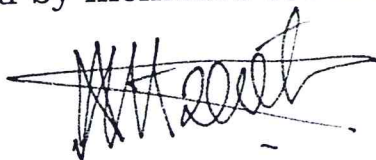


**THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENT  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
ACCRA. GHANA**

**SUBMISSION OF PARLIAMENTARY MEMORANDUM FOR THE  
RATIFICATION AND GAZETTING OF ECOWAS REGULATION  
C/REG.22/11/10, GUIDELINE No11.//CM/ECOWAS ON VETERINARY  
PHARMACY AND DIRECTIVE C/DIR1/11/10 ON ECOWAS  
VETERINARY PHARMACY**

I forward herewith Parliamentary Memorandum in connection with the ratification and gazetting of **ECOWAS REGULATION C/REG.22/11/10, GUIDELINE No11.//CM/ECOWAS ON VETERINARY PHARMACY AND DIRECTIVE C/DIR1/11/10 ON ECOWAS VETERINARY PHARMACY** for consideration and approval by members of Parliament.



**HON. DR. OWUSU AFRIYIE AKOTO  
MINISTER**



SECRET

PARLIAMENTARY MEMORANDUM

SUBMITTED

BY

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

ON THE

REQUEST FOR RATIFICATION AND GAZETTING OF ECOWAS  
REGULATION - C/REG.22/11/10, GUIDELINE NO11.//CM/ECOWAS ON  
VETERINARY PHARMACY AND DIRECTIVE C/DIR1/11/10 ON  
ECOWAS VETERINARY PHARMACY ON QUALITY CONTROL  
RESPECTIVELY BY THE COUNCIL OF ECOWAS MINISTERS IN  
CHARGE OF AGRICULTURE.

2016

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## **1.0 ACTION REQUIRED**

Honourable Members of Parliament are respectively invited to consider and approve the attached documents, on the ratification and gazetting of **ECOWAS Regulation - C/Reg.22/11/10, Guideline No11./CM/ECOWAS On Veterinary Pharmacy and Directive C/Dir1/11/10 on ECOWAS Veterinary Pharmacy** on quality control respectively by the Council of ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Agriculture.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

Despite the gains that have been made in safeguarding the interests of livestock farmers and consumers in veterinary drugs and biologicals use in protecting our environment including animals against the potential dangers of the misuse of veterinary drugs and biologicals, there is still more to be done in the ambulance for veterinary drugs and biologicals regulations. The major post-independence piece of legislation that governs animal health is the Diseases of Animals Act, 1961(Act 83). Act 83 consolidates with amendments, the enactments that provide for the prevention and control of the spread of infectious and contagious diseases among animals. The Diseases of Animals Act,1961(Act 83) does not cover veterinary drugs and biologicals.

Many ECOWAS countries' governments have recognized the fundamental importance of inputs use (Veterinary drugs and biologicals) to contribute immensely to increased agricultural production. Since 2008, Authorities of

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Heads of States and Governments have approved a number of regional agricultural regulations that are designed to facilitate the implementation of the ECOWAS Agriculture Policy that was adopted in Accra, Ghana in 2005. The general objectives of the regulations are to harmonize existing national regulations for enhanced agricultural production and productivity, and promote regional trade in agricultural inputs and commodities as well as regional economic integration, of which agriculture and food security is an important component.

### **3.0 JUSTIFICATION**

Governments in the sub-region currently employ different policies, laws, regulations, and procedures where they exist, to promote and regulate the veterinary drugs and biologicals sector. However, through organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) efforts are being made to rationalize and harmonize these national policies, laws, regulations, and procedures within the Subregion.

In this connection, many countries are now drafting new or revising existing legislations to align them to the ECOWAS Regulation - C/Reg.22/11/10, **Guideline No11./CM/ECOWAS on Veterinary Pharmacy and Directive C/DIR1/11/10 on ECOWAS on Veterinary Pharmacy.**

This is expected to benefit the ECOWAS sub-region in the area of trade and use of veterinary drugs and biologicals for the ultimate benefit of smallholder farmers and consumers.

At the Sixty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Agricultural Ministers of ECOWAS Member States **GAZETTING OF ECOWAS Regulation -**

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C/Reg.22/11/10, Guideline No11//CM/ECOWAS on Veterinary Pharmacy and Directive C/Dir1/11/10 on ECOWAS on Veterinary Pharmacy took place in Abuja, Nigeria on 25-26 November 2010. It was agreed that the ECOWAS regulation on harmonization of the rules governing quality control, certification and marketing of veterinary drugs and biologicals in ECOWAS SUB-REGION be published in Member States' Official Gazette (Copy of ECOWAS Veterinary drugs and biologicals regulations attached).

#### **4.0 OPTIONS AND IMPACTS CONSIDERED**

So far, seven (7) countries in the Sub-Region have gazetted the harmonized regulations on Veterinary drug and biologicals quality control. These countries are Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone Senegal and Togo. In the meantime, three (3) other countries are in the process of gazetting the harmonized regulations and these are the Gambia, Niger and Ghana.

It is expected that the ratification and gazetting of Ghana's Veterinary Drugs and Biologicals control regulations will enhance the country's trade opportunities in the agricultural sector within the sub-region and safeguard human and animal health.

We have made the necessary enquiry from the Attorney General's Department and the Ministry of Justice and it has been clarified that for Ghana (Dualist state), the harmonized regulations on Veterinary Drugs and

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Biological espoused above can be gazetted only through Parliamentary Resolution.

## **5.0 BENEFITS**

The benefits of the Veterinary Drugs and Biologicals Regulation is to harmonize the rules governing quality control, certification and marketing of veterinary drugs and biologicals in Member States of ECOWAS. The harmonization is intended to ensure availability of good quality veterinary drugs and biologicals and determine the origin of veterinary drugs and biological used within the subregion.

More specifically, the benefits of this harmonization is to:

- facilitate local production of quality veterinary drugs and biological;
  - facilitate trade in veterinary drugs and biological amongst Member States, through application of regionally agreed principles and rules that minimize trade barriers:
  - facilitate timely and convenient access by livestock farmers and veterinary authorities to quality veterinary drugs and biologicals;
  - create a favourable climate for private investment in the veterinary drugs and biologicals industry:
  - help widen the choice of veterinary drugs and biologicals available to farmers; and;
  - promote partnership between the public and private sectors.
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With regards to ECOWAS Regulations on Veterinary drugs and biologicals, the Sixty-fifth (65<sup>th</sup>) Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of ECOWAS Member States, held in Abuja, Nigeria from 25-26 November 2010, adopted the **ECOWAS Regulation - C/Reg.22/11/10, Guideline No11./CM/ECOWAS on Veterinary Pharmacy and Directive C/DIR1/11/10 on ECOWAS on Veterinary Pharmacy**

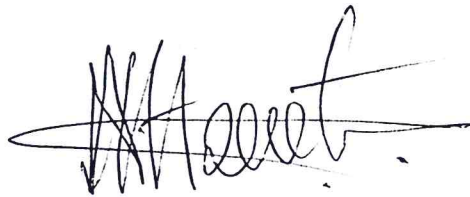
It was agreed that the ECOWAS Regulation on harmonization of the rules governing veterinary drugs and biologicals production, trade and quality control in ECOWAS sub- Region be published in Member States' Official Gazette as stated in Article 64 (**Regulation - C/Reg.22/11/10, Guideline No11./CM/ECOWAS on Veterinary Pharmacy** attached).It was also stated in the same Article 64 that the Regulation shall enter into force upon its publication.

The purpose of the Regulation on veterinary drugs and biologicals to ensure quality control in order to harmonize the rules governing veterinary drugs and biologicals production, trade and quality control in Member States of ECOWAS. The harmonization is intended to ensure availability and supply of good quality veterinary drugs and biological.

More specifically, the purpose of this harmonization is to:

- Safeguard the interest of the livestock farmers, veterinary authorities and the general public against anti-microbial resistant, adulteration, misleading claims and inappropriate use of these products
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- Safeguard the interests of veterinary drugs and biological enterprises and contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for private sector investment in the veterinary drugs and biologicals industry;
- Protect the West African natural environment and its population against the potential dangers associated with inappropriate veterinary drugs and biologicals use;
- Facilitate inter and intra-states trade in veterinary drugs and biologicals, through implementation of principles and rules agreed at sub-regional level to dismantle trade barriers.



**HON. DR. OWUSU AFRIYIE AKOTO**

**MINISTER**