

42nd Session of the Conference
Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

- Item 11.1.1 - Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 (Draft Resolution)
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Member Name	Comments
<p style="text-align: center;">Belgium (Mon 17/05/21 11:01 AM)</p>	<p>Item 11.1.4 - Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution): Belgium aligns itself with the Joint Statement delivered by Portugal on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States. Belgium welcomes the proposal to declare 12 May as the International Day of Plant Health; as we need to continue raising awareness on the importance of plant health. Plant pests are a major agricultural, environmental, and ecological threat. Every year, a significant proportion of global harvest is lost to plant pests. The establishment of the International Day of Plant Health would be an important step to address future pest risk challenges that may have serious impact on food security and the environment. This International Day will further ensure concrete actions and global co-operation to resolve global problems. As a legacy of the International Year of Plant Health, the Day will continue to raise awareness of the important role of plant health in achieving the SDGs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">New Zealand (Friday, 21 May 2021 8:17 AM)</p>	<p>Item 11.1.2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand supports the establishment of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock. • New Zealand encourages the Sub-Committee to work with the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) and the Livestock Research Group (LRG) and its networks when considering collaborative activities. <p>Item 11.1.4: Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy plants are the foundation for all life on earth, ecosystem functions and food security, and are key to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, plant health is key to the sustainable intensification of agriculture to feed a growing global population. • New Zealand supports the draft Conference Resolution C 2021/LIM/10 for the declaration of an International Day of Plant Health on 12 May as a legacy of the International Year of Plant Health, with the objective of creating a platform for the ongoing recognition, advocacy and promotion of plant health; strengthening international collaboration on plant health issues; improving capacity for effective phytosanitary systems at international, regional and national level; and promotion of harmonised phytosanitary measures through standard setting.

Australia
(Fri 21/05/2021
11:51 AM)

Item 11.1.2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock

Australia supports the proposal to establish a COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock.

Australia's livestock sector is important to our national economy and makes a significant contribution to the world's need for high-quality protein, with Australia being the second largest exporter of beef globally.

Optimising sustainable livestock production and health are priorities for Australia as we strive for ongoing improvement to the environmental performance of our livestock sector. In 2017, the Australian red meat and livestock sector set an ambitious target to become carbon neutral by 2030. Australia has sector-wide sustainability frameworks in place for its beef, dairy, and sheep industries.

Australia realises the importance of enhancing animal health outcomes both domestically, and through international capacity building and coordination. Australia has worked to increase the capacity of veterinary services across our region in the face of high impact animal diseases like African swine fever. Australia is also an active participant in the One Health Global Leaders' Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which seeks to promote global collaboration on this important issue, including through the Quadripartite partnership between the FAO, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Australia acknowledges that the Sub-Committee on Livestock presents another opportunity to expand collaboration between FAO and other international organisations, government bodies, the private sector, and existing livestock-related multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership and the Global Agenda on Sustainable Livestock, in order to augment the important role of livestock in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Australia has previously highlighted that the work of the Sub-Committee should be targeted, cost-effective, non-duplicative, directed by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), and designed to ensure meaningful and measurable deliverables.

Australia supports the formation of the Sub-Committee and its mandate. This will address sustainable livestock production in consideration of issues such as AMR and zoonoses, and will ensure that relevant policy positions are coordinated and harmonised across and beyond FAO.

Item 11.1.3: Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (Draft Resolution)

Australia supports the proposal to have an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. We note that rangelands are of economic and environmental importance. The proposed International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists will help highlight the challenges facing rangelands management, sustainability and productivity, as well as the opportunities rangelands present for rural prosperity.

Item 11.1.4: Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution)

Australia supports the proposal to establish the observance on 12 May of an International Day of Plant Health and endorses the related draft Conference Resolution. We believe this will provide a very important opportunity annually to raise awareness of the essential role that plant health plays in human health, food security and safe trade, and the importance of plant health for maintaining a healthy, productive and sustaining planet.

	<p>Australia was a strong proponent of the International Year of Plant Health 2020 (IYPH), which was unfortunately interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Australia launched the International Year with an event at Parliament House with the opening address provided by the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, the Hon David Littleproud MP. An international symposium on limiting the spread of contaminating pests was also hosted in Sydney in March 2020.</p> <p>Australia provided funds to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat, to support their activities, many of which were moved online. We too moved to holding virtual workshops, seminar series and industry events and published documents and other materials throughout the year in support of the important plant health messages the IYPH promoted. Our website “planthealthyear.org.au”, will continue to provide a coordinated portal to support promotion of the International Day of Plant Health and its messages of plant health and food security into the future. Australia is committed to enhancing plant health outcomes and minimising plant pests and diseases, both domestically and across our region. Australia championed the IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Recommendation of the safe provision of aid (adopted in 2021) and continues to work in the Pacific and Asian regions to support development and implementation of international and regional standards to support safe trade.</p> <p>Item 11.1.5: Proposal for an International Year of Date Palm (Draft Resolution)</p> <p>Australia supports the proposal of Saudi Arabia to establish an International Year of Date Palm in 2027. We acknowledge the important role of dates as a source of income, food security and nutrition in the Middle East and North African region, and their suitability for cultivation in a diverse range of production environments.</p>
<p>Switzerland (Fri 21/05/2021 3:46 PM)</p>	<p>Item 11.1.1 Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 Draft Resolution</p> <p>Switzerland thanks the Secretariat for Document C 2021/LIM/8. Switzerland supports the ongoing international collaboration efforts between FAO, WHO and OIE as well as other partners, which are aimed at ensuring multidisciplinary and holistic system approaches to tackling global Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases and in particular the One Health approach. The Draft Conference Resolution calls for consolidating international and national efforts to progress in the control of the Peste des Petits Ruminants disease and to achieve its eradication by 2030. Switzerland supports its endorsement by the Conference.</p> <p>Item 11.1.2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock</p> <p>Switzerland considers the livestock sector an important part of sustainable food systems’ development and thus actively cooperates with FAO within the Global Agenda on Sustainable Livestock (GASL), the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership (LEAP) and the Global Research Alliance (GRA); Livestock has a critical role to play as a key driver for sustainable agricultural and rural development. Switzerland takes note of the proposal for a new Sub-Committee of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) on livestock. The establishment of a Sub-Committee should not be understood as setting a precedent. COAG deals with many matters that include livestock, plants, soil and water to name a few. All these matters are equally important and might deserve a subcommittee. Switzerland calls on Members to aim for efficient and effective structures for the work of COAG and avoid too complex and resource-intensive approaches. The following considerations will be important in</p>

	<p>the operationalization of the Sub-Committee on Livestock: COAG induced the establishment of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL). This multi-stakeholder partnership has since evolved into an effective mechanism to discuss issues of sustainable livestock and induce action and change on the ground. All major stakeholder groups are represented and participate as equal partners. In addition, LEAP is providing valuable technical guidelines and is housed in FAO. As a member of these partnerships, FAO is providing important contributions to their work. The Sub-Committee will need to establish operational interactions with these partnerships, in particular with GASL, in order to hear the voices and advice of the stakeholders involved, as well as to avoid duplications of efforts. The relationship of the Sub-Committee should also fully take into account Strategic Development Goal (SDG) 17 on strengthening partnerships with all relevant stakeholders.</p>
<p>Spain (Mon 24/05/2021 4:46 PM)</p>	<p>11.1.1: Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 Draft Resolution Spain fully supports the statements made by the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States and wishes to emphasize the following points regarding this Agenda Item: Because this disease is very contagious, it has a high economic, social and environmental impact and diagnostic tools and vaccines with proven efficacy are currently available to achieve the global eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR). We express our support for the FAO-OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), which is essential for containing pandemics with unpredictable consequences as part of a One Health approach. We also support the adoption of the Draft Resolution "Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030" submitted by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) given that it contributes to achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>11.1.2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock Spain fully supports the statements made by the EU and its 27 Member States, and wishes to emphasize the following points regarding this Agenda Item: We acknowledge that the establishment of a Livestock Sub-Committee would provide a forum for exchanging information and views on all matters relevant to sustainable livestock production and for advising COAG on technical and policy issues related to livestock. This Sub-Committee, whose proposed establishment we support, should be open to all COAG Members. Civil society and the private sector should also participate as observers, establishing funding arrangements through voluntary contributions.</p> <p>11.1.3: Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (Draft Resolution) Spain fully supports the statements made by the EU and its 27 Member States, and wishes to emphasize the following points regarding this Agenda Item: We acknowledge the great potential of healthy and productive rangelands and pastures for achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by producing safe food of animal origin that contributes to</p>

	<p>reducing poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2) and bringing about other multifunctional benefits related to biodiversity preservation (SDG 15) or climate change mitigation (SDG 13), among others.</p> <p>We applaud the important work that FAO has been doing to support pastoralists and enhance women's empowerment in pastoralism and urge the Organization to incorporate these elements in its technical and regulatory programmes for sustainable management and development.</p> <p>Finally, recalling the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) guidelines for International Years, as well as the FAO policy on the proclamation of International Years, with these comments we support the Government of Mongolia's proposal and the draft resolution to declare 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.</p> <p>11.1.4: Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution)</p> <p>Spain fully supports the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, but wishes to emphasize the following in relation to this Agenda Item:</p> <p>We recognize the unquestionable importance of plant health in underpinning plant production, forests, woodlands and natural spaces, natural ecosystems, ecosystem services, biodiversity and safe trade, and in mitigating the effects of climate change.</p> <p>We express our support for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the work being done by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures to achieve global improvements in the protection of both cultivated and wild plants, and to prevent the introduction and spread of pests, through the development of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).</p> <p>We urge FAO and the IPPC to persevere with the initiatives launched under the auspices of the International Year of Plant Health 2020, to reduce phytosanitary risks to an acceptable level by supporting policies and measures to promote plant health, since these are key elements in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>Lastly, with these comments, we support the Government of Zambia's proposal and the Draft Resolution that the International Day of Plant Health be observed on 12 May.</p>
<p>European Union (Mon 24/05/2021 5:55 PM)</p>	<p>Item 11.1.3: Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists</p> <p>The European Union and its 27 Member States acknowledge the important role of rangelands and pastoralism not only in supporting the livelihoods and food security and nutrition of millions of people, but also for their multifunctional nature-based services and contribution to several Sustainable Development Goals, especially to reducing poverty (SDG 1), hunger and malnutrition (SDG 2), as well as for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation (SDG 15).</p> <p>In this regard, we recognize the important work of FAO in supporting pastoralists and the sustainable management and restoration of dryland forests and rangelands, and we urge the Organization to mainstream them in its programmes. We appreciate FAO's work on women's empowerment in the pastoralist context, as well as its role in facilitating the participation of indigenous pastoralists in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.</p> <p>Recalling the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) criteria for International Years as well as the FAO policy on proclamation of International Years, and urging FAO to present a careful assessment against this framework in the text</p>

	<p>of any future proposal, we support the proposal of the Government of Mongolia for the observance of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and the related Draft Resolution.</p> <p>Item 11.1.5: Proposal for an International Year of Date Palm (Draft Resolution)</p> <p>The European Union and its 27 Member States recognize the crucial role that date palms play as an important income-generating crop for millions of rural smallholders in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). We also recognise that dates are an important source of income for millions of rural smallholders and farmers in drylands due to its tolerance to drought and, therefore, can be a supportive element in adapting to climate change. They are a good source of vitamins and minerals that contribute to better health and development. Through reducing poverty (SDG 1) and hunger, and improving nutrition (SDG 2), dates contribute to global food security and nutrition as well as many other Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>Additionally, we would like to recall the ECOSOC criteria for International Years as well as the FAO policy on proclamation of International Years and urge FAO to present a careful assessment against this framework in the text of any future proposals.</p> <p>Based on the above, we would like to support the proposal by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the observance of the International Year of Date Palm in 2027 and the related Draft Resolution.</p>
<p>Canada (Mon 24/05/2021 11:04 PM)</p>	<p>11.1: Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 (Draft Resolution)</p> <p>Canada recognizes the great value of this initiative for many developing and least developed countries. Although PPR has never been found in Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) imposes strict regulations on the import of animals and animal products from countries where PPR is known to occur. Canada encourages FAO to leverage synergies with the activities of the World Organisation for Animal Health on this issue, including through the development of procedures to prevent the spread of this disease.</p> <p>11.1.2 Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock</p> <p>The Government of Canada recognizes the vital importance of a resilient livestock sector that is able to adapt to climate change and grow sustainably.</p> <p>Canada supports the establishment of a livestock Sub-Committee to advance discussions on optimizing sustainable livestock production and health, and working towards the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>11.1.3 Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (Draft Resolution)</p> <p>Canada recognizes the interlinkages between rangelands and pastoralists and the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including No Poverty (SDG 1), Zero Hunger (SDG 2) and others. Rangeland ecosystems are critical not only for their cultural and economic value, but also for the role they play in carbon sequestration. An increased focus on rangeland management aligns with Canada’s sustainable agriculture and climate change goals. The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) should underline the importance of pastured native grasslands, their threatened status, their role in biodiversity, water quality and carbon sequestration and storage, connection to Indigenous Peoples and the role that grazing ungulates play in the sustenance of ecosystems.</p>

	<p>11.1.4 Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution) Canada is pleased with the success of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020, notwithstanding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Policy- and decision-makers, scientists, and the general public have been made aware of the importance of plant health to reducing poverty, providing sustainable food sources, protecting the environment, and maintaining safe trade. In order to leave an important legacy beyond 2020, Canada supports the establishment of an International Day of Plant Health (IDPH). Under this proposal, on May 12 of each year, the public would be reminded of the importance of the health of plants and of the activities geared towards keeping them healthy and productive. Canada is supportive of raising the profile and awareness of plant health activities worldwide.</p>
<p>The United States of America (Tue 25/05/2021 12:18 AM)</p>	<p>Item 11.1.2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock The United States of America thanks FAO and Members for their collegial effort to turn this proposal into a reality. This Sub-Committee can be an intergovernmental forum providing greater clarity on issues and priorities related to the livestock sector and give more emphasis to the important role that livestock and animal related products play in contributing to food security and nutrition around the world. The Sub-Committee should also ensure that the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) includes areas to advise on the three areas of sustainability—economic, social and environmental, recognizing the key role livestock plays around the world for many small farmers, especially women. FAO’s contributions to animal health, food safety and global health security are additional facets that should be addressed in the Sub-Committee’s scope and MYPOW. We believe there will be beneficial efficiency and focus in the Sub-Committee’s advising of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), and through it, the Council and the Conference, on technical and policy programmes and activities required to optimize the contribution of the livestock sector to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The United States notes the importance of the Sub-Committee’s ability to garner sustainable voluntary extrabudgetary funding to operate successfully. Currently the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) and the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) programmes are challenged to raise enough funds to operate optimally. As the preparation for the Sub-Committee ramps up for its first possible session in the first quarter of 2022, the United States of America would appreciate learning from FAO on how the Sub-Committee will complement the work of Codex Alimentarius, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), LEAP and GASL.</p> <p>11.1.3: Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (Draft Resolution) and 11.1.5: Proposal for an International Year of the Date Palm (Draft Resolution) The United States thanks the sponsors, Mongolia and Saudi Arabia, respectively, of the proposals for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and an International Year of the Date Palm. The United States welcomes recommitment to the FAO 2013 Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years. We strongly support this policy, which was agreed to by Members, and encourage those</p>

	<p>considering future proposals for international observances to investigate other means of raising public awareness for these issues.</p> <p>We recall discussions among Members noting a desire for greater detail regarding sources of funding, including costs for implementation, pre-identified extrabudgetary resources, and planned resource contributions and launch activities committed by sponsors prior to considering proposals.</p> <p>Despite conversations regarding the resource implications and proliferation of international observances supported by FAO, proposals and approvals of international observances in this Organization continue to increase and now will be stacked up back-to-back through 2027, which is contrary to the criteria we all agreed to in the 2013 Policy, and now sometimes duplicative of previously held or ongoing international observances.</p> <p>Implementing these observances creates an organizational burden for FAO and other participating organizations, including administrative costs for supplies, communications, travel, and translation. Playing a leading role in the implementation of several international years could pose significant logistical and administrative challenges for FAO.</p> <p>Item 11.1.4: Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution)</p> <p>The United States of America strongly supports the proposed resolution for FAO to request the United Nations General Assembly to declare May 12 as an International Day of Plant Health. This will be an important initiative to continue annually raising awareness of plant health worldwide. Invasive plant pests are a major agricultural, environmental and ecological threat. Every year, a significant portion of the global harvest is lost to plant pests, which perpetually emerge and evolve. The establishment of an International Day of Plant Health would be an important step to sustain global awareness and refresh commitments to address ongoing and future pest risk challenges that cause serious impacts on food security, the environment, and the global trade system. The United States looks forward to collaborating with others in establishing this UN proclamation.</p>
<p>Peru (Tue 25/05/2021 12:42 AM)</p>	<p>Item 11.1.1: Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030</p> <p>In Peru, the sheep population is 9.5 million and the goat population is 2.0 million. Sheep farming is mainly carried out in the highlands, while goat farming is concentrated on the northern coast of the country. These species provide meat, milk, wool, skin, and manure, and are used for self-consumption. Some products are sold on informal markets, thus playing an important role in the food security of the population. Depending on the geographical area, these species are reared under a mixed system together with cattle and South American camelids. The economic model is family subsistence farming. In 2018, Peru was recognized as free of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in accordance with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2017). However, this is a highly contagious viral disease that endangers some 300 million poor rural households in developing countries with emerging economies and the resulting annual financial losses are in the order of USD 1 400 to 2 500 million per year. We therefore support the proposal of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference in June 2015 to reaffirm support for the PPR Global Eradication Programme, and we also support the 84th General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates of May 2016, which adopted Resolution 25 in support of this global programme.</p> <p>Item 11.1.2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock</p>

Livestock and agriculture have played a fundamental role in the development of societies. Livestock rearing, in particular, has allowed human beings access to high value proteins, as well as other products such as milk, hides and skins and fibres for shelter, etc. This sector is now becoming an important source of resources for direct and industrial use and is fundamental to the global economy. According to FAO, livestock accounts for almost 40 percent of total agricultural production in developed countries and 20 percent in developing countries, supporting the livelihoods of at least 1.3 billion people worldwide. The proposal for the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock of the Committee on Agriculture, is set out in Appendix E, *Terms of Reference of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock*. The Sub-Committee on Livestock (the Sub-Committee) shall provide a forum for consultation and discussion on all matters related to livestock and shall advise the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) on technical and policy matters related to livestock and on the work to be performed by the Organization in the field of livestock. Progress in and transformation of the livestock sector offers economic and poverty reduction opportunities and helps improve human nutrition. Livestock farming under a system of controlled grazing with high instantaneous stocking rate is one of the fundamental tools for reducing pressure on forest and rangelands and could potentially contribute to environmental commitments related to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) mitigation and climate change adaptation, thus ensuring the development of a sustainable and responsible activity. For these reasons, we are in favour of supporting the Committee on Agriculture's Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock.

Item 11.1.3: Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

In the Peruvian Andes, camelid pastoralism was historically a successful, highly specialized and long-standing adaptation that combined pastoralism and guano production with the high-altitude cultivation of species such as *kañiwa*, quinoa, maca, oca, *olluco* and, in particular, potatoes. This series of crops and animals, therefore, allowed certain Andean cultures and their languages to expand through large areas of the highlands through mechanisms such as commercial trade, colonization and warfare. The Peruvian agricultural sector employs 25 percent of the economically active population (EAP) and provides around 70 percent of the food consumed in the country. By contrast, the agricultural sector represents eight percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and has a productivity 4.3 times lower than the other productive sectors. The Fourth National Agricultural Census - CENAGRO (2012), estimated that the number of Peruvian livestock producers was 1.8 million, with 67 percent concentrated in the highlands and 20 percent in the jungle. Regarding the livestock population, the Fourth CENAGRO census (2012) found that 100 percent of domestic South American camelids, 75.28 percent of the sheep population and 37.13 percent of the cattle population are located at 3 500 m above sea level, where the main source of food is rangelands or natural pastures. Conversely, Andean rangeland or *pajonal*, is a type of vegetation cover that is mostly made up of grassland and is located in the upper part of the Andean mountain range, at approximately 3 800 to 4 800 metres above sea level. It grows on terrain that ranges from almost flat, as on the high plateaus, to steep or rugged in depressions and glacial valley bottoms. It covers an area of 18 192 418 hectares, which represents 14.16 percent of the area of Peru. Some studies indicate that 62 percent of the grasslands are in poor to very poor condition. This is due to overexploitation caused by inadequate management that has led to continuous grazing. Resulting changes in the flora have also caused soil erosion and a decrease in the water infiltration capacity during the rainy season, jeopardizing the food security of people who depend

on this resource. Well-managed and well-conserved natural pastures can provide a series of benefits to society known as "ecosystem services". These include:

- carbon capture and sequestration, reducing the presence of GHG in the atmosphere.
- filtration of rainwater and slow recharging of aquifers, allowing greater availability of water for human and animal consumption and irrigation.
- maintenance of an ancestral landscape, associated with the culture and traditions of the region safeguarding dormant seeds of species that are valuable for livestock fodder in critical times.
- providing resistance to extreme climatic events such as droughts and floods, giving greater stability to livestock production.

Several academic studies suggest that high Andean rangelands have carbon fixation potential and can contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions. In a study carried out in Lake Chinchaycocha, it was found that soil carbon storage amounted to 774.76 t C/hectare in grasslands and 684.58 t C/hectare in wetlands. However, climate change is affecting rangeland-based livestock production systems due to changes in precipitation patterns and prolonged droughts, causing a decrease in forage productivity for livestock production (Thornton et al., 2009). The projected increase in global average temperature and reduction in precipitation adversely affects plant growth, water availability, livestock production, and therefore access to and availability of food, especially for the poorest populations in the Andean mountains. An analysis of the climate change scenario for 2050 also predicts that the average summer temperature will increase by 1.3 °C in the Central Andes, while relative humidity and precipitation will decrease by 6 percent and 15 percent respectively, reducing the extent of the *pajonales* and *bofedales*. Therefore, a significant proportion of Peruvian livestock depends on a rangeland-based diet. Such livestock are mainly reared by farming communities, many of whom live in extreme poverty. In view of the above, we support the request to the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to consider declaring 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists at its next session.

Item 11.1.4: Proposal for an International Plant Health Day

Peru fully supports the establishment of an International Plant Health Day.

Item 11.1.5, Proposal for an International Year of Date Palm

It is thought that the first date palms were established on the Peruvian coast at the end of the 16th century. The only producing area in Peru is the Region of Ica (397 ha), which offers optimal conditions for cultivation due to its soil and climatic characteristics. This makes it possible to take advantage of an off-season commercial window from October to February when Peru can market the product internationally. Although Peruvian companies have made some efforts to export this product, more must be done. The adoption of production technology and investment could provide a source of employment and income for populations where the crop is grown.

Although date palm cultivation is at an early stage in Peru, FAO's proposal to declare an International Year of Date Palm is important for economies where the plant is grown because of its contribution to the economic, environmental, and social development of local people. The proposal to declare an International Year of Date Palm should ensure that the Year helps encourage sustainable management techniques for soil, water, pest and disease control, as well as the

	conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and biodiversity, in accordance with national and international regulations in force.
<p>Cuba (Tue 25/05/2021 9:52 AM)</p>	<p>11.1.1 Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants by 2030 (Draft Resolution) Cuba is well known as a country that is free from the highly contagious epizootic, <i>Peste des Petits Ruminants</i> (PRR). To enable us to maintain this status, it would be helpful if our neighbouring countries in the region also eradicated this disease. Accordingly, we are in full agreement with, and support, this draft Resolution for the Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants in the Americas, which is being implemented by FAO across the region.</p> <p>11.1.2 Proposal for the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock Cuba supports the proposal to establish a Sub-Committee on Livestock, for the purpose of discussing and forging consensus on issues and priorities related to the livestock sector; and advising on the programmes and both technical and regulatory activities needed to improve the livestock sector's contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>11.1.3: Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (Draft Resolution) Cuba supports the draft Resolution for the celebration of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026, since they have great potential to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and they provide ecosystem services, such as nutrient cycling, seed dissemination, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and protection against erosion and forest fires. Public policies can be designed to improve the rights of pastoralists and their specific cultural systems and traditions, and foster innovation towards sustainability and overcoming poverty.</p> <p>11.1.4: Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution) Our country is aware of, and supports, this draft Resolution to consider 12 May as the International Day of Plant Health, considering the phytosanitary role played by plant health; and it commends the work of FAO and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). In 2020, the Plant Health Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG), which is Cuba's national plant protection agency, recognized by the International Plant Protection Convention, participated in several activities planned in connection with the International Year of Plant Health. The activities in question helped raise public awareness on phytosanitary issues.</p> <p>11.1.5: Proposal for an International Year of Date Palm (Draft Resolution) Cuba supports the draft Resolution to celebrate the International Year of Date Palm in 2027, since this is a multipurpose tree that provides fruit, fibre, construction material and firewood, and has provided multiple economic benefits over many generations. A number of challenges facing sustainable date production need to be addressed, in particular pest and disease control, and access to high quality planting materials.</p>
<p>Asia Regional Group (Tue 25/05/2021 10:17 AM)</p>	<p>Item 11.1.2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock The Asia Regional Group recognizes the central role of livestock in rural development, food security and nutrition and poverty alleviation, especially for developing countries. We acknowledge the increasing complexity and dynamic nature of livestock systems that need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner. The proposed establishment of the new Sub-Committee on Livestock will help us address and</p>

	<p>better respond to a number of global and complex interactions, as well as optimize sustainable livestock production and health in accordance with the Organization's mandate.</p> <p>We request FAO to revisit the funding arrangement at subsequent Committee on Agriculture (COAG) sessions with a view to explore other funding options.</p> <p>The Asia Regional Group endorses the proposed establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock as indicated in the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.</p> <p>Item 11.1.3: International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists</p> <p>The Asia Regional Group recognizes the important role of rangelands and pastoralism that contribute to national economies and enhance the livelihoods and food security.</p> <p>We acknowledge the numerous challenges faced by pastoralists and rangelands, and we request FAO to mainstream its work to ensure the systematic consideration in technical and policy programmes towards achieving sustainability.</p> <p>The Asia Regional Group endorses the proposed draft Conference Resolution on the observance of an 'International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists' in 2026, particularly in consideration of the need to raise awareness on the central role of pastoralists and Indigenous peoples in sustainable rangelands and pastoralism and the need to scale up these nature-positive production methods.</p>
<p>India on behalf of the Asia Group (Tue 25/05/2021 4:36 PM)</p>	<p>Item 11.1.4: Proposal for International Day of Plant Health</p> <p>I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Asian Group.</p> <p>We recognize the key role of plant health for food security, trade facilitation and environmental protection, and we would like to highlight the need to continue promoting activities, initiatives and policies protecting plants from pests and diseases, as well as from the harmful impacts of climate change.</p> <p>As a member of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) International Steering Committee, I have appreciated the efforts in coordinating global activities for the International Year of Plant Health, leading to disseminating a wider understanding of the key role of plant health in achieving the 2030 Agenda as well as for daily lives, both among policy makers and the public.</p> <p>FAO and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat play a prominent role in promoting and protecting plant health globally: the IPPC International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) provide harmonized guidance for countries to manage pest risks and minimize threats to the environment, thus providing effective preventive measures. In this regard, we welcome the recent scientific review of the Impact of Climate Change on Plant Pests coordinated by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention as a key legacy of the International Year of Plant Health. These are two of many examples underlining the importance of protecting and preserving plant health through prevention, which is always preferable to eradication, once a pest or disease has invaded new ecosystems.</p> <p>In conclusion, I have the pleasure to express the support of the Asian Group to the proposal put forth by the Government of Zambia for establishing the observance of an International Day of Plant Health on 12 May each year and the Draft Resolution in the Annex. This important legacy, building on the momentum of the IYPH, is going to</p>

	<p>continue advancing the work of FAO and the IPPC community in ensuring that plants stay healthy and I encourage my distinguished colleagues to join us in supporting this important initiative.</p>
<p>Chile (Tue 25/05/2021 5:41 PM)</p>	<p>Item 11.1.4: Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution) Chile supports the draft Resolution to declare 12 May the International Day of Plant Health because this initiative seeks to raise awareness among the public and authorities about the importance of plant health, as well as to promote and facilitate measures to manage plant health at global, regional and national level.</p>
<p>European Union (Thu 27/05/2021 4:51 PM)</p>	<p>Item 11.1.1: Eradication of “Peste des Petits Ruminants” (PPR) by 2030 (Draft Resolution) The European Union and its 27 Member States recognise the crucial role of sheep and goats as the primary livestock resource for smallholders and family farmers, especially the poor in large areas of the world. Small ruminants are major providers of food and income, especially for women and young people. Small ruminants also often enable low-income farmer families to ensure education for their children. We acknowledge that <i>Peste des Petits Ruminants</i> (PPR) is a highly contagious viral disease of both domestic and wild small ruminants, with huge impact at the economic, social and environmental levels, as well as the conservation of wildlife populations, including endangered species, and resilience of ecosystems. We also acknowledge that the current scientific knowledge and tools, like vaccines and diagnostics, are fit for purpose for the global eradication of PPR. We welcome FAO’s work to support Members in the anticipation, prevention of, and response to, high-impact animal and plant diseases and pests. In this respect, we also express our support for the FAO-OIE Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADS). We recognise that technology transfer, vaccine quality and laboratory network are fundamental, as well as, for that propose, strategic partnership with OIE and several other global and regional institutions and partners and civil society organisations, in the context of the One Health approach. For these reasons, we support the endorsement of the Draft Resolution, <i>Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030</i>. Item 11.1.2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock The European Union and its 27 Member States recognise the crucial importance of livestock for food security, nutrition, and livelihoods, including for pastoralists and family farmers. The livestock sector is also interlinked with climate change, biodiversity and One Health approach challenges. In this context we stress that a balanced and holistic approach is needed to address the complex social, economic and environmental issues and trade-offs associated with the sector. We recognise the work carried out to provide detailed information on the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock. We confirm our support to set up an intergovernmental forum to address livestock issues in a coherent and neutral way, with a view to optimising the sustainable production and health of livestock. Such a forum would allow governments and key stakeholders to exchange information and views on all matters relevant to sustainable livestock production and advise the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) on technical and policy matters related to livestock. We</p>

stress the importance for this Sub-Committee on Livestock to closely collaborate with specialized organizations and existing multiple stakeholder partnerships, such as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL).

On this basis, we endorse the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock with the following recommendations:

- The membership of the Sub-Committee should be open to all COAG members.
- Representatives from civil society, research institutes and the private sector should be integrated as observers, as is the case for COAG.
- COAG may define specific tasks for the Sub-Committee;
- the Sub-Committee itself may also consider having a programme of work, for review and adoption by COAG;
- The Sub-Committee should meet every two years, intersessional with COAG, providing COAG with enough time to assess and build upon the work of the Sub-Committee;
- The Sub-Committee should cooperate closely with existing networks and initiatives as the Global Agenda on Sustainable Livestock (GASL), the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA);
- The costs of the Sub-Committee and its sessions should be covered only by voluntary contributions, agreeing to consider revising the funding arrangement at subsequent COAG sessions with a view to explore other funding options.

Item 11.1.4: Proposal for an International Day on Plant Health (Draft Resolution)

The European Union and its 27 Member States recognise the key role of plant health for food security and nutrition and biodiversity conservation, and we would like to highlight the need to protect them from pests and diseases, as well as from the harmful impacts of climate change on plant health. We underline the strong interrelations between plant health, animal health, human health and environmental health as reflected in the One Health approach.

We take this opportunity to point out the importance of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and its International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) in combating plant pests and diseases by providing globally harmonised guidance for countries to manage pest risks and minimize threats to the environment. In this regard, we also welcome the recent scientific review of the Impact of Climate Change on Plant Pests coordinated by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention as a key legacy of the International Year of Plant Health.

We also underline the important contribution of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 in promoting awareness on plant health, and we regret the limited public engagement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With these comments, we support the proposal by the Government of Zambia for the observance of an International Day of Plant Health on 12 May and the Draft Resolution, which will build on the momentum of the International Year of Plant Health and continue raising awareness on this important subject.

<p>Argentina (Fri 28/05/2021 11:50 AM)</p>	<p>Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 (Draft Resolution) In the circulated draft document, the additional updated text that is required in the framework of reference for the Declaration is indicated using underlined italics. The draft is aligned with the Resolutions made at the 84th General Session of the OIE Delegates (2016), and we have no objection to its implementation at global level, given that it is drawn up in the context of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) in close liaison with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), all of which we deem to be sensible. Argentina also supports the draft with regard to the mobilization of resources in a holistic manner, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which would justify the deployment of funding mechanisms and resource availability.</p>
<p>Indonesia (Fri 28/05/2021 6:53 PM)</p>	<p>Item 11.1.1: Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 (Draft Resolution) Indonesia supports the draft Resolution for the Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030. This draft resolution for the Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 is highlighting the importance of the effort to control and eradicate PPR in the world by 2030 as stated in the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR. Presently, Indonesia and Thailand are working closely with FAO and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to develop the regional action plan for PPR (Peste des Petits Ruminants) eradication in Southeast Asia. This action plan will be in line with the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR. Item 11.1.2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock Indonesia supports the proposal to establish a Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Sub-Committee on Livestock. The livestock sector plays an important role for Indonesia's economic growth as nearly 50 percent out of 27 million farmers households in Indonesia, also raise livestock. This number represents the crucial contribution of livestock in our national food security and livelihoods. For Indonesia, the formation of the Sub-Committee will help us to assess the achievement of the livestock sector's contribution to the Strategic Development Goals (SDGs) and to provide guidance on technical and policy programmes and activities needed to optimise the contributions. Indonesia would like to underline that the Sub-Committee should have a strong collaboration with existing partnerships and international organizations focusing on livestock, including Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL); World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); and World Health Organisation (WHO) to strengthen its capacity and role inside COAG. Indonesia looks forward to its first meeting of the Sub-Committee and requests Management to provide regular updates on budgetary resources made available for its operationalization.</p>