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## High-Level Political Forum 2017

### Side Event "Sustainable Livestock and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

organized by the Governments of Switzerland and Ethiopia

on Monday, 10 July 2017, New York  
at the UN Headquarters, Conference Room A

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Since the adoption of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development in September 2015, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is held annually in New York. The Forum serves to review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Starting in 2017, selected SDGs will be reviewed each year. This year, hunger, food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture under SDG 2 are amongst the themes under review. In this context, the governments of Switzerland and Ethiopia organized a side event on "Sustainable Livestock and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" on Monday, 10 July. A panel discussion was held with H.E. Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations in New York, Amira Gornass, Chair of the Committee on Global Food Security (CFS), Wilfrid Legg, Project Leader of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the CFS, Fritz Schneider, Chairman of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock Management (GASL), Jimmy Smith, Director of the International Research Institute for Livestock Management (ILRI), and Adrian Aebi, Assistant Director General of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (BLW).

The aim of the side event was to emphasize the importance of livestock for the international agenda. All panelists argued that livestock farming is a neglected issue, especially in the 2030 Agenda. Livestock farming and, above all, the consumption of animal-based food, is often perceived as one of the greatest challenges in terms of climate change and the use of natural resources. At the same time, the HLPE as well as ILRI showed the important role that science can play in a transition to more efficient livestock for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, it emphasized the importance of targeted information to the population in the global South and North in terms of the challenges, but also the benefits of sustainable livestock for the economy, society, and the environment. The CFS presented how the most important findings from the research of the HLPE are incorporated into the policy recommendations of the CFS. GASL presented as an example how to implement a multi-stakeholder platform for sustainable livestock farming, as well as the breadth of knowledge and the policy recommendations that can be derived from it, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. The governments of Switzerland and Ethiopia also emphasized how in the development of their animal breeding strategy and their master plan for sustainable livestock farming, they in fact implement existing international frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda, as well as concrete political and scientific recommendations. To conclude, it was emphasized that livestock farming and challenges can also contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, especially when solutions are being sought and implemented at all levels within the framework of multi-stakeholder platforms and partnerships.