



Concurrent Session 3: International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP) – Part 1

Introduction by Chairperson Barbara Hutchinson

Distinguished delegates, honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the first 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 Barbara Hutchinson, Secretary of the International Support Group for 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.

As you will hear later on, the idea for the IYRP actually started with the International Rangeland Congress, back in 2008.

The road to achieving the IYRP 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 a very integrated set of thematic issues – in fact 12 of them. However, due to time limitations, we are able to cover only three major themes today. I will be your Chair for the first two Thematic Panels. The first one will focus on land tenure, land use and governance. The second one will focus on social and economic issues. The panelists will discuss the priority actions for raising awareness and filling knowledge gaps in their regions on these themes.

We will then have a break during which you can join the Plenary. After that, I will hand it over to Maryam Niamir-Fuller, who will take you through the second part of the IYRP series.

A few words on how we will manage these thematic panels:

- More information about the Speakers today will be found in the “Panelist” box to the right of your screen
- Weblinks to relevant documents and files will be available on the “Handouts”
- Delegates are invited to ask questions in the “Discuss” box to the right of your screen – these will be reviewed and if time permits, some of them will be answered live by our Speakers.
- Delegates can also post their questions in the Q&A box, either for a specific speaker all for everyone in general.