CONCEPT NOTE FOR GLOBAL PASTORALIST GATHERING AND CONFERENCE IN MONGOLIA

10–15 AUGUST 2026 (HYBRID)

Introduction

At the initiative of Mongolia, the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/76/253, proclaiming 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026).

The Year aims to raise global awareness of the contribution of rangeland-based livestock production and mobile pastoralists to food security, ecosystem balance, climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental sustainability, and rural sustainable development.

In 2026, many pastoralists' meetings and conferences are being held across regions worldwide. There is now a strong need to synthesize the outcomes and recommendations from these events and produce a unified global position and document. Therefore, Mongolia will host a Global Pastoralist Gathering and Conference to consolidate and validate regional outcomes and elevate them to the global policy level.

Objective of the Gathering and Conference

The objectives of the Global Pastoralist Gathering and Conference to be held in Mongolia from 10–15 August 2026 are to:

- Consolidate and synthesize the outcomes of pastoralists' gatherings and dialogues held across world regions.
- Develop a joint declaration and recommendations that reflect the priorities of pastoralists, including women and youth
- Identify policy directions and cooperation mechanisms to support the sustainability of rangelands and pastoralism by governments and CSOs
- Present the consolidated document at the UNCCD COP 17 and globally within the framework of the celebration of IYRP 2026.

Participants

Representatives of pastoralists and pastoralist organizations and each global gathering: approximately 300 delegates from 102 countries that have supported the designation of the IYRP.

Dates and Venues

- Field visits and thematic discussions: 10–13 August 2026
- Plenary sessions (Ulaanbaatar): 14–15 August 2026

Costs for the field visit and the two-day conference will be covered by the Government of Mongolia.

Expected Outcomes

- Consolidated Outcome Document: A single validated document compiling key results from regional meetings, shared challenges, proposed solutions, commitments, and directions for cooperation
- Pastoralists' Joint Declaration (Women's, Youth's, and Other Pastoralists' Priorities): One unified declaration capturing the priorities, proposals, and commitments of pastoralists, with dedicated sections
- Supporting Declaration for Joint Action (CSOs, researchers/scientists, and governments): A complementary declaration with clear commitments to support implementation of pastoralist-led priorities through policy, research, financing, capacity building, and assistance in coordination at national and regional levels

- Policy Recommendations on Rangeland Management: A package of recommendations addressing rangeland degradation, climate adaptation, financing options for ecosystem services and restoration, and stronger linkages between traditional knowledge and science
- Cooperation Mechanism and Network: Agreement on a clear cooperation mechanism among participating countries' pastoralist organizations (e.g., a working group, coordination channel, and follow-up action plan)
- Global Presentation and Dissemination (IYRP 2026 & COP17): The two declarations will be officially introduced in a COP17 plenary session. In addition, two dedicated COP17 side events will be organized to present and disseminate the consolidated outcome document and both declarations, to promote dialogue with Parties and partners, and to mobilize commitments for follow-up action through IYRP 2026 processes.

Table 1. Field trip agenda

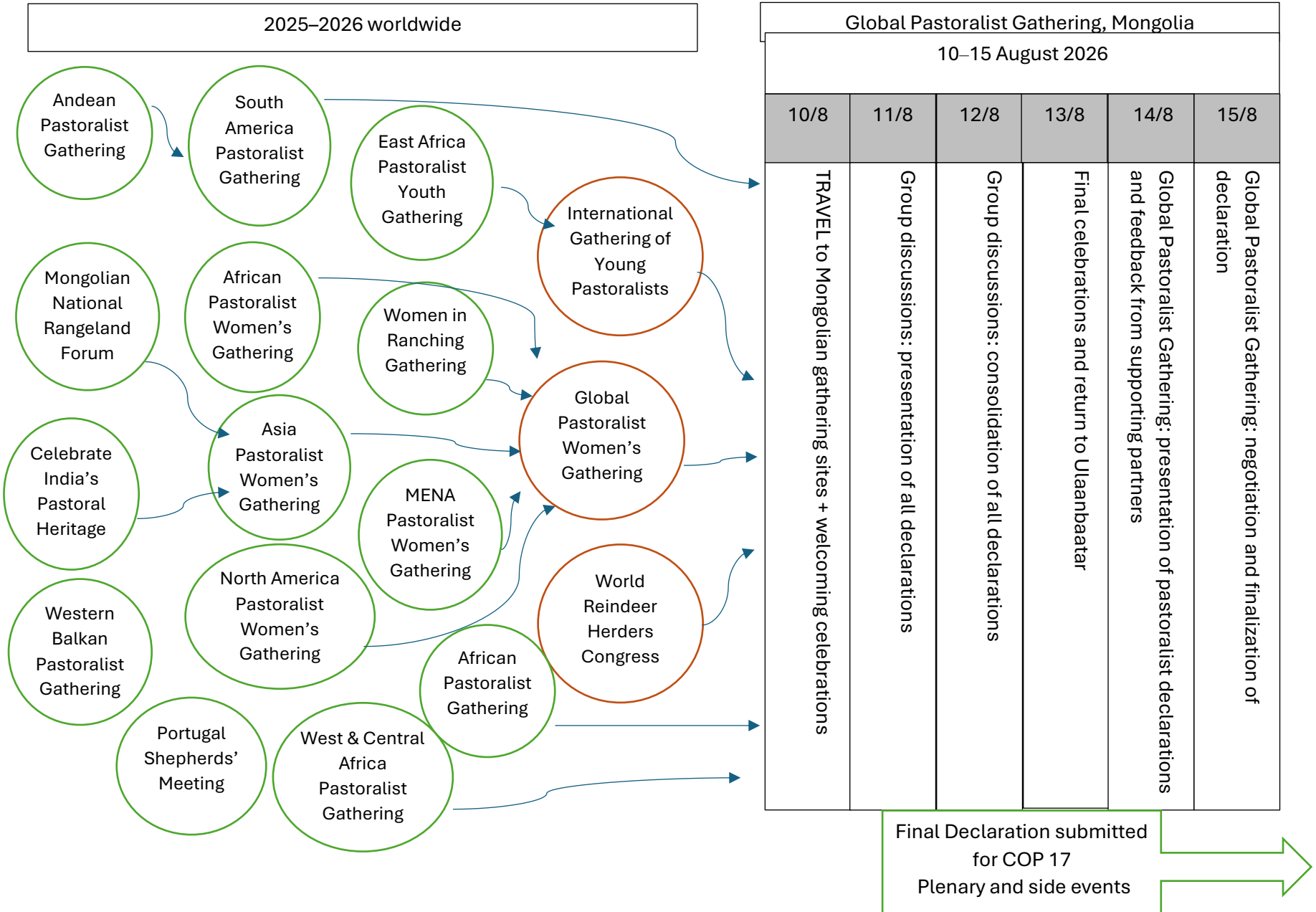
Date	Time	Action
10 Aug	08:00–18:00	Depart to countryside
11 Aug	09:00–13:00	Discussion on women pastoralists' declaration
	13:00–14:00	Lunch
	14:00–18:00	Discussion on young pastoralists' declaration
12 Aug	09:00–13:00	Discussion on pastoralist
	13:00–14:00	Lunch
	14:00-15:00	Wrap up all the declaration
	14:00–18:00	Cultural activity
13-Aug	08:00–18:00	Return to Ulaanbaatar

Table 2. Wrap-up meeting in Ulaanbaatar

14-Aug	08:00–09:00	Regisration			Moderator from GA4RP
	09:00–10:30	PLENARY: Opening speeches: • MoFALI, GA4RP, FAO: M.Badamsuren (Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry) • Igshaan Samuels (Co-chair GA4PR) • Anders Oskal (Sámi reindeer pastoralist)			Moderator: D.Khurelbaatar
	10:30–11:00	Tea break			
	11:00–13:00	Wrap up sessions on pastoralist:			CSO Conference:
		Pastoralists' Declaration: ROOM NUMBER …; MODERATOR	Women Pastoralists' Declaration: ROOM NUMBER …; MODERATOR	Young Pastoralists' Declaration: ROOM NUMBER …; MODERATOR	Review of Desertification Action Conference and CSO Statement ROOM NUMBER …; MODERATOR: Igshaan Samuels)
	13:00–14:00	Lunch			
	14:00–15:30	Pastoralists' statement (Drafting on screen); Selection of pastoralists' spokesperson ROOM NUMBER …; MODERATOR	Women pastoralists' statement (Drafting on screen); Selection of women's spokesperson ROOM NUMBER …; MODERATOR	Young pastoralists' statement (Drafting on screen); Selection of youth spokesperson ROOM NUMBER …; MODERATOR	CSO Conference: Drafting Declaration on screen; Selection of CSO spokesperson ROOM NUMBER …; MODERATOR: Igshaan Samuels)
	15:30–16:00	Tea break			
	16:00–17:00	All pastoralist spokespersons present their statements: • Pastoralists' spokesperson, • Women pastoralists' spokesperson • Young pastoralists' spokesperson			CSO drafting continued: Igshaan Samuels

		ROOM NUMBER…. Moderator: D.Khurelbaatar	
	17:00–18:00	Discussion	Igshaan Samuels
	18:00–18:30	Initial draft of full Declaration	Igshaan Samuels
15-Aug	09:00–09:15	PLENARY: Opening of second day	MoFALI: D.Khurelbaatar
	09:15–13:00	Declaration from pastoralists: finalization by all groups ROOM NUMBER…; moderator - D.Khurelbaatar	CSO Declaration: Finalization ROOM NUMBER…; Moderator: Igshaan Samuels
	14:00–14:30	Declaration from pastoralists presented and feedback pastoralist spokesperson…..	
	14:30–15:00	Declaration from CSOs, governments and scientists presented and feedback CSO Spokesperson….	
	15:00–15:30	Tea break	
	15:30–17:30	Pastoralists finalize and adopt Declaration ROOM NUMBER…; Moderator- D.Khurelbaatar	CSOs finalize and adopt Declaration ROOM NUMBER…; Moderator-Igshaan Samuels
	17:30–18:00	Final Declarations presented by the spokespersons for acclamation Pastoralist spokesperson….. CSO spokesperson….	
	18:00–18:30	Pastoralist Book Launch	Igshaan Samuels
	18:30–19:00	Closing ceremony (MOFALI)	

Table 3. Sponsors and responsible persons

Aimag	Soum	Responsible person from Mongolian Working Group	Sponsors	MoFALI	Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists (GA4RP)
Tuv	Bornuur, Batsumber	Ikhanbai	Ecofarm, UNDP/GEF/SGP	B.Gantulga	????
Arkhangai	Bulgan	Altanbek	WCS	D.Tsogtbaatar	Burmaa
Gobisumber	Bayantal	Bayambatseren	FAO	E.Ariunzaya	Igshaan Samuels
Bayanhongor	Bumbugur	Mungunchimeg	AVSF	O.Nominbolor	????
Sukhbaatar	Baruun-urt	Erdenejargal	DrySteppe	D.Munkhgerel	????
Khuvsgul	Khuvsgul	Amgalan	STREAM	P.Tumenbayar	????

IYRP Global Alliance pastoralist-led events prior to COP 17