

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF FAO
Hundred and Sixty-fifth Session
30 November – 4 December 2020

Appendix D

Draft Resolution for the Conference
International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

THE CONFERENCE,

Recognizing that pastoralism is a dynamic and transformative livelihood linked to the diverse ecosystems, cultures, identities, traditional knowledge, historical experience of coexisting with nature;

Re-affirming that healthy rangelands are vital for contributing to economic growth, resilient livelihoods and the sustainable development of pastoralism;

Aware that a significant number of pastoralists in the world inhabit rangelands, and that pastoralism is globally practiced in many different forms; Noting that more than half of the Earth's land surface is classified as rangelands and that these areas are suffering considerable desertification, including in countries with substantial drylands;

Recalling the UN General Assembly resolution proclaiming the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the UN General Assembly resolution proclaiming the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the need to support pastoralists and sustainable rangeland management;

Acknowledging that efforts aimed at achieving sustainable rangelands and pastoralism need to be rapidly up-scaled so as to make significant impact in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Acknowledging that rangelands and pastoralism have suffered from "benign neglect" in many countries and are currently facing urgent and different challenges around the world;

Recalling that legal protection of natural resources is needed, in order to manage grazing areas, wildlife, water sources, livestock movement, risk and resilience, and to enable land-use planning and ecosystem management by pastoralists and relevant public entities;

Also emphasizing that well-developed and fair production pastoral value chains can provide equitable economic opportunities and end extreme poverty among various groups;

Acknowledging that FAO has a long-standing work developed in supporting sustainable rangelands and pastoralists from different approaches and thematic areas;

Recognizing the significant contributions being made by the scientific community, non-governmental organizations, pastoralist associations, and other relevant civil society actors; including innovative approaches towards achieving sustainability;

Further recognizing the relevance of sustainable rangelands and pastoralism to several subprograms and thematic areas of the United Nations, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the International Fund for Agricultural

Development, and acknowledging their collaborative efforts with intergovernmental, private sector and civil society partners;

Stressing that costs for the implementation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and the FAO involvement will be covered by extra-budgetary resources to be identified;

Observing that Member Nations have done considerable work on rangelands and pastoralism;

Urging Member Nations to further build the capacity of and continue or increase responsible investment in the pastoral livestock sector, including for sustainable land management practices, improved and/or restored ecosystems, access to markets, livestock health and breeding, and enhanced livestock extension services, in order to improve productivity, contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and maintain and enhance biodiversity;

Requests the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider at its next session, declaring 2026 as the International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists.