

# **Process for Proposing Non-State Members for the Official FAO IYRP 2026 Steering Committee**

## **Background**

On 15 March 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 76/253, proclaiming 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). The resolution invited the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to facilitate the implementation of the IYRP and to report back to the General Assembly on its progress, including an evaluation of its implementation.

In alignment with this mandate, FAO will establish an official Secretariat (comprised of representatives from different FAO technical divisions) and an official Steering Committee to oversee and guide the IYRP's implementation. The working language of the Steering Committee will be English.

While the composition, mandate and functions of the Steering Committee require official endorsement by FAO's Secretariat, it is expected that the committee will include:

- 7 representatives from FAO Member States
- 7 representatives from non-state entities, covering the following categories:
  - 1 representative from international and resource organizations
  - 1 representative from academia and research institutions
  - 2 representatives from civil society organizations
  - 2 representatives from producer organizations (pastoralists)
  - 1 representative from the private sector

## **Mandate of the Steering Committee (to be endorsed)**

The Steering Committee will be responsible for:

- guiding the development and implementation of the IYRP Global Action Plan;
- stimulating dialogue with partners;
- helping mobilize political and financial support for the IYRP; and
- monitoring progress and providing feedback on IYRP implementation.

## **Functions of the Steering Committee (to be endorsed)**

The Steering Committee will:

- Provide guidance on the scope and key messages of IYRP;
- Approve the IYRP Global Action Plan;
- Monitor the implementation of the IYRP Global Action Plan, convene and give feedback and propose periodic updates at country and regional levels;
- Propose actions and promote cooperation between different stakeholders;
- Inform, convey and stimulate dialogue with partners;
- Provide guidance and actively collaborate in the mobilization of financial support for the implementation of the IYRP;
- Provide advice on main advocacy tools developed for the IYRP;
- Carry out communication activities to support the year, such as events, social media promotion and dedicated webpages;
- Oversee the production of a reference document and IYRP implementation report; and
- Involve other UN bodies, the Rio Conventions, international and regional institutions, and related stakeholders in the IYRP celebrations.

The Steering Committee is expected to meet in a hybrid modality monthly during 2025 and at least bimonthly throughout 2026.

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## **The Nomination and Election Process**

The IYRP Global Alliance—a coalition of approximately 375 pastoralist and supporting organizations worldwide—will propose nominees to FAO for the non-state member categories of the Steering Committee. However, the final decision and endorsement of non-state members will be made by FAO, with the possibility of including members not proposed by the Global Alliance.

To ensure a democratic and transparent process, the Global Alliance will:

1. Collect (self-)nominations through an open and inclusive process.
2. Facilitate a voting process for all IYRP Global Alliance members listed in the mailing group of the International Support Group.
3. Submit the final list of selected nominees to FAO for consideration and, hopefully, official endorsement.

## **Nomination Guidelines**

- For each non-state member seat, two nominees will be proposed to FAO.
- For pastoralists and civil society representatives, up to 3-4 nominations per category will be considered, as there are two seats available in these categories.

- Preference will be given to nominees from institutions/organizations that have submitted a letter of support for IYRP 2026 to the Government of Mongolia.

### **Submission Requirements**

To confirm their (self-)nomination, candidates must send an email to the Global Secretariat of the IYRP Global Alliance at [globalsecretariat@iyrp.groups.io](mailto:globalsecretariat@iyrp.groups.io) by **17 March 2025**, including:

1. A brief biography outlining their background and relevant experience.
2. A written statement explaining:
  - What they and their affiliated institution/network/community would bring to the Steering Committee
  - How their participation would contribute to the goals of IYRP 2026
  - The statement must be signed by the nominee and endorsed by their affiliated institution/network/community

### **Voting Process**

Once nominees are confirmed, the IYRP Global Alliance will hold an online voting poll, allowing all its members to vote for their preferred candidates in each category.

- Voting will be anonymous to ensure fairness.
- IP addresses will be cross-checked to prevent duplicate voting.
- A final report on the election results will be published, including the total votes received by each candidate.
- The winning nominees will be officially proposed to FAO as the non-state members of the IYRP 2026 Steering Committee.

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### **Eligibility Criteria for Non-State Members**

#### **General Criteria for All (Self-)Nominees**

- 1. Commitment to Conservation and Sustainable Management of Rangelands and Pastoralism**
  - Proven experience, expertise or advocacy related to these fields.
- 2. Regional Representation**
  - Geographic diversity, where possible, will be considered in the selection process.
- 3. Gender Balance**

- While gender balance is important across all representatives, at least one of the two pastoralist representatives must be a female pastoralist.

#### **4. Active Engagement**

- Willingness, ability and commitment to actively participate in Steering Committee discussions, initiatives and tasks.

#### **5. Institutional Endorsement**

- Nominees should have full support and commitment from their affiliated institution, network or community.

#### **6. Collaborative Approach**

- Readiness to work in a multi-stakeholder environment, ensuring inclusivity, participatory decision-making and respect for diverse perspectives.

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### **Category-Specific Criteria**

#### **1. Representative from International Organizations**

- Affiliated with an international organization focusing on rangelands and pastoralism, preferably related to food systems, climate resilience and environment/biodiversity.
- Proven track record in policy support, research and global-level initiatives.
- Familiarity with the UN policy landscape (e.g., FAO, CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CMS).

#### **2. Representative from Academia and Research Institutions**

- Academic or researcher specializing in rangelands and pastoralism, preferably related to socio-ecological systems and/or land tenure.
- Contributions to scientific research, policy papers or applied research, preferably transdisciplinary.
- Experience bridging research and policy to inform sustainable rangeland management.

#### **3-4. Representatives from Civil Society Organizations (2 seats)**

- Affiliated with a nongovernmental organization (NGO), network or advocacy group supporting pastoralists' rights and land governance, preferably related to climate adaptation and environment/biodiversity.
- Experience in implementing programs and global advocacy.
- Representation from different geographical regions, with at least one representative from a developing country.

#### **5-6. Representatives from Pastoralist Organizations (2 seats)**

- Must be a practising pastoralist, preferably one that represents a pastoralist-led organization.
- At least one of the two seats must be filled by a female pastoralist.
- Strong advocacy experience and engagement in policy frameworks affecting pastoralists.
- Representation from different geographical regions, with at least one representative from a developing country.

#### **7. Representative from the Private Sector**

- Affiliated with a private-sector entity in rangelands, pastoralist economies, sustainable grazing, livestock markets or climate finance.
- Demonstrated commitment to sustainability and fair trade.
- Preferably engaged in public-private partnerships supporting pastoralist communities.

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#### **Additional Selection Considerations**

- **Language and Communication Skills** – Fluency in English and ability and commitment to actively contribute to Steering Committee meetings.
- **Digital Competency** – Good knowledge of and access to online communication tools for effective participation.
- **Commitment to Participation** – Strong willingness and commitment to attend and engage in regular meetings.
- **Network and Influence** – Capacity to mobilize broader networks within their sector.