



Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

Dear Madams/Sirs,

Subject: Support to the request from the Government of the Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

Confédération paysanne, as Farmers Union, presents its sincere greetings to you and your esteemed office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Confédération paysanne, has the honour of writing in support of the request of the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

We believe that the designation of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists would provide an opportunity to raise the profile and support for rangelands and pastoral issues globally and nationally, improve understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by rangelands and pastoralists, and direct increased attention and resources to them. Indeed, pastoralism is practised on every continent, with a huge diversity but with common stakes, challenges and assets. Pastoralism is resilient to climate change and answer to various societal challenges.

In France, pastoralism is an economic and production activity and a source of employment in disadvantaged rural areas, contribute to prevent fires in dry areas and natural disasters by maintaining landscapes. Pastoralists are essential for the balance of our ecosystems. They are a key element for the climate challenge and the biodiversity conservation. For mountain and wetland areas, rangelands and pastoralists are indispensable. Pastoralists produce a diversified and good quality food, as being part of French gastronomy. Our cheeses develop their typicality thanks to the diversity of the plants grazed and the know-how of farmers and pastoralists. The link between culture and pastoralism is very strong in France and all over the world. Pastoralism keeps a unique and close relationship between humankind, animals and nature, but currently undergoes various major threats. That's why Confédération paysanne supports the proposal of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in order to gain recognition of those essential practices, locally and internationally.

With this in mind, please accept our support for the request of the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Yours sincerely,

Nicolas Girod, Confédération paysanne spokesman