11th April 2025

TO: H.E. Mr Bolorchuluun Khayangaa

Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI)

13381 Governmental Building 9th, Peace Avenue 16a,

Bayanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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**SUBJECT: EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISM (IYRP)**

Dear Your Excellency,

 Warm greetings from the Pastoral Communities Empowerment Programme (PACEP) in West Pokot County, Kenya. wish to extend our sincere congratulations to the Government of Mongolia for its visionary leadership in championing the declaration of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism (IYRP) 2026 by the United Nations. This global recognition is not only timely but essential in spotlighting the critical role that rangelands and pastoralism play in sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience in many practicing indigenous communities of the world.

 As an Indigenous-founded and led organization working closely with pastoral communities in Kenya—especially in Pokot County—Pastoral Communities Empowerment Programme( PACEP) is proud to express its full support and solidarity with Mongolia and the global pastoralist community in advancing the goals of the IYRP. We recognize that pastoralism, rooted in Indigenous knowledge systems and ancestral values, is a resilient and adaptive livelihood system that deserves global recognition and support.

 In Pokot County, pastoralists—are leading efforts in biodiversity restoration, conflict resolution, and climate adaptation through community-driven initiatives that we see align closely with the spirit of the IYRP in promoting sustainable and inclusive pastoral development.

 It’s at this background that Pastoral Communities Empowerment Programme (PACEP) is ready to contribute in-kind to IYRP as follows**:-**

a) PACEP is committed to using this historic year as an opportunity to amplify the voices of pastoralists in Kenya,

b) Share best practices across the country, and strengthen intercultural partnerships guided by trust and reciprocity.

c) Support research, Documentation and celebrations of Pastoralism best practice and to participate actively in IYRP forums where possible.

We look forward to engaging with the Mongolian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, and other IYRP stakeholders globally, to ensure that the momentum built around rangelands and pastoralism continues to grow well beyond 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Rodah Chepkopus Rotino

Executive Director-Pastoral Communities Empowerment Programme (PACEP)

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