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**PASTORALIST FORUM ETHIOPIA**

Addis Ababa, 15 September 2020

Ref#: PFE 012/2020

From:

Tezera Getahun Tiruneh  
Executive Director  
Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE)  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

To the:

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  
Email: fao-hq@fao.org

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

We in the Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) send this letter to you as an expression of our 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.

PFE is a consortium of CSOs working with the pastoralists in Ethiopia. We collaborate to encourage our government, international communities and CSOs in Ethiopia to explicitly recognise and support pastoralism and pastoralists in the lowlands of Ethiopia. The Forum received a Certificate of Honor from the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives on 11th August 2011 for its outstanding performance in advocating for giving pastoralists a voice and promoting pastoral development.

PFE is closely working in partnership with the Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP) ([www.celep.info](http://www.celep.info)) to encourage national governments in Europe and Africa, the European Union, the African Union and other regional and international bodies to support pastoralism and pastoral development. We are very committed to form part of the international movement to support designation of the IYRP.

As a consortium focusing exclusively on pastoralism, PFE would take active part in implementing the IYRP. We have been popularizing the idea of an IYRP in Ethiopia using various fora and presented the whole essence of this initiative during *a conference on Pastoralism and Rangelands Restoration* that was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 18th and 20th of June 2019.

PFE is working with the broader CSOs in Ethiopia, which offers a great opportunity to popularize the IYRP across the country and at the IGAD regional level. PFE is a co-organizer of the popular event and process called the *Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD)* with the Judiciary organ and the Ministry of Peace (executive body) in Ethiopia. EPD has been celebrated for seventeen times at various sites in Ethiopia and influenced the perception and policy towards pastoralism since 2001. It offers a great platform for enhancing awareness on pastoralism and implementation of the newly enacted Pastoralist Policy and Strategy in Ethiopia for the betterment of pastoralism and the pastoral way of life.

These are just two good examples of the type of activities that PFE could contribute to the implementation of the IYRP and that would, at the same time, add significantly to PFE's goals in terms of advocacy, learning and communication on pastoralism in Ethiopia and the IGAD region. An IYRP would increase our outreach in terms of awareness raising and also in terms of the "openness" of policymakers to our requests. We envisage that an IYRP will lead to 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).

PFE 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. PFE is committed to combining forces with like-minded organizations and coalitions in supporting the implementation of the IYRP.

Best regards,



Tezera Getahun  
Executive Director  
Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE)