

23 May 2019
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Support to the request from Government of the Mongolia
for an “**International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**”

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,

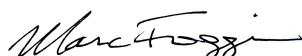
Plateau Perspectives presents its sincere greetings to you and your esteemed office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Plateau Perspectives is a non-governmental organization established in 1998, registered in Canada and Scotland, with development partnerships and projects in the rangelands and mountain regions of Western China and Central Asia. We also are a member of Mountain Partnership, with its Secretariat hosted by UN FAO.

We, Plateau Perspectives, are honoured to write in support of the request of the Government of Mongolia for an **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**. We believe that such designation would provide an opportunity to raise the global profile and to substantially increase support for rangelands and pastoral issues including biodiversity conservation and community development. Such a declaration would improve understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by rangelands and pastoralists, and would help direct increased attention and resources to them.

Across the enormous Tibetan Plateau region and the mountains and rangelands of Central Asia, pastoral livelihoods and traditional practices have long shaped local cultures, and in many ways have ‘co-created’ the grassland environments. Now, especially in light of climate change and loss of biodiversity, sustainable pastoral practices and ‘community conserved areas’ are beginning to be more recognized as valuable global assets for the protection of biodiversity, sequestration of carbon (in grasslands), and providing a diversity of livelihood options and maintaining livestock genetic diversity that constitute a safeguarding of human adaptation potential for responding to global changes. These should be further supported.

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,



Dr J Marc Foggin
Director, Plateau Perspectives