

Nogent-sur-Marne, February 22, 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

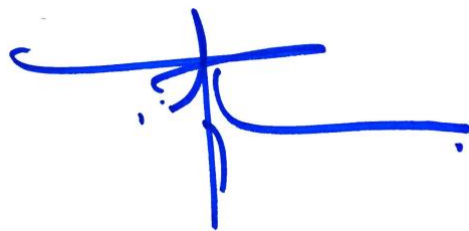
Through this letter we would like to express our support and commitment to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) proposed by the Government of Mongolia.

Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF) is an officially recognized non-profit association that works for international solidarity and that has been engaged in supporting smallholder farming since 1977. AVSF reaches out to smallholder communities threatened by exclusion and poverty, offering them professional skills in agriculture, livestock farming, and animal health. In this way, AVSF's work focuses on two complementary areas: supporting smallholder and family livestock farming and helping countries in the South efficiently organize a system for animal health and veterinary public health. Pastoralism is part of our agroecological approach: it uses fewer inputs, is less polluting than sedentary livestock farming, preserves natural resources better, fertilizes the soil, makes use of crop residues and is often highly productive. More details on our position paper [Smallholder livestock farming in the Global North and South](#)

As member of VSF International, AVSF joins efforts to support the inclusion of pastoralists in policy dialogue and the recognition of their rights at international level. In the field, we provide integrated services to remote pastoralist communities, contributing to strengthen their resilience towards the multiple challenges they face. With a strong commitment to support pastoralists' livelihood, AVSF would take active part in implementing the IYRP, in strict collaboration with pastoralist organizations and civil society.

An IYRP would increase our outreach in terms of awareness raising and advocacy, leading to policies and an enabling environment that can unleash the potentials of pastoral systems, and thus contribute to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we would be honored to join organizations that support the IYRP.

Please receive our sincere greetings,



Frédéric APOLLIN
Executive Director
f.apollin@avsf.org
(33) 01 43 94 72 04