



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Director-General

DPS-DG/18/729

23.VIII.2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 18 July 2018, proposing the proclamation of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

I would like to congratulate the Government of Mongolia for this initiative. There is no doubt that the livestock sector contributes to the welfare of rural people and that the promotion of sustainable pastoralism is of the utmost importance. As your Excellency is aware, the United Nations (UN) International Years are declared by the United Nations General Assembly upon recommendation of a UN Agency.

Proposals for International Years need to be presented at the relevant technical committee, which in this case is the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), for discussion and subsequent submission to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Council. If approved by the Council, the proposal would then be submitted to the FAO Conference for endorsement. Thereafter, the FAO Director-General would submit the request to the UN Secretary-General for deliberation at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Upon proclamation by the UN, the designated agency would be mandated to facilitate the implementation of the International Year in collaboration with member countries and other relevant stakeholders, including research institutes, academia, civil society and the private sector.

./.

His Excellency
Batzorig Batjargal
Minister for Food, Agriculture and
Light Industry
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and
Light Industry
Ulaanbaatar

cc: His Excellency
Tsogtbaatar Damdin
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ulaanbaatar

His Excellency
Tserendorj Jambaldorj
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mongolia to FAO
Embassy of Mongolia
Rome

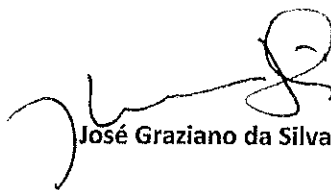
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy

Email: Director-General@fao.org
Internet: www.fao.org
Telephone: (+39) 06 570 53433
Fax: (+39) 06 570 53152

Please find attached, for your ease of reference, the policy of the UN and FAO, regarding the proclamation of International Years.


The Organization would be pleased to provide any further information you may require on the subject.

Accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.



José Graziano da Silva

March 2013

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединённых Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
---	--	--------------------	---	---	---	--

E

CONFERENCE

Thirty-eighth Session

Rome, 15-22 June 2013

FAO Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years

Extract from the Report of the 144th Session of Council (11-15 June 2012)

40. The Council approved the draft Policy on the Proclamation and Celebration of International Years as proposed in document CL 144/13, "FAO Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years", and reproduced [below].

FAO Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years

Criteria for selection of themes

- 1) A subject proposed for an International Year should be consistent with the purposes and principles listed in the main constitutional instruments of concerned UN system entities (i.e. the United Nations Charter, the FAO Constitution, etc).
- 2) The International Year should address a priority concern to all, or the majority of countries, and should contribute to the development of international cooperation in solving global problems, in particular those affecting developing countries.
- 3) The International Year, if endorsed, should involve concrete action at the international and national levels and should be expected to generate significant follow-up at both levels in the form of new activities or the strengthening of existing ones.
- 4) There should be an interval of at least two years between two International Years, and a longer interval between years concerning similar subjects. The Conference will not call for the proclamation of more than one International Year at a time.
- 5) The proclamation of an International Year should be considered only when celebrations of shorter duration (a month, week or day) would not suffice.
- 6) An International Year should not be proclaimed when a World Conference has been convened separately on the same subject, or when a subject is already of wide international concern and effective programmes exist to further its ends.

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
a FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



mg104e

Procedures to be followed and other requisites

- 1) Adequate time should be allowed for full consultations, including the fact that a final decision on a proposal is taken by the United Nations General Assembly not earlier than one full year after the introduction of the proposal in order to take into account the views expressed by Members, and to allow a thorough assessment of the proposal by the competent organs.
- 2) In general, there should be a period of two years between the proclamation and the beginning of an International Year.
- 3) An International Year will not be proclaimed unless full financing (which in principle should be based on voluntary contributions) and all organizational arrangements are confirmed.
- 4) There should be effective coordination of the activities of United Nations organizations and bodies concerned so as to build on inherent synergies and avoid duplication.
- 5) Each International Year should have objectives that are likely to lead to identifiable and practical results.
- 6) Arrangements for evaluation should be established in the preparatory phase and form part of the implementation of, and follow-up, to each International Year.



**MINISTER
FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND
LIGHT INDUSTRY OF MONGOLIA**

13381 Zasgiin gazriin IX bair,
Enkhtaivnii urgun chuluu 16a, Bayanzurkh duureg,
Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA
Tel: (976-51) 26 22 71, Fax: (976-11) 45 25 54,
E-mail: mofa@mofa.gov.mn, <http://www.mofa.gov.mn>

Date 18 July 2018
Ref. 01/2684

TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
JOSÉ GRAZIANO DA SILVA,
FAO, ROME, ITALY

Dear Mr José Graziano da Silva,

The Government of Mongolia presents its sincere greetings to you and your esteemed office of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The Government of Mongolia, hereby represented by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, has the honour of making a request to FAO to request the United Nations to designate an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Livestock supports the livelihoods of the majority of rural people in Mongolia and performs multiple functions in the rural household economy. Seventy four percentages /112.7 thousand ha/ of the land area is covered by grassland, giving home to about 66.2 million animals including horses, cattle, sheep, goats and camels. One third of the country's population depends on livestock production, which contributes more than 14 percent of the country's GDP. The Government of Mongolia considers the livestock sector to be a priority area of development and economic growth.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an opportunity to work both nationally and globally towards sustainable pastoralism as highlighted in the UNEA-2 Resolution L 2/24 Combating Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought and Promoting Sustainable Pastoralism and Rangelands passed in May 2016.

The designation of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists would offer an opportunity to embrace the requests made in the Resolution L2/24 and to raise the profile and support for rangelands and pastoral issues globally and nationally.

Our Ministry appeals for your assistance in taking this request forward.

I look forward to receiving your positive response.

B.BATZORIG

MINISTER



His Excellency Batzorig Batjarjal

Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Light Industry

batzorig@mofa.gov.mn

29th June 2018

Re: Letter of request to FAO for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

The Committee for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists is honoured to send its greetings to the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia.

In follow-up to our recent email, we write in relation to the interest shown by the Mongolian government to take forward a request to FAO to support the call for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. This request is now urgent in order to ensure that a call for the Year is tabled within FAO discussions that will take place in September.

We appreciate the importance that rangelands and pastoralism play in the Mongolian economy, not least reflected in the recent hosting of the Global Alliance for Sustainable Livestock meeting. If Mongolia were to take the lead in making the request for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, the country would gain worldwide recognition in this regard. Other countries such as Australia and Kenya have shown willingness to support such a request.

We have attached a draft letter that could be delivered to the FAO delegation in Mongolia or to FAO headquarters in Rome through your Embassy or delegation there. We have also attached a brief on the International Year for your information. If you would like more information, then please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. James O'Rourke

Chair of Committee for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

Email: jorourke@csc.edu

Cc:

Vice Minister Mrs SAULYE Janimkhan (email saule.j@mofa.gov.mn)

NARANCHULUUN Gelegjamts, Senior Office of Livestock Policy Implementation and Coordination Department (email: narachuluun31@yahoo.com).