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منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# CONFERENCE

## Forty-second Session

2021

### International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (Draft Resolution)

*Extract from the Report of the 165th Council Session (30 November-4 December 2020)*

19. The Council, recalling the criteria outlined in the FAO Policy on the Proclamation and Implementation of International Years, as adopted by the 144th Session of Council (June 2012), and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 1980/67 regarding International Years and Anniversaries, endorsed the following:

- a) the draft Conference resolution submitted by the 27th Session of COAG on the observance by the UN System of an “*International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists*” in 2026, as set out in *Appendix D* to this Report; [...]

#### Resolution .../2021

#### 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;

Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

**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 Rangelands and Pastoralists.

(Adopted on ... 2021)