

Decision 29/COP.16

Rangelands and pastoralists

The Conference of the Parties:

Recognizing that rangelands cover over half of the Earth's terrestrial surface, are the dominant land use in the world's drylands, and operate as complex social-ecological systems, which are being significantly threatened by drought, land use change and unsustainable land management as a result of underinvestment and a lack of understanding of their extent, functioning, value, and diversity,

Also recognizing that rangelands provide crucial ecosystem goods and services, especially soil and water conservation, that are essential for the livelihoods, resilience and cultural identity of millions of pastoralists and countless rangeland communities that depend on them for livestock production as well as the provision of global benefits, such as biodiversity habitat and climate change adaptation and mitigation,

Acknowledging the multifaceted importance of rangelands for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and other people in vulnerable situations, emphasizing the need for sustainable land and water management practices to support their livelihoods, cultures and resilience,

Welcoming the Global Land Outlook: Thematic Report on Rangelands and Pastoralists, launched on 21 May 2024 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, which highlights the importance of healthy rangelands for environmental sustainability and socio-economic development,

Recalling the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/15 titled "Innovations in sustainable rangelands and pastoralism",

Also recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/253, which declared 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists with the aim of raising awareness of and drawing attention to the relevance of the sustainable management of rangelands and pastoralism and its contribution to achieving sustainable development,

Appreciating the potential synergies with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and multilateral frameworks and processes relevant to rangelands and pastoralism,

1. *Invites* Parties to prioritize policies and investments for the sustainable management of rangelands, recognizing their essential role in addressing key challenges related to food insecurity, desertification, land degradation and drought, biodiversity loss and climate change;
2. *Also invites* Parties to foster an enabling environment for responsible and inclusive governance that promotes the sustainable land management, restoration and conservation of rangelands as part of their efforts to achieve sustainable development and land degradation neutrality;
3. *Further invites* Parties to improve tenure security in rangelands in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security;
4. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, to strengthen and contribute to public–private partnerships with a view to implementing transformative projects and programmes that engage with relevant stakeholders and ongoing initiatives that support rangeland health and pastoralist resilience;
5. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to support Parties with awareness-raising, capacity-building and resource mobilization through inclusive, community-based and participatory approaches that meaningfully engage pastoralist and other rangeland communities, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
6. *Further requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, and in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organizations, to contribute

to the development of initiatives for sustainable rangeland management, restoration and conservation through, *inter alia*, multi-stakeholder dialogues and national consultations;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to report on progress made to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session.

9th plenary meeting

14 December 2024