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SUBMISSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS BY THE MONGOLIAN GOVERNMENT.

The Government of the Republic of Uganda wishes to submit its support to the esteemed office of the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations to the bidding request by the Mongolian Government for the International Year of the Rangelands and Pastoralists of 2020.

Uganda believes that the designation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists will provide an opportunity to bring to the development agenda of rangelands and pastoralism issues, nationally, regionally and globally for food security, peace, environmental conservation and improved livelihoods.

Uganda's rangelands occupy half the Country's total land area, and stretch along a diagonal belt from the South West to the North East borders known as Uganda Cattle Corridor. Rangelands are a vital arid to semi-arid but fragile ecosystem endowed with grazing pastures, wetlands, forests, arable land, and water bodies that support numerous pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods and other users who exploit the region's wildlife, woodlands, medicinal plants, minerals, scenic landscapes, water shades, oil and petroleum reserves. Pastoralists hold 80% of the national livestock herd including 90% of the cattle and are the source of 85% of the milk and 95% of meat consumed.,

The rangelands are however challenged by negative climate variability leading to persistent droughts, degradation, overgrazing, invasive species and conflicts over forage and water resources as well as livestock epidemics. Uganda has put in place a Rangelands and Pastoralism policy that has guided development interventions to improve the management of the rangelands and welfare of the pastoral communities.

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With this in mind we wish to support the Government of Mongolia's bid to designate the year of Rangelands and Pastoralism and will undertake resource mobilization to realize the goals and objectives of the Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism.



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