



Concurrent Session 4: International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP) – Part 2

Introduction by Chairperson Maryam Niamir-Fuller

Distinguished delegates, honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the second of a two-part series of Sessions to learn more about the efforts to convince governments at the United Nations to proclaim an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, also known as IYRP, for 2026.

My name is Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Vice Chair of the International Support Group for the IYRP, and I am pleased to be your Chairperson.

Our purpose is to explain what the IYRP is for, why it is important, and what you can do to get involved.

The road to achieving the IYRP – by itself - has been a great awareness-raising journey. But the IYRP is not just about ceremonies and visibility, it is also about propelling science forward to fill glaring knowledge gaps about sustainable rangelands and pastoralism.

The IYRP covers an integrated set of 12 thematic issues, as you may have seen earlier today in the presentation by Barbara Hutchinson. However, due to time limitations, we are able to cover only three major themes today. The panellists will discuss the priority actions for raising awareness and filling knowledge gaps in their regions on these themes.

The first two Thematic Panels earlier today focused on land tenure/land use & governance, and on social and economic issues. In a few moments, we will hear from the Moderators of those two Thematic Panels, who will summarise what went on.

After that, we will have a Thematic Panel that focuses on climate change and ecosystem health. Our fourth and final Panel is dedicated to discussing, and voting for, three draft Resolutions that will then be handed to the Congress Resolutions Committee. Every delegate at this Congress will have a chance to vote on these resolutions.

A few words on how we will manage these panels:

- Delegates are invited to comment in the “Discuss” box to the right of your screen
- Delegates can also post their questions in the Q&A box, either for a specific speaker or for everyone in general.

And now, I would like to invite Ann Waters-Bayer to give us a summary of the Panel on land use/tenure and governance.