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

MISEREOR, would like to express its full commitment to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) proposed by the Government of Mongolia. We have been informed that a resolution in support of such a designation will be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at the end of September 2020. We therefore reiterate our support for the designation of an IYRP and commit ourselves to actively shaping the IYRP.

MISEREOR is a development organisation under the German's Catholic Bishops' conference based in Germany. Created in 1958, MISEREOR supports development initiatives of development agencies implemented by the Catholic Church and civil society organizations in 84 countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa that support the poor, the neglected and the marginalized irrespective of their religious convictions, ethnic background, nationality or sex. Pastoralists are supported in various countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Unfortunately, pastoralists worldwide are under threat mainly because of losing access to land and other strategic natural resources and because of undermining their mobility. Lack of knowledge and misconceptions about pastoralism contribute significantly negatively to pastoralists' development. Firstly, due to the fact that development often does not respond to pastoralists' priorities and needs, and secondly because in many cases development excludes pastoralists from development.

1/2

Vorstand:

Msgr. Pirmin Spiegel (Vorsitzender), Dr. Martin Bröckelmann-Simon, Thomas Antkowiak
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An International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists would offer a unique opportunity to widely discuss pastoralism in order to get to a better understanding and support change especially in regard to the manifold structural constraints pastoralists face.

IYRP could contribute to stimulate pastoralists' friendly policies and other framework conditions that can unleash the potentials of this large part of the globe and of the people who live there – and thus contribute to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MISEREOR therefore strongly supports the Government of Mongolia in its call for an IYRP and hopes that the United Nations will adopt the resolution designating the IYRP at the COAG at the end of September 2020. MISEREOR is committed to combining forces with like-minded organisations and coalitions in supporting the implementation of the IYRP.

With best regards

Dr Martin Bröckelmann-Simon
Managing Director of MISEREOR

