

Date: 1 June 2019

Ref: 1-1398

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
Email: fao-hq@fao.org

Dear Sirs/Madams,

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

The Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran (UNINOMAD) www.uninomad.org presents its sincere greetings to you and your esteemed office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

UNINOMAD, 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.

The Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran (UNINOMAD) is a tribal federation and an effective national platform with membership of various registered tribes and tribal confederacies of Iran. The UNINOMAD mandate is to preserve and sustain bio-cultural diversity of indigenous nomadic tribes of Iran and advocate for recognition of "Nomadic Tribes Territories" as ICCAs (Indigenous Community Conserved Areas), promoting the "Territory Based Sustainable Range Management" and their rights to govern their ancestral territories.

According to the head of the ONPI (Organization of Nomadic Pastoralists of Iran), "59 percent of the country's national territory, covered by nomadic tribes territories. Therefore, if we want to focus on environmental issues, we need to pay special attention to abilities and potentials of nomadic tribes in environmental issues and allocate Necessary financial resources to these communities and their territories". <http://ashayer.ir/index.aspx?pageid=126&newsview=814>

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,
Siavash Rostami
Chair of the Board

