

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International

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To the attention of:

**Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG)
of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

FAO-COAG@fao.org

Brussels, 23 September 2020

Re: Letter of support to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) proposed by the Government of Mongolia

Dear Sir/Madam,

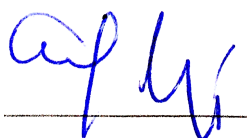
Through this letter we would like to express our support and commitment to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) proposed by the Government of Mongolia, which will be debated during the 27th session of COAG at the end of September.

VSF International is a network of 12 non-profit organisations working all over the world to support small-scale farmers, livestock keepers and local animal health and welfare initiatives. Through the implementation of our projects and programs, we serve the most vulnerable populations whose livelihoods depend on livestock, and we act collectively to support small-scale family farming, pastoralism, animal and human health, and a healthy environment.

As member of the FAO-led Pastoralist Knowledge Hub (PKH) initiative, and collaborating with the Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP), VSF International joins efforts to support the inclusion of pastoralists in policy dialogue and the recognition of their rights at international level. In the field, we provide integrated services to remote pastoralist communities, contributing to strengthen their resilience towards the multiple challenges they face. With a strong commitment to support pastoralists' livelihood, VSF International would take active part in implementing the IYRP, in strict collaboration with pastoralist organizations and civil society.

An IYRP would increase our outreach in terms of awareness raising and advocacy, leading to policies and an enabling environment that can unleash the potentials of pastoral systems, and thus contribute to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

VSF International therefore strongly supports the Government of Mongolia in its call for an IYRP and hopes that the FAO's Governing Bodies will adopt the resolution designating the IYRP at the COAG at the end of September 2020.



Giorgia Angeloni
President, VSF International