

Letter of support “ International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists”

The Spanish Platform for Extensive Livestock Farming and Pastoralism is an organization of a flexible and plural nature, that gather together up to three hundred people and organizations belonging to different sectors (shepherds, farmers and pastoralists, of course, but also researchers, public servants, nature conservation, culture and other fields of knowledge) under the common objective of supporting pastoralism and pastoralists. As an organization that studies and advocates for extensive livestock farming systems and rangelands, supporting people who keep them active, healthy, sustainable and productive,

We STATE that pastoralism, rangelands and pastoralists constitute a key piece of our society, our economy, our culture, our heritage and our landscape, they are key actors in the conservation of nature, land stewardship or the fight against desertification and climate change. They produce healthy, sustainable and high-quality food while supplying the whole society with a series of public goods and ecosystem services (fire prevention, conservation of biodiversity, habitats and landscapes, recovery and maintenance of public spaces such as cattle trails, etc.). Therefore, it is fair that our society recognizes, appreciates and celebrates these contributions and that it dedicates a special effort to ensure their future in optimal conditions.

Accordingly, the Spanish Platform for Extensive Livestock and Pastoralism :

SUPPORTS the Mongolian Government's proposal for the celebration of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026, which will be presented at the next meeting of the FAO Committee on Agriculture, to be held between 28th September and 2nd October, 2020 in Rome, and encourages its approval by FAO and its request to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

REQUESTS the government of Spain and its representatives at FAO and the United Nations to endorse this resolution and commit themselves to celebrating this international year, as well as to disseminate this support and spread it among their European counterparts, reaching a wide support for this proposal.

ENCOURAGES all organizations that participate in the Platform and other entities supporting extensive livestock farming, all ministries of agriculture and the environment of regional governments, other bodies of the administration with competences on the subject and the whole society to support this celebration, collaborate in its development and participate in the activities that will be organized, or organizing their own activities,

COMMITs, to the best of its ability, to participate in the organization of this international year and to work towards the fulfilment of its objectives.

What I sign as of 14th September, 2020

Signed. Idoia Sandoval,

President of the Association of the Platform for Extensive Livestock and Pastoralism