



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Ref. No: ES-NBI/001/21

21st July 2021

H.E. Mr. Mendsaikhan Zagdjav
Minister of Food, Agriculture and
Light Industry (MoFALI) of Mongolia
13381 Governmental Building 9th, Peace Avenue 16a
Bayanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar
Mongolia

Your Excellency,

**SUBJECT: VOICE OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL OF INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS (IYRP)**

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of the Republic of Mongolia.

IGAD has been following the proposal made by the Government of Mongolia, through your good office, in order to declare 2026 as a UN International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). We also noted that the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference held on 14-18 June 2021, adopted the resolution, for presentation to the UN General Assembly in September 2021.

IGAD is an African Union Regional Economic Community (AU-REC) located in eastern Africa comprising of eight (8) member states namely Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. With a livestock population of over 530 heads of livestock against over 255 million persons, IGAD region holds the highest population of livestock in Africa, majority of which are kept in pastoral systems in vast rangelands of the region.

Pastoralists face a myriad of complexities and climate variability, yet pastoralism remains a powerful tool for sustaining and reviving economies. Recognizing and securing rangeland ecosystems and pastoralism as a way of life is a step forward in achieving sustainable development goals for the pastoral communities. In its efforts to appreciate and promote pastoral systems and sustainable use of rangelands in the region, IGAD established a specialized Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) in 2012, among others.

IGAD tenders its support to the resolution by the Government of Mongolia to declare 2026 as a UN International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). The IGAD Secretariat will be glad to give technical support towards sensitizing its Member States on the same.

IGAD takes this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of the Republic of Mongolia the assurance of its highest consideration.

Sincerely,



H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu
Executive Secretary