

Resolution on a United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, 2020

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that healthy grassland and rangeland ecosystems are vital for contributing to economic growth, resilient livelihoods and the sustainable development of pastoralism; regulating the flow of water maintaining soil stability and biodiversity; and supporting carbon sequestration, tourism, and other ecosystem goods and services, as well as distinct lifestyles and cultures,

Aware that a significant proportion of the earth's terrestrial surface is classified as rangeland and grassland, that these biomes dominate land cover in dryland countries and countries affected by desertification, that a significant number of pastoralists in the world inhabit rangelands and grasslands, and that pastoralism is globally practiced in many different forms,

Recognizing that pastoralism is a dynamic and transformative system linked to the diverse cultures, identities, traditional knowledge, historical experience of coexisting with nature, and distinct way of life of indigenous peoples and local communities across the globe,

Also recognizing that rangelands and pastoralists, having contributed to enhancing and maintaining biodiversity, food security and sustainable management of rangelands, face urgent and different challenges around the world, including: widespread land degradation, loss of biodiversity, increasing vulnerability to climate change; land tenure insecurity; insufficient investment; inequitable development; inadequate levels of literacy; lack of adequate and relevant technology, infrastructure and access to markets; unsustainable changes in the use of land and natural resources; forced migration from and abandonment of rangelands; limited access to social and extension services; and faced with insecurity of both the pastoralists and the communities through which they traverse,

Acknowledging that efforts aimed at achieving sustainable rangelands and pastoralism need to be rapidly up-scaled so as to make significant impact in achieving all Sustainable Development Goals in drylands and mountainous areas; and that an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism would help to promote the necessary attention and investment required for such urgent change,

Noting that urgent and appropriate legal protection is needed of collective and individual land and nature resources, in order to manage grazing areas, wildlife, water sources and livestock movement, risk an resilience, and to enable land use planning and ecosystem management by pastoralists and relevant public entities,

Also noting that well-developed and fair production value chains that can help provide equitable economic opportunities and end extreme poverty among many pastoralists, will require the development of appropriate market infrastructure, information and communication channels; value-addition and niche businesses built on sustainable and healthy livestock products; appropriate regulatory health and trade regulations; certification systems and payments for environmental services; and an enabling environment providing for multiple use of land (livestock, conservation, tourism, mining, renewable energy, etc.),

Recognizing the significant contributions being made by the scientific community, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples organizations, pastoralist associations, and other relevant civil society actors; including innovative approaches towards achieving sustainability,

Further recognizing the relevance of sustainable rangelands and pastoralism to several subprograms and thematic areas of the United Nations, including the Food and Agricultural Organizations, the United Nations Environment Program, and International Fund for Agricultural Development, and acknowledging their collaborative efforts with intergovernmental and civil-society partners,

1. *Decides* to declare 2020 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists so as to raise global awareness of these resources.
 2. *Reaffirms* Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years;
 3. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, mindful of provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to assist in facilitating the implementation of the Year in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and all other relevant stakeholders;
 4. *Invites* the scientific community and civil society to actively participate in implementation of the Year in collaboration with the United Nations and governments, in particular through new and innovative research, knowledge generation, monitoring and assessments, to be disseminated through relevant global congresses, assemblies, social media and business community;
 5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a focused and concise report, bearing in mind paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, on activities resulting from the implementation of the present resolution, which elaborates on, inter alia, the evaluation of the Year;
 6. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Assembly to keep the General Assembly informed of progress in this regard;
 7. *Stresses* that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution above and beyond activities currently within the mandate of the lead agency should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;
 8. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions and to provide other forms of support to the Year.
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