**DRAFT – NEEDS EDITING**

**IYRP Support Group Conference Call – June 20, 2019**

Attending: Maryam, Ann, Hijaba, David, Barb, Fiona, Jim, Sheila (Engin and Tezera sent regrets)

AGENDA with notes(send reminder before next call & include a list of various time zones – 13:00 GMT)

1. **Mongolia Proposal to COAG, supporting letters and meeting**
* 21 support letters so far
* Mongolia is waiting to submit; unclear if they are on agenda
	+ Discussion on deadline for submission; according to Gregorio the government needs to wait until prompted
		- This may happen during 23-24/28? June FAO meeting through the COAG technical committee (this meeting will be developing the agenda for COAG and including the request to discuss the International Year).
	+ Unclear if Mongolia needs to be represented at this meeting – question for Gregorio.
	+ Suggestion to contact Mongolian ambassador in Rome (Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Foreign Affairs) via phone to be updated and ask him to raise this issue (that a proposal is being developed).
		- Issue with summer vacation time conflicts.
	+ When a proposal is first submitted, it can be submitted by one country and after the official submission other counties can sign on. So, due to summer hours, perhaps it would be better for Mongolia to submit on its own.
		- Mongolia has decided it would be stronger to have counties join at beginning. There does not appear to be a clear submission date.
		- Hijaba requested contacts and email addresses for Australia, Spain, Iran, Ethiopia, and Argentina.
		- David (Australia – Minister of Ag), Fiona (Ethiopia – Minister of Livestock), Pablo (Spain), Susana (Argentina), and Hussain (Iran) will provide email contacts to Hijaba so Mongolia can contact them.
			* Will wait to hear back from the 5 counties before submitting.
			* Hijaba will check with his officials to see if ready to move forward.
			* Fiona will contact Gregorio for answers.
	+ Questions we need answered by Gregorio (Fiona will try to contact Gregorio and/or Badi to determine deadlines).
		- We understand there is a technical meeting at FAO starting June 23rd.  Is this the meeting that will set the agenda for COAG 2020?
		- And, if so, is there a need for Mongolia to participate in this meeting?  (For instance, do they need to formally ask for their proposal to be on the COAG 2020 agenda)?
		- Finally, what is the deadline for Mongolia (and its supporting countries) to submit the full proposal along with the 22+ letters of support?  We understood it to be sometime in July.  Is that correct?
1. **Global Landscape Forum (GLF) & UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration**
* Fiona has been offered space on panel to raise rangelands issues in a side meeting at the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration that will start in 2021.
* There will be a pre-planning meeting for the Decade at the end of September.
* Fiona is hoping to have Mongolia at meeting, but visa did not come through so Fiona will present. However, Fiona will try for virtual presentation from Mongolia, but not sure about time and other panelists.
	+ Important to ensure that rangelands receive attention in planning for the Decade. Rangelands/drylands are one of the ecosystems they will be talking about.
	+ This is bigger than the IYRP, but it will be mentioned and given as much attention as possible.
	+ Fiona will find out about the structure of the meeting and who will cover rangelands; will make sure the IYRP is synchronized with the International Decade.
	+ The GLF seems to be playing a key role in the Decade which is led by UNEP but the GLF has definitely found a place within that.
	+ There will be funding raised around the Decade and the GLF; an important starting point..
	+ Jonathan and Abdelkadar may be involved.
	+ Need to be more organized – Fiona will try to find out more information such as identify funding to get Dr. Beckman there, apply for visas EARLY etc.
1. **ToRs for IYRP Support Group**
* Suggestion that we request the group give us written comments on the revised terms of reference and if nothing is heard within 2 weeks that we consider the terms accepted. The participants group agreed on adopting this strategy.
1. **Upcoming Events**
* Fiona is putting in a proposal to UNEA, UNCCD
	+ not sure about accreditation rules (NGOs); needs to be in by Monday.
	+ ILC is a member and can submit.
	+ FAO is also putting in for a side event as well as others.
	+ There will be many spaces for IYRP to be raised.
	+ Fiona to send to Ann to see if they (AGRECOL) can submit.
	+ Best to mention partnerships in the submission.
	+ Use reps who will already be there.
	+ Good to have a partnership mentioned on the request form, so if it helps you could put AGRECOL as a partner
	+ Will try to have a ministerial meeting but haven’t contacted the ministers yet. Would anticipate involvement of Mongolia representative there.
		- Mongolia does not know who will attend yet.
* UNCCD Engagement
	+ Find an agenda item where a proposal for an IYRP could be made so there will be official request for UNCCD endorsement of an international year.
	+ Important that we make this connection with UNCCD. We don’t have an official connection yet, so please consider what we must do.
	+ Exec. Dir. of UNCCD is known by Maryam and she will contact to find out options and ask advice.
	+ Accreditation is separate in UNCCD than UNEP.
	+ IFAD or AGRICOL – need to coordinate; need copy of proposal when ready.
1. **Decade of Family Farming (follow-up to launch)**
* Fiona was at the launch.
* Ann has official report, strategy etc. and can share these with anyone who expresses interest.
* Early on there were a few people who were interested in pastoralists but not sure after the launch.
* Fiona says pastoralism is in the mix of issues for the Decade of Family Farming. Just need to keep on going with it whenever there is an opportunity. Gregorio brought pastoralist representatives who participated in different parts of the launch.
* Is there a proposal on what the Decade will cover…any papers?
	+ Ann will follow-up and find out what is happening next.
	+ Will draw people’s attention to opportunities to continue engagement.
	+ Countries are mobilizing; agencies did official launch.
	+ Fiona will keep track of it from the Rome side.
1. **Other items for discussion?**
	* Priority is that we need answers from FAO about submission to COAG and deadlines.
		+ Suggest that Jim write directly to Badi.
		+ Fiona will call Gregorio.
	* Committee for Food Security
		+ (deadline is Monday, but meeting is in October); there is a focus on livestock.
		+ Different organizations have been putting in proposals for side events
			- FAO for pastoralism
			- GASL-ILRI-IFAD will put in one on livestock.
			- Hopefully one will be chosen & then possibly the two could go together.

Meeting Adjourned – approximately 14:30 GMT

Response from Gregorio (in an email dated 6/26/2019):

1. Next week, from tomorrow until next Friday, FAO will have its governance Conference where a new Director General will be elected.  All countries will be in attendance. During this meeting, for sure Mongolia is participating, decisions taken during Council and Technical Committees will be endorsed. After this endorsement Mongolia can submit the proposal together with the support letters as per its own convenience, no specific deadline about it. COAG’s agenda is being prepared by COAG Bureau, which is composed by countries representing regions and the COAG secretariat.
2. This week is FAO conference ongoing (the highest governance body of the agency) which will ratify Technical Committees and Council report and agreements. (COAG is one of the Technical Committees). Among those agreements will be the discussion point about the IYRP for the next COAG agenda.
3. I was recently informed about the need to send to COAG email address the official communications made between the government of Mongolia and FAO together with relevant documents or information related to the IYRP.