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**H.E. Mr Bolorchuluun Khayangaa**  
**Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI)**  
**13381 Governmental Building 9<sup>th</sup>, Peace Avenue 16a,**  
**Bayanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.**

**RE: Letter of Commitment/Support for IYRP2026**

Your Excellency

On behalf of the African Youth Pastoralist Initiative (AYPI), we are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026. We recognize the vital importance of this initiative in highlighting the critical role of rangelands and pastoralist communities in global food security, biodiversity conservation, and climate change resilience.

The IYRP 2026 aligns perfectly with AYPI's mission to empower and support young pastoralists across Africa. We believe that this international focus will provide a crucial platform to amplify the voices of African pastoralist youth, share their knowledge and experiences, and advocate for policies that support their livelihoods and well-being. The IYRP offers a unique opportunity to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between pastoralist communities globally, learning from best practices and addressing common challenges. This international recognition will also help attract greater attention and resources to support pastoralist development initiatives in Africa.

AYPI is committed to actively participating in the IYRP 2026 through a range of activities, both before and during the designated year. In collaboration with other partners in the region, we conduct a series of workshops and training sessions for pastoralist communities, focusing on topics such as sustainable rangeland management, climate change adaptation, and advocacy skills. We will also begin documenting the traditional knowledge and practices of African pastoralist communities, creating a valuable resource for the IYRP. We will actively engage in regional and international consultations leading up to the IYRP. Additionally, we will actively contribute to the IYRP's global knowledge base by sharing our research findings and best practices. We will also work to facilitate knowledge exchange between African and other pastoralist communities.

While AYPI currently does not have dedicated funding for IYRP activities, we are actively pursuing a diversified funding strategy. This includes seeking partnerships with international organizations, foundations, and government agencies that support pastoralist development. We will also explore opportunities for crowdfunding and mobilizing resources from the private sector. In addition to financial contributions, AYPI will contribute significantly through in-kind

support, including volunteer time, expertise, and the mobilization of our extensive network of young pastoralists across Africa.

We believe that the IYRP 2026 presents a transformative opportunity to improve the lives of pastoralist communities worldwide. AYPI is committed to playing a significant role in this important initiative and looks forward to collaborating with the Government of Mongolia and other partners to achieve its objectives.

Sincerely,

Joshua Laizer

Secretary – General