

Pastoralist Women form a Global Network and agree on Global Priorities in Kathmandu Declaration



The Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women

26–29 May 2026, Kathmandu, Nepal

May 31, 2026,

IYRP Pastoralism and Gender Working Group update



More than **90 pastoralist women** from **40 countries** and every inhabited continent **gathered in Kathmandu, Nepal May 26-29** to identify shared priorities for a more just, resilient and peaceful planet, to form a global network of pastoralist women, and create a strategy to ensure their priorities are included in global environmental decision-making. Over a third of participants were young women, whose energy and commitment promise a **thriving future for rangelands and pastoralist communities**. The gathering marks a milestone in the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 and the International Year of the Woman Farmer.

Pastoralist women led the program planning, with support from the IYRP Pastoralism and Gender Working Group and event host ICIMOD, and were the primary participants in the gathering. In parallel sessions, participants shared their knowledge and experiences related to land and mobility rights, climate change, entrepreneurship, traditional knowledge, rangeland stewardship, pastoralist women's networks, roles and recognition of pastoralist women, and pastoralist women researchers.



Participatory discussions spanning four days engaged women across diverse cultures and languages in highlighting their key concerns and proposed solutions, and working together to develop a declaration, network and communications strategy. Listen to this reel to hear women's priorities in their own voices: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1449510806926228>



Joyful moments of singing and dancing, when participants connected through the universal languages of music and movement, fueled the hard work of collaborating. In the evenings, participants sat together and sewed a tapestry from textiles representing their varied communities and landscapes. Attendees observed a moment of silence to remember and honor women and girls whose lives have been lost to violence, and created a memorial altar for those who have passed. In her closing remarks delegate from the US, Marie Gladue (Diné), noted that, "The Gathering was a healing event."

Graphic summary of Day 2 of the Gathering, created by participant Hillary Semeyan LLenantoeye (Kenya)



The Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women (GGPW) delivered its four key outcomes:

- 1) a renewed declaration of Pastoralist Women's priorities for policy, practice and knowledge creation, the Kathmandu Declaration,
- 2) a strategic communications plan to ensure the gatherings' key messages reach target audiences, especially global decision-makers,
- 3) the formation of a global network of pastoralist women, and
- 4) shared knowledge, new connections and increased solidarity among pastoralist women worldwide.

Working groups for the declaration, network and strategy continue to work on finalizing the language of the declaration, the network structure and governance, and the strategy. A full report on the GGPW including these key elements will be published in advance of the pan-pastoralist gathering in Mongolia August 10-15, 2026.



Parting reflection from Maria Guadalupe Molina Siller (Mexico)

“Although we come from different countries, cultures, and landscapes, we share a common commitment to our communities, our lands, our animals, and our families. This gathering reminded me that we are stronger when we stand together, learn from one another, and support each other. Thank you for your friendship, your stories, your wisdom, and your generosity. I will carry the memories of our conversations, our laughter, and our shared dreams with me. This is not goodbye—it is the beginning of a stronger network of women pastoralists connected across borders. I hope we will continue to learn from each other, collaborate, and amplify our voices together.”

We express our deep gratitude to the many partners, sponsors and individual donors who made this gathering possible, and to our host organization, ICIMOD, whose staff worked tirelessly to ensure that all the logistics went smoothly and participants were safe and cared for throughout their journeys.