**Joint Meeting: Mongolian National Support Group (NSG) and IYRP Support Group (ISG) for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)**

**9 September 2020**

**Summary notes**

*Participants: Gregorio Velasco-Gil (FAO); Serena Ferrari (FAO/PKH); Hijaba Ykhanbai, Tungalag Ulambayar (Mongolia); Engin Yilmaz (Turkey); Ruijun Long (China); Rikke Olivera (IFAD); Iain Wright (ILRI); Hossein Badripour (Iran); Barry Irving (Canada); Dana Kelly, David Phelps (Australia); Mounir Louhaichi (ICARDA); Ann Waters-Bayer (CELEP); Chris Magero (IUCN); Kathrine Johnsen (Norway); Elisabeth Huber-Sannwald (Mexico); Anthony Palmer, Debbie Jewitt (South Africa); Pablo Manzano (U Helsinki); Fernando Garcia-Dory (ESN); Greg Perrier, Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Barbara Hutchinson (USA); Erkin Kazbai Y (JASIL staff member for Zoom).*

**Upcoming deadlines:**

* For mention in the “Introductory Note” to COAG, please send your letters of support/ commitment by Friday 11 September 2020!   
  NOTE: Letter can be in any of the UN languages; ***most important*** ***are support letters from Governments!***
* Please submit website materials to Ann and Barbara by Monday 14 September 2020!
* Website launch target – 21 September 2020
  + Focus on contacting Ambassadors in Rome to “attend” the launch
  + Everyone to use social media outlets and email lists to announce the website
* Additional letters of support can be sent by Sunday 27 Sept 2020
* COAG meeting: 28 September–2 October 2020

**Website materials needed – deadline: 14 September**

* Brief testimonials (personal story and why an IYRP is important), 45–90 seconds
* Feature topical videos on pastoralists and rangelands from countries and regions, 3–10 minutes
* Illustrative photos with name of photographer
* High-definition logos of organisations to be listed as supporters of Mongolian IYRP proposal
* Email all ***North American*** materials ***to Barbara*** [barbarah@cals.arizona.edu]
* Email materials ***from all other regions to Ann*** [waters-bayer@web.de]

**Meeting discussion**

Gregorio reported that some of the COAG work will be handled in the online meeting and some by email. The online meeting goes over 3 days of discussions. It is not yet clear how voting will be done.

Five minutes have been requested for the Mongolian Minister to speak about the importance of the IYRP proposal. Topics for presentation might include: commitment for implementation now until 2026; mention of a specific level of allocation of funds and all letters of support and commitment.

Gregorio is working on an “Introductory Note” document that will include a paragraph about the letters of support received by this Friday. Further letters after this date could be brought to the delegates’ attention up to 27 September.

Further letters that may come include: IUCN, 3 civil-society organisations in Iran, other West African countries, Australia, China (Forestry & Grasslands Administration), France, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Norway and Turkey. The Italian Foundation for Recognition of Transhumance is pushing for a letter from the Italian Government. On the promotional website (see below) will be a video testimonial from a French Member of the European Parliament.

Gregorio stressed that all efforts are welcome, including letters of support from NGOs, but government support is most needed.

The Mongolian Ambassador in Rome could have Zoom chats with leaders of regional blocks to promote the IYRP proposal before the COAG meeting. After this meeting, the proposal will have to go to the UN in New York for a final decision.

**IYRP “online booth” for COAG**

On the opening page will be an introductory 2-minute video being prepared by a German filmmaker with CELEP support. He is using also Mongolian footage. Then there will be a video from a Mongolian Minister talking about the IYRP proposal. See above for description of materials sought. More content is still needed from South America. The testimonials on the regional webpages will be important, especially from women. The website will highlight commitments of countries and organisations. In the website tagline, it will be made clear that it is not the “official” website for the IYRP but rather a temporary “online booth” to promote the Mongolian proposal for an IYRP.

To make sure that the COAG delegates see the online booth, we will encourage Ambassadors from countries that have submitted letters of support to “spread the word”. The Mongolian Ambassador could make a virtual invite to the website launch to all other Ambassadors via the COAG Internet platform. The website team (Munkhnasan, Mandakh, Koen, Barbara & Ann) will discuss with Engin how the launch can be most effectively done, using social media (Facebook, Twitter) and listservs.

**Welcome to Fernando and WAMIP as a new member of the ISG!**

Fernando, coordinator of the European Shepherds Network (ESN) and member of the WAMIP Steering Committee, spoke about the history of the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples and Pastoralists (WAMIP, [wamipglobal.com](http://wamipglobal.com/)). This international movement of pastoralist organisations works on a voluntary basis and has no-one to assist with communication matters. It is therefore sometimes is difficult to follow all the international discussions in which the mobile pastoralists feel they should be present. They are trying to understand issues around the IYRP and to integrate the IYRP with their own work.

WAMIP thanks this group for campaigning for the Year. It wants to ensure that pastoralist grassroots organisations are at the centre of the analysis and proposals. At WAMIP’s next monthly meeting, they will discuss how to organise their representation in this campaign and how the IYRP could translate into effective actions in the local contexts. Considering the risks of being in a process that may end up being solely in the hands of governments and the UN bureaucracy, they suggest that – even before an IYRP is designated – it should be ensured that the grassroots pastoralist movement has a position in the steering mechanisms. How this could be presented to the COAG?

To strengthen the pastoralist movement, WAMIP requests this group to consider a simple yet significant proposal: why not change the order of the words and propose to the UN that it adopt an International Year of Pastoralists and Rangelands?

**Next joint meeting of the NSG and ISG**

Around 21 September 2020, when the IYRP “online booth” (website) will be launched.