



UN MEMBER COUNTRIES

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

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Your Excellency,

I am writing this letter to draw your kind attention and support to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists initiated by the Government of Mongolia.

Globally, more than 500 million people practice pastoralism, occupying as much as 75 percent of our planet's land surface. Pastoralists, throughout the world, practice animal husbandry that has evolved and developed over hundreds of years and provide a variety of sustainable ecosystem services, acting as the natural users and stewards of the environment. Moreover, they are preserving nomadic cultural heritage throughout the world. Pastoralism remains the way of life for diverse groups of people all over the world, including Eurasian steppes, Africa, South America, Australia and the Tibetan plateau.

Scientists and experts are providing us with hard evidence of the impact of recent global scale trends, such as climate change, rapid urbanization and expansion of crop agriculture on pastoralists' livelihoods and their way of life, which had been kept for hundreds of years, if not thousands. Due to the climate change pastoralist communities are facing increasing vulnerability which will not only affect those people but also will have wide range of negative impacts including hunger, poverty, and environmental sustainability.

More than two decades of research has provided evidence to support pastoralism as a viable and vital tool for large-scale conservation and ecosystem management. Numerous national and international meetings and consultations in the recent past have also brought to the fore the need to safeguard the unique culture and lifestyle of pastoralists. As a result of these consultations, it was agreed to proclaim the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists would be the most wide-ranging and effective way to increase awareness on the contribution of pastoralism on food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and ecological diversity and sustainability, and to increase the level of investments from international development organizations.

The Government of Mongolia is fully committed to this international initiative and submitted its proposal to declare the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, by combining proposals from relevant international organizations, governmental and non-governmental agencies, private sector, individuals, herders and experts, to the Secretariat Office of the Agriculture Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The draft initiative was developed with Sustainable Development Goals 2030 at its core.

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My Government would like to propose the year 2026 to be proclaimed as the International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists by the United Nations General Assembly, and we attaches utmost importance to receive support from other countries. This is an initiative of global importance and requires collective action to ensure food security and livelihoods of millions of people around the world.

The Government of Mongolia is seeking the valuable support of the Government of San Marino as an important partner country to have this proposal discussed and approved by the Committee on Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and subsequently by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The draft initiative proposal is hereby attached for your consideration.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



ULAAN CHULTEM

HIS EXCELLENCY
AUGUSTO MICHELOTTI
MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND ENVIRONMENT,
AGRICULTURE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS,
CIVIL PROTECTION AND RELATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS,
STATE CORPORATION WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

San Marino