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Agenda item 15

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 March 2022

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/76/L.36](#) and [A/76/L.36/Add.1](#))]

76/253. International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, 2026

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling resolution [5/2021](#) of 18 June 2021, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its forty-second session,¹

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C/2021/REP, appendix D.



Recognizing the relevance of sustainable rangelands and pastoralism to several subprogrammes and thematic areas of the United Nations, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the work under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa² and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and acknowledging their collaborative efforts with intergovernmental, private sector and civil society partners,

Taking note of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 2/24 of 27 May 2016 on combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands³ and 4/15 of 15 March 2019 on innovations in sustainable rangelands and pastoralism,⁴ decision 14.COM 10.b.2 on “Transhumance, the seasonal droving of livestock along migratory routes in the Mediterranean and in the Alps”, adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fourteenth session, held from 9 to 14 December 2019, and decision 26/COP.14 of 13 September 2019 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,⁵

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

Reaffirming 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 practised 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 its resolution 72/239 of 20 December 2017, by which it proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), and its resolution 73/284 of 1 March 2019, by which it proclaimed the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2020–2030), and the need to support pastoralists and sustainable rangelands management,

Recalling also its resolution 72/210 of 20 December 2017, by which it declared 2024 the International Year of Camelids to promote awareness among the public of the economic and cultural importance of camelids and to foster the consumption of the goods produced from these mammals, including edible goods, in order to contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition,

Acknowledging that efforts aimed at achieving sustainable rangelands and pastoralism need to be rapidly upscaled so as to have a significant impact in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Acknowledging also that rangelands and pastoralism are currently facing urgent and different challenges around the world,

Recognizing the importance of national policies on conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in order to manage grazing areas, wildlife, water sources,

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/71/25)*, annex.

⁴ UNEP/EA.4/Res.15.

⁵ See ICCD/COP(14)/23/Add.1.

livestock movement, risk and resilience, and to enable land-use planning and ecosystem management by pastoralists and relevant public entities,

Emphasizing that well-developed and fair production pastoral value chains can provide equitable economic opportunities and contribute to ending extreme poverty,

Calling upon Member States 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, balanced 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, increase adaptive capacity, and maintain and enhance biodiversity,

Calling upon all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to fill knowledge gaps relating to rangelands and pastoralism and to promote innovative solutions for the sustainable management and ecological restoration of rangelands, taking into account the traditional knowledge of pastoralists,

Recognizing that the observance of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 by the international community would contribute significantly to raising awareness of these issues of global concern,

1. *Decides* to declare 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to observe the International Year, as appropriate, through activities aimed at raising awareness and the visibility of and directing attention to the relevance of the sustainable management of rangelands and pastoralism and its contribution to achieving sustainable development;

3. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), to facilitate the implementation of the International Year;

4. *Also invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), to inform the General Assembly at its eighty-second session about the implementation of the present resolution, including an evaluation of the implementation of the International Year;

5. *Stresses* that the costs of all the activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

6. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to contribute to and support the implementation of the International Year;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, for appropriate observance.

*61st plenary meeting
15 March 2022*