



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

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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