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# The Farmers' Forum

In conjunction with the thirty-ninth session  
of IFAD's Governing Council



## Special Session of the Farmers' Forum with Pastoralists and Livestock Breeders

Jointly organized by IFAD and VSF International

### Statement

Rome, 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2016

We, the pastoralist and extensive livestock breeders representatives in the 6th global meeting of the Farmers' Forum Special Session with Pastoralists and Extensive Livestock Breeders, representing the voices of millions of people from pastoralist communities worldwide, appreciate the Farmers' Forum process and acknowledge IFAD's commitment to support the consultation that was organized in Asia, Africa and Latin America and gathered over 200 representatives from 38 countries to collect our burning issues, our needs, our demands and our proposals to improve our livelihoods.

Pastoralism is the main livelihood in many drylands and mountainous and other areas, where other forms of agricultural practices are impossible. Pastoralists contribute to efficient management, governance of rangelands and protection of natural resources. In such challenging territories pastoralism presents the best livelihood strategy to provide food, income and employment; these benefit not only pastoral communities, but also those living in farming areas, urban centres and coastal regions, who all profit from regional trade and from the value chains of pastoral products. Pastoralism also provides essential eco-system services such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation.

Pastoralists rely on livestock mobility and communal land for their livelihoods. We use our traditional knowledge and land tenure systems to access rangeland, produce food and seize market opportunities. Mobility is essential for adaptability and resilience strategies of our communities to cope with climate variability and to mitigate crisis situations. Pastoralist women play a crucial and increasing role in conflict resolution, cohesiveness, peace building and strengthening the food sovereignty.

Despite the many benefits of pastoralism, our communities are facing numerous challenges that threaten our ways of life. We suffer from socio-economic, political, cultural and environmental marginalization, exclusion from political dialogue, unfair market and trade conditions, low levels of investment resulting in limited access to primary services and basic infrastructure. We are subject to unfavourable policies that lead to dispossession of land and natural resources, induced sedentarization and displacement. Demographic pressure, climate change and environmental degradation are harming our livelihoods and increase conflict, insecurity and migration of pastoral youth. Often investments come in the name of public interest and national development but directly and indirectly they harm our livelihoods by grabbing land, water and other natural resources.

Pastoralism is more than livestock production; it is a way of life, a culture and an identity. We pastoralists are citizens and our rights, culture and customary institutions should be recognized and respected.

We call upon IFAD to recognize the uniqueness of our livelihoods that need tailored approaches and investments.

### **Priority areas for investments for pastoralists and extensive livestock breeders**

We call upon IFAD to directly invest in pastoralism asset development (in human development, livestock and natural resources).

Promote key infrastructures in the sector and in particular:

- Support the provision of sustainable water points in strategic locations for pastoralists and extensive livestock breeders. For instance promote renewable energies to use underground water for pasture and other activities.
- Construct, rehabilitate, maintain of rural roads, secure pastoral corridors to improve rangeland accessibility and mobility.
- Invest in infrastructures/units and innovative technologies for grass/ fodder production, livestock product processing and adding value.

Facilitate pastoralists' access to economic services for value chain development:

- Support access to inputs for livestock production: veterinary services, nutrition, advisory services, etc.
- Promote the access and marketing of pastoralist and extensive livestock breeders' products at all levels: local, national, regional and international markets.
- Promote inclusive and coordinated trans-boundary services in areas such as animal health, epidemio-surveillance, early warning system, value chain development and market information systems.

Support capacity building and institutional strengthening, especially dedicated to women and youth:

- Support vocational training and mobile learning programs for pastoralists.
- Support the development of alternative and complementary income generating activities, especially those promoting traditional knowledge and practices (artisan handicrafts, off-farm activities, eco-tourism / community-based tourism, production, processing and marketing of medicinal plants).
- Support the linkages of pastoralists and extensive livestock breeders organisation from local to international level
- Support business and management skills especially for women and youth.
- Document and promote the use of traditional/indigenous knowledge and know-how of pastoralists on plants, breeds, ethno-veterinary medicine, etc.

Support social services adapted to mobile livelihoods:

- Provide and improve access to financial services (saving, credit, insurance, etc.).
- Provide adequate and appropriate health, formal and informal education services for nomadic communities (mobile clinics, etc.).
- Promote social protection and safety net programmes.
- Support information and communication technologies such as mobile, landline phones and radio stations.

**Youth and gender:** emphasis should be given to women and young pastoralists to empower them and strengthen their access to resources, trainings and leadership within their organizations.

### **Priority areas for IFAD to facilitate policy dialogue, advocacy and other policy initiatives in support of pastoralists and extensive livestock breeder organisations**

During the Special Session with Pastoralists and Extensive Livestock Breeders at the Farmers' Forum 2016, we, the pastoralist and extensive livestock breeders representatives hereby make specific recommendations to IFAD regarding the priorities in policy dialogue to create an enabling environment for pastoral development.

We urge IFAD to develop a policy on pastoralism also in line with the recommendations of *FAO's and IFAD's*

*Engagement in Pastoral Development Joint Evaluation Synthesis.* This policy is needed because pastoralism requires a particular approach, as it is not only an economic activity but also a way of life based on a rich heritage of traditional/indigenous knowledge, culture and ownership. This policy should encompass particular arrangements regarding **women** and should be gender-responsive and inclusive at all levels. Furthermore, this policy should be developed within a **broader framework of human rights**.

Through its investment projects and directly through grants, IFAD should reinforce the **institutional capacities and governance of pastoralist organisations and extensive livestock breeders** to influence policy processes at local, national and regional levels. IFAD should provide **specific support** to these institutions, organizations and networks **to better design internal data collection systems that will be used for political and advocacy processes** (e.g. data on the impact of climate change on pastoralism, on national/sectoral contribution to GDP/economy/food security, on early warning systems, etc.). IFAD should further support these organizations **to access knowledge and experiences from others** (south/south programmes) and to monitor and evaluate **public policies' implementation and adaptation status**. Therefore, IFAD should support the **independent engagement of pastoralist organisations** in policy dialogues at local, national, regional and global level through adapted legislations for pastoralists and extensive livestock breeders and **the creation and reinforcement of enabling platforms** for policy making with governments and regional institutions.

IFAD should continue to implement its policy on improving access to land and tenure security with specific attention to the security and tenure of pastoralist **communal land and the governance of natural resources**. Particular attention should be devoted **to cross border movement, mobility and conflict** in these areas. In so doing, the operational principles of **"Free Prior and Informed Consent"** should be systematically applied in all investment projects and programmes.

#### **Inclusion of pastoralist and extensive livestock breeder organisations at different stages of IFAD business model**

Pastoralism is a core issue for IFAD and IFAD's mandate requires mainstreaming of pastoralist issues into various thematic areas. Therefore, we call upon the Steering Committee of the Farmers' Forum to respect its principle of inclusiveness as written in the Farmers' Forum Consensus of 2005, and therefore to include WAMIP and other global and regional networks of pastoralist and extensive livestock breeders as members of the Steering Committee of the Farmers' Forum and involve these alliances in other national, regional and global policy and decision making processes. We also request IFAD to be staffed with a technical specialist on pastoralism.

We call upon IFAD to timely and systematically inform pastoralist and extensive livestock breeder organizations on the timeframe and process of the preparation of IFAD's country strategies (COSOP) and investment projects to effectively include their participation. COSOPs should be based on a participatory assessment of social, economic, cultural aspects and livelihoods of pastoralist communities.

We call upon IFAD to promote systematic gender balanced participation and representation of pastoralists and livestock breeder organizations in the activities of IFAD's Country Program Management Team and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of IFAD investment projects and programmes.

In a tripartite arrangement between IFAD, governments and pastoralists and extensive livestock breeders organisations we recommend to be part in the implementation of IFAD investment projects and programmes to strengthen pastoralism and extensive livestock breeding in harmony with nature.

We recognize that IFAD's mandate is to work in each country at the national level, but call upon it to adapt its working modality in order to tackle the cross-border dimension of pastoralists to include the trans-boundary aspects of genetic resources, security, animal diseases, trade and climate change.

This statement is the expression of the needs and priorities of pastoralist and extensive livestock breeder organizations worldwide. We acknowledge IFAD's consultation efforts to listen to our voices. We urge that our requests will be heard and will lead to actions towards sustainable pastoralism. We are fully committed to contribute and participate in the programmes of IFAD.

There are lot of myths about us, here we would like to say loudly that we are not the problem but essential part of the solution.