



**VSF Germany**  
Member of VSF International

VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES GERAMNY [VSF GERMANY]  
Marienstr. 19-20  
10117 Berlin

*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

Berlin, September 23rd 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 Germany is a non-profit organisation who implements projects and programs in the greater Horn of Africa in order to support small-scale farmers, livestock keepers and local animal health and welfare initiatives. Through our interventions we serve the most vulnerable populations whose livelihoods depend on livestock and 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 of the Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism [CELEP], VSF Germany supports 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 Germany 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 Germany 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.

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**Christian Griebenow**  
Managing Director, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany