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**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Fourth session
Nairobi, 11–15 March 2019

**Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment
Assembly on 15 March 2019**

4/15. Innovations in sustainable rangelands and pastoralism

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/24 on combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands,

Noting with concern the limited level of implementation of the above-mentioned resolution,

Taking note of the work of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, including under its Restoring Value to Grasslands action network,

Noting with appreciation General Assembly resolution 73/284 of 1 March 2019 on the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030),

Welcoming the global and regional initiatives and efforts aimed at preventing and reversing the loss of biological diversity and ecosystem functions and services, and taking note of the substantive body of work on rangelands and pastoralism under the aegis of such United Nations organizations as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and such international agreements as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recognizing the critical role that sustainable rangelands and pastoralism play in addressing environmental challenges, maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services and other natural resources, and contributing to food security, sustainable tourism and socioeconomic development, in particular for indigenous peoples and local communities, where appropriate,

Recognizing also that pastoralism globally is evolving and is linked to the diverse cultures, identities, traditional knowledge, historical experience of coexistence with nature, and distinct way of life of indigenous peoples and local communities, where appropriate,

Aware that pastoralism is facing urgent challenges, including land degradation; loss of biodiversity; vulnerability to climate change; insecurity; low investment; inequity; low levels of literacy, infrastructure and market access; youth exodus; migration and abandonment of rangelands; and limited access to social and extension services,

Deeply concerned by the low level of national, regional and global efforts to implement actions towards sustainable rangelands and pastoralism,

Recognizing the essential role that traditional institutions and collective action play in sustainable rangeland management, and calling for an innovative strengthening of that role,

Noting that, owing to the frequent occurrence of natural hazards such as drought, rangeland resources are becoming increasingly scarce, resulting in conflicts between pastoralists and farmers over natural resources, grazing land and water,

Taking into account the potential of embracing innovative solutions in the sustainable management of rangelands with a view to addressing environmental challenges and improving national incomes through measures such as promoting ecotourism,

1. *Urges* Member States, and invites all relevant stakeholders, to raise awareness and promote innovative solutions for the sustainable management of rangelands and pastoralism, taking into account traditional knowledge in sectors such as agropastoralism, livestock, agroforestry, agriculture, renewable energy and ecotourism;

2. *Also urges* Member States to strengthen global efforts to conserve and sustainably use rangelands, in particular in the context of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030, acknowledging ongoing global efforts to introduce a proposal for an international year of rangelands and pastoralism to the Committee on Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

3. *Invites* Member States and relevant stakeholders to support rangeland restoration through increased promotion of investment, attractive incentives, market access and linkages, value addition, soil and water conservation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecological rehabilitation, resilience mechanisms, and planned grazing and herding mechanisms;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support, upon request and subject to the availability of resources, those countries undertaking regional assessments of the status of, and conditions and trends in, rangeland, pastoral land and pastoralism, taking into account the information and knowledge gathered through the gap analysis undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme and the work carried out by other United Nations organizations and relevant stakeholders;

5. *Encourages* the Executive Director, and invites Member States, in close collaboration with United Nations bodies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in addition to multinational development banks and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, to continue to explore collaborative financing efforts to promote sustainable rangelands and pastoralism;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to support Member States, upon request, in their quest to promote innovative solutions for the sustainable management of rangelands and, where appropriate, to promote sensitive development interventions specific to resolving disputes and supporting traditional governance, with particular attention to recognizing the role of traditional institutions and community participation;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the Environment Assembly at its fifth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution and of resolution 2/24 on combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands.