



15 May 2019, Ankara

**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](mailto:fao-hq@fao.org)**

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

Dear Madams/Sirs,

Yolda Initiative presents its sincere greetings to you and your esteemed office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Yolda Initiative, has the honour of writing in support of the request of the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Pastoralism, has endured across almost the entire world in one form or another for over 10'000 years mainly due to its social-ecological resilience with its key practises and institutions to adapt to external forces. Yet the threats of modern era they are facing are beyond their capability to maintain the same state which leads to abandonment of this lifestyle and calls for an urgent action.

Despite this need to conserve the practice and rangelands is among the most pressing needs at global level, it has not been paid attention enough by the global community. Acknowledging the recent endeavours, unfortunately the responses with its diversity local actors develop are mostly not enough recognised and consolidated with those limited number of global actions. This is one of the leading reasons why the knowledge we have of the multiple benefits the practise provides to both humankind and nature; its current situation at global level; the drivers of the threats and the gaps and needs that conservation efforts should address is still lacking and fragmented. It is also not easy to access the existing information by many of those who would need them most and the lack of efficient transfer of the existing knowledge leads to limited use for actions on the ground.

Accordingly we firmly 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Engin Yılmaz".

Engin Yılmaz  
Director