

Center for Dryland Development & Resilience Systems (CDDRS)

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Date: 10 April 2026

To:

The Government of Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Subject: Letter of Support for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the **Center for Dryland Development & Resilience Systems (CDDRS)**, we are pleased to express our strong support for the declaration of the *International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)*, as proposed by the Government of Mongolia and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

As an organization working in Somalia, we witness firsthand the critical importance of rangelands and pastoralism in sustaining livelihoods, ecosystems, and national economies. The livestock sector in Somalia supports over 65% of the population and contributes significantly to food security, employment, and export earnings. Pastoral and agro-pastoral communities remain central to Somalia's socio-economic fabric and play a vital role in managing fragile dryland ecosystems.

However, these systems are increasingly under pressure from recurrent droughts, climate change, land degradation, and resource-based conflicts. In this context, the IYRP presents a timely and strategic global platform to elevate the visibility of pastoralists and promote sustainable rangeland management.

CDDRS strongly supports the objectives of the IYRP, particularly:

- Enhancing global awareness of the economic, social, and environmental contributions of pastoralism
- Promoting sustainable management and restoration of rangelands
- Strengthening the resilience of pastoral communities to climate and economic shocks
- Supporting inclusive policies and investments that empower pastoralists, including women and youth

Our organization is committed to contributing to these goals through:

- Promoting climate-resilient livestock systems and drought preparedness
- Supporting the application of Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) in humanitarian response
- Advancing the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus in pastoral and dryland areas
- Strengthening community-based natural resource management and early warning systems

We commend the Government of Mongolia for its leadership in championing this important global initiative. CDDRS stands ready to collaborate with international partners, governments, and pastoralist communities to ensure that the IYRP delivers meaningful and lasting impact.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Mohamed Hassan Isxaaq
Executive Director
Center for Dryland Development & Resilience Systems (CDDRS)
Mogadishu, Somalia