Sign on statement:

The 2021 Finance in Common Summit will focus on the transformation of agriculture and agribusiness for food security, adaptation to climate change and biodiversity preservation. Leveraging public finance to support and expand Industrial livestock production, especially through large investments in giant meat and dairy companies, is incompatible with these goals.

Despite well-documented harms to people, animals, and the planet, The World Bank Group, its private-sector division the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and other top public banks have invested heavily in intensely polluting industrial livestock operations in Brazil, Madagascar, and other countries with threatened ecosystems. Despite overwhelming scientific consensus from the IPCC, FAO and UNEP that a shift away from high volume, polluting and emissions-intensive industrial livestock production towards agroecological approaches to food production is required to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement goals, the IFC, IDB Invest and many other Public Development Banks continue to channel millions of dollars into these unsustainable private sector industrial livestock investments.

Therefore, ahead of the 2021 Finance in Common Summit, **the undersigned organisations call on all Public Development Banks to halt all financing for industrial livestock production.** and develop a **policy that excludes financing for industrial livestock companies from their lending portfolio. This is a critical step to meeting their commitments to sustainable development and global climate change goals.**

There are several serious concerns relating to industrial livestock production.

- **Food security:** The dominant model of intensive livestock production uses vast amounts of arable land to grow human-quality crops which are then used as animal feed, harming food security. Animal products represent a highly inefficient use of resources: worldwide, 77% of agricultural land is used to grow and feed livestock, yet provides just 17% of calories and 33% of our protein supply. Intensive livestock is also often an export oriented industry, therefore feeding global supply chains to 'protein excess' regions rather than providing calories where they are needed. Reducing industrial livestock and using some of that land for human food could expand affordable, healthy plant-based food, directly combating hunger.

- **Climate change:** Even if fossil fuel emissions were eliminated immediately, emissions from the global food system alone would make it impossible to limit warming to 1.5°C and difficult even to realize the 2°C target. Experts project that in 2050 the livestock sector will account for 80% of the world's allowable greenhouse gas emissions, for a 1.5°C temperature increase scenario. The livestock sector is responsible for 32% of methane emissions, a top climate threat to our planet. Furthermore, as this production system relies on using billions of hectares of land to grow animal feed, it severely hinders our global capacity to utilise land-use based climate mitigation strategies such as forest restoration. To avoid climate breakdown, rapid and far-reaching transitions in land use are required, and a huge reduction in meat-eating is essential.

· **Biodiversity preservation:** Livestock production is the single largest driver of biodiversity loss and reduced ecosystem functions. This happens through the conversion of natural ecosystems like forests into pastures for livestock or into crop fields to produce feed for farmed animals. Animal feed crops take up 40% of the arable land in the world, meaning we are putting enormous pressure on ecosystems and destroying wild habitats to feed domestic animals. Fragile ecosystems are less resilient to changes in the climate and to impacts of pests, invasive species, and diseases. Biodiversity loss is therefore a direct threat to food security. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services calls for an urgent shift to agroecological practices to stem the biodiversity and extinction crisis and recommends reforming financial aid for land-use so that benefits and risks to biodiversity and health are recognized and explicitly targeted.

· **Zoonotic diseases:** A recent UNEP report warns that industrial livestock operations are major drivers of zoonotic disease emergence. Keeping genetically very similar animals in overcrowded and stressful conditions, makes the animals prone to suffer from inhibited immune response, and makes this farming model a perfect breeding grounds for zoonotic diseases. The report warned that factory farming of pigs "promoted transmission of swine flu (H1N1) due to a lack of physical distancing between the animals." "The H5N1 bird flu similarly emerged from poultry farms, and Ebola & Nipah reportedly emerged from wild animals whose habitats have been dramatically altered, in part from industrial agriculture.

· **Antimicrobial resistance:** The industrial livestock sector routinely uses large amounts of antibiotics to promote growth and prevent diseases that inevitably occur when animals are kept in poor conditions. Around 75% of the world's antibiotics are used on farm animals. This high exposure to antibiotics leads to antibiotic resistance, which undermines the efficacy of antibiotics in human medicine. According to the World Health Organizations, if no action is taken, drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050, costing the global economy $60 trillion to $100 trillion.

· **Smallholder livelihoods:** The massive amount of land required for industrial scale livestock — both pasture and animal feed production — leads to increased land ownership concentration at the cost of small farmers. The increasing concentration in an already highly consolidated sector hurts smallholder livelihoods by creating unfair market competition and robbing small producers of access to valuable land, water and forest resources. As small-scale farmers are absorbed into a larger company's supply chain, they lose autonomy over their production and are often paid very low prices that do not even cover production costs.

· **Animal welfare:** Dozens of countries and regions now legally recognise the sentience of animals – meaning that they can experience emotions such as pain, pleasure, joy and fear. Standards for animal welfare in food production have also been adopted by 182 countries. Despite this, in the industrial livestock sector most animals are kept in very small cages or overcrowded, unsanitary spaces for their entire lives. They are exposed to high levels of stress and cannot execute their most basic natural behaviour like taking a mud bath, building relationships with other group members, nesting, or nursing their young. Many will spend their lives in small cages, stand on

slatted floors, suffer painful mutilations, undergo stress from excruciating boredom and never see the sun.

Public development finance must no longer ignore the overwhelming evidence of the many negative impacts caused by industrial livestock that limit our ability to meet the SUstainable Development Goals and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

It is time to divest from the destructive industrial livestock sector, and finance the transition to just, diversified, resilient and sustainable food systems. This includes support for sustainable small-scale livestock farming that can help to combat poverty and hunger - but no further investments in industrial livestock, which would continue to lock in a status quo that is failing people, animals, and the planet.

We look forward to receiving your response and would be pleased to have a meeting to discuss these concerns in more detail. Replies can be sent to jenniferblack@worldanimalprotection.nl.

Yours sincerely,