



8.9.2020

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter concerning the proposal of declaring the Year 2026 as The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. I very much agree with you that natural and cultural values of rangelands and pastoral livelihood systems deserves more attention in their role of supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. Their role in combating against the climate change and loss of biodiversity is also of utmost importance.

Finland finds the International Years of the United Nations as a useful concept, especially in raising awareness of subjects, which normally do not get enough attention. As you may know, The International Year of Plant Health IYPH2020 that we are currently celebrating is an initiative of Finland. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has hampered or delayed many events of the IYPH2020.

I find the reasoning for your proposal of The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists well argued, and I agree that it is an initiative of global importance. In that sense, Finland will be positively inclined to the proposal. However, as a member of the European Union, Finland will coordinate the matter with all member states of the EU and we will discuss it in our preparations for the forthcoming Committee on Agriculture of the FAO.

I wish you the best success for your esteemed proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

Jari Leppä
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry