



UNCCD COP16 passed decision on rangelands & pastoralists

Several members of the global IYRP alliance – including its three co-chairs – attended the 16th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP16) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in early December 2024 and collaborated in bringing across messages from the alliance, particularly from the Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). You can find the key messages of that WG here in several languages: <https://www.iyrp.info/working-groups>

The alliance organised together with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Livestock and Climate, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the International Land Coalition (ILC) on the road to IYRP 2026. The COP16 included several events and discussions on rangelands and pastoralists, in which the IYRP2026 was mentioned numerous times, also by country representatives and civil-society organisations in their statements in the Committee of the Whole (CoW) plenary. You will hear this if you follow the plenary discussion on rangelands and grasslands held on 6 December 2024, which can be found here from 02:10:00 onwards: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k10/k10jgqd9ms>

The decision submitted on “rangelands and grasslands” became a decision on “rangelands and pastoralists”. The COP16 Resolution L 15 on Rangelands and Pastoralists mandates the UNCCD Secretariat and its Global Mechanism funding arm to follow up and facilitate actions related to sustainable management and inclusive governance of rangelands through community-based and participatory approaches that meaningfully engage pastoralists and other rangeland communities. The hope is that this new resolution will help elevate the issues related to rangelands and pastoralists and mobilise resources for positive action from the countries that are party to the UNCCD.

In addition, a Global Coalition of Rangeland States was launched to prepare for the IYRP2026 and the COP17 to be hosted by Mongolia in 2026, and plans were announced to develop a UNCCD Flagship Initiative on Rangelands.

The IYRP alliance will work further toward COP17. It hopes to be able to create better understanding of the importance of collective and overlapping resource tenure and mobility in use of the rangelands and to encourage relevant supportive policies and investment.

You can find Resolution L 15 as well as a recording of the IYRP side event during COP16 and a summary news item on that event on the IYRP website on the UNCCD page: <https://iyrp.info/un-convention-combat-desertification-unccd>

Further documents that were prepared immediately before COP16 and could be shared there included:

- **Brochure on IYRP2026:** https://www.iyrp.info/sites/iyrp.org/files/2024%2011%20IYRP%20brochure%20b5_single%20page.pdf
- **Position paper on pastoralism and protected areas:** <https://www.iyrp.info/sites/iyrp.org/files/IYRP%20position%20paper%20Pastoralism%20%2B%20protected%20areas%20Dec%202024.pdf>
- **Summary policy brief on supporting initiatives of pastoralist women:** <https://www.iyrp.info/sites/iyrp.org/files/2024%2011%20iyrp%20brief%20summary%20pastoralist%20women.pdf>
- **Pastoralism and rangelands, people and institutions: a glossary of terms** (together with the International Rangeland Congress): https://www.iyrp.info/sites/iyrp.org/files/Glossary_pastoralism%20%2B%20rangelands_people%20%2B%20institutions%202024.pdf