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KENYA EMBASSY - ROME

The Embassy of the Republic of Kenya presents its compliments to All Diplomatic Missions based in Rome and has the honour to request for support for a Kenyan sponsored *draft resolution on a United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, 2020* for possible adoption at the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Nearly half of the earth's land surface is classified as rangeland. Rangelands are natural grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, wetlands, and deserts that are grazed by domestic livestock or wild animals. Pastoralists are people who raise livestock or wild animals on rangelands. The health and productivity of these lands are directly critical to the livelihoods and cultures of more than 500 million people around the world. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, 25 million pastoralists and 240 million agro-pastoralists depend on livestock as their primary source of income.

Given changing climatic conditions, legal rulings on land ownership, public health concerns on livestock consumption, economic uncertainties for pastoralists, increasing conflicts associated with drought, and controversies over land use, there is an urgent need to increase public awareness of the need to restore, maintain, manage, and make informed decisions about these landscapes and livelihoods.

Addressing these complex issues will require a concerted and integrated approach involving many sectors by many stakeholders.

The international campaign to designate year 2020 as the International Year of the Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) is therefore aimed at increased understanding of the importance of these lands to global food security and environmental services and call attention to the need for sustainable management and enlightened policies.

Furthermore, an IYRP can enhance governments' awareness and capacities for the delivering on the Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) and other global development and environmental goals in rangeland areas.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the draft resolution.

The Embassy of the Republic of Kenya avails itself of this opportunity to renew to All Diplomatic Missions based in Rome the assurances of its highest consideration.

2nd May, 2017

All Diplomatic Missions
ROME.

