



**MINISTRY OF FOOD,
AGRICULTURE AND LIGHT INDUSTRY**

STATEMENT BY

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MONGOLIA**

at 42nd Session of FAO Conference on 14–18 June 2021

*Distinguished representatives,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First of all, I would like to congratulate all of you participating in the 42nd Session of FAO, and express my deepest appreciation to the FAO team for hosting this important conference virtually at this difficult time when every country is struggling with the pandemic.

All countries are working hard to overcome the pandemic with minimal damage on their economy, and to recover the post-pandemic economy in an environment-friendly manner and to fulfill its obligations to the international community.

Mongolia is a country with harsh climatic conditions and a long history and rich culture in livestock husbandry, and we are also taking step-by-step measures to overcome the pandemic with minimal impact and to shift the economic recovery from the pandemic to a greener environment. An example of this is the Government of Mongolia's long-term development policy of "preserving traditional nomadic heritage, ecologically friendly, sustainable and organic animal husbandry, and promoting nomadic animal heritage to the world" is reflected to its national programs and government policy papers. In addition, we are working to make this initiative a reality and its importance to declare the 'International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists' to promote pasture's contribution for global food security and ecosystem benefits, sustainable pastureland management and rehabilitation to increase investment and support sustainable development.

On behalf of the Government, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the FAO member countries, over 200 non-governmental organizations, associations and societies that have supported Mongolia's initiative discussed at consecutive meetings of the FAO of United Nations.

Pastureland, which accounts for more than half of the world's land, plays an important role in pastoralism. As healthy pastures play a vital role in ensuring economic growth, adapting to climate change, and contributing to the sustainable development of pastoralism, the initiative will raise awareness of the importance of pastureland and enhance the natural and cultural value of pastoral and nomadic livestock. It will also help pastoralists to increase their cultural system and traditional pride, especially among young generations, and play a significant role in sustainability, poverty reduction, and sustainable development in developed and developing countries.

The Government of Mongolia has begun to develop an action plan for the implementation of this initiative in cooperation with relevant international organizations, and as the initiating country, a certain amount of financial support and funding will be approved in the budget law of Mongolia for the implementation.

Esteemed representatives,

We are confident that 'The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists' will have a real result and positive impact on increasing the world's food supply, reducing hunger and poverty, and providing the world's population with high-quality and eco-friendly food by the sustainable use of pastureland.

Therefore, I urge you to support and cooperate with our country's initiative.

Thank you for your attention.