To,

The Committee of the Secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Subject: Letter of Support for the Mongolian Government’s call for the Declaration of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**

Dear friends,

Madhari Rural Action Group (MARAG) is a grassroots NGO working with Pastoralists, youth, women, children since 1994. This was the time, when pastoralists were not recognized as development actors and there was no other organisation working exclusively with them in India. The organization is co-founded by a pastoral. Since beginning, we are working with strong commitment to the holistic development of pastoralists, their cultural identity, traditional heritage and livelihoods, and rangelands.

With this letter we support the call for the declaration as it will give visibility and recognition to the pastorals, their identity and culture, give voice to Indian pastoralists, create awareness regarding the significance of the rangelands for pastorals’ livelihoods, and will be an initiative commitments of the civil society and the governments to restore the rangelands that will help to preserve the ecosystem and create bio-diversity.

We urge that the year of rangelands and pastorals will be declared soon for the sustenance of the environment and will be a significant achievement to address the issue of climate change.

Thanks and Regards

Dinesh Rabari

Director

MARAG