****

**United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and the IYRP**

In late 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Presidents, Prime Ministers and other Heads of State are expected to attend the Summit, with the aim of agreeing to and launching bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on **healthier**, more **sustainable** and **equitable** food systems.

The Summit is intended to move away from looking only at food production to a more integrated view that also includes food consumption, processing and distribution, food marketing and trade, impacts on the environment, and fairness to small and large farmers alike. The assumption is that the way toward sustainability in the food system in the world is to look at the full life cycle of food, innovative opportunities and root causes of challenges we face.

The process leading up to the Summit is intended to be participatory and involve multiple stakeholders. It seeks to generate innovative solutions and raise awareness.

There are five [***Action Tracks***](https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/action-tracks) (ATs) and over 2200 solutions have been proposed for them. The solutions, called “Game Changing Ideas” have been grouped into 15 Action Areas (about 3 per AT) and each Action Area has 10–11 Solution Clusters.

A coalition of IYRP supporting organisations submitted one Game Changing Idea called *“*[***Valuing rangeland variability: a global initiative for mobile pastoralism***](https://www.iyrp.info/sites/iyrp.org/files/FSS%2087-VALUING-RANGELAND-VARIABILITY.pdf)*”,* which has been placed in the Action Track 5, Action Area 3, Cluster on Climate Adaptation, Mitigation and Resilience (5.3.1). However, this IYRP Game Changing Idea goes beyond climate change – it is an integrated, cross-sectoral view of the value of mobile pastoralism.

**UNFSS Action Tracks**

1. Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
3. Boost nature-positive production
4. Advance equitable livelihoods
5. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shock and stress

Several IYRP supporting organisations have been participating in the process, including in Working Groups and as a (Mongolian) voice of pastoralists in the Producers Community.

The IYRP also organised a parallel (affiliated) session at the Pre-Summit on 26 July 2021 – see the full report and the recording in the links below.

The UNFSS states that its call for solutions and game-changing ideas was intended to capture public engagement in the process. Many of the Solutions have been submitted by large agri-business companies and international organisations. While this is evidence that the private sector is engaging in UN processes that they often ignore, the process has been criticised by [***many civil society organisations***](https://www.equaltimes.org/as-concerns-over-the-un-food) for, among other things, having brought small-scale producers and indigenous communities too late into the consultations.

If you wish to engage with the process, here are some opportunities:

* Find out more about the UNFSS: https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/frequently-asked-questions
* Provide feedback on the Action Tracks: https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/action-tracks
* Join the UNFSS “Communities”: https://foodsystems.community/communities