

# Animal Welfare and its Importance to the United Nations



Briefing by:  
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HQ EU Mission to the UN

# The World Society For The Protection Of Animals (WSPA)

- International NGO
- World's largest alliance of animal welfare organisations
- Over 950 member societies in more than 153 countries
- 13 regional offices
- United Nations & Council of Europe consultative status
- WHO cooperative status
- [www.wspa-international.org](http://www.wspa-international.org)



COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL  
DE L'EUROPE

**WSPA**

# The World Society For The Protection Of Animals (WSPA)

- Vision: To create a world where animal welfare matters and animal cruelty ends
- Mission: To build a global animal welfare movement



# Science and Ethics are the Foundation

Science is continuously showing us that many animals feel pain and suffer – which we define as sentience.

*“The use of animals carries with it an ethical responsibility to ensure the welfare of such animals to the greatest extent practicable”*

OIE International Animal Health Code – 2006; Part 3; Section 3.7; Chapter 3.7.1;  
Guiding Principle 7

# Animal Welfare's Ethical Framework is Supportive of the UN Development Agenda

“Roughly one billion people, including many of the world’s poor, depend directly on animals for income, social status and security as well as food and clothing, and the welfare of their animals is essential for their livelihood”

*FAO Expert Meeting on Capacity Building to Implement Good Animal Welfare Practices*

# Links Between Animal Welfare and the UN

- **Sustainable Agriculture** (improves productivity, preserves local knowledge and jobs)
- **Environmental sustainability** (reduces climate change)
- **Reduces disease** and this improves human health & food safety
- **Poverty Reduction** (livelihood protection)
- **Food Security** (sustainable and better quality)
- **Social Development** (e.g role of women)
- **Disaster Management** (response and risk reduction)

# Case studies



## Samples of International Support for Animal Welfare

- 2008: G77 - Ambassadorial briefing on link to sustainable development .
- 2008: IFRC - 2008 Arab Red Cross-Red Crescent Societies agreed to protect animals from disasters
- 2008: FAO - Recognition of good animal welfare practices that benefit animals and humans – expert meeting recommendations under consideration
- 2007: OIE adopts resolution in support of UDAW
- 2006: G77 - workshop on animal welfare
- 2006: International Finance Corporation note on ‘good animal welfare practices’
- 2005: OIE - International standards on animal welfare (currently farm animals during transport and at slaughter)
- 1997: EU Amsterdam Protocol recognizes ‘animals as sentient beings’

# What is the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW)?

An agreement among nations to recognize that:

- animals are sentient beings and can suffer
- to respect their welfare needs
- That animal welfare benefits animals, people and the environment



Supporting a

**UDAW** UNIVERSAL DECLARATION  
ON ANIMAL WELFARE

**WSPA**



## Why is UDAW Needed?

- No unifying strategy to link animal welfare and the development agenda.
- No global recognition of animal welfare as a socially important issue
- No global recognition of the role of animals in achieving development goals
- Few countries with legislation or good practices with regards to animals – enforcement is low. UDAW will stimulate the develop of practical rules and practices.
- Despite its relevance to the development agenda, animal welfare is not at the forefront of the policy agenda.

Supporting a

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# Animal Welfare at the UN – Next Steps

**As a first step**, we are encouraging governments and stakeholders to Agree:

- that animal welfare is an important issue to help achieve UN development goals
- how to promote animal welfare at the United Nations including the path towards a UDAW
- Agree animal welfare language for insertion into CSD-17 & the annual sustainable development resolution at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

**As a second step**, agree to UDAW as a tool to facilitate long term unification of the animal welfare and the development agenda

## End Result - A new Partnership

- Mutually beneficial Collaboration and integration of the development and animal welfare communities.
- Common best practices and instruments based on science will contribute towards food security, environmental sustainability, poverty reduction and human health as well as animal welfare

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