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TASHKENT Declaration

The members and partners of Central Asia Rangelands Initiative of International Land Coalition , ILC from, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in Central Asia met in Tashkent , Uzbekistan , from the 10th to the 11th September 2019 to discuss and agree on the strategy and workplan of for Central Asia Rangelands Initiative, hereinafter named as Central Asian Pastoral Alliance, as part of Asia Rangelands Initiative, that would protect tenure security and their mobile livelihoods in line with Mongolian Proposal on the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Pastoral ecosystem represents a specific socio-ecological landscapes shaped by centuries of nomadic animal husbandry production. Pastoral agriculture is a way of life for many communities in Central Asia and over time it has supported environmental protection of rangeland landscapes and herders' livelihoods. Natural resources-based development is the background of the economy in Central Asian countries. The pastoral ecosystem is a major socio-ecological production landscapes in Central Asia which is currently undergoing in major socio-economic and ecological changes while maintaining both full and semi-nomadic pastoral agriculture.

Pastoralists' occupy a significant percent of land and in Central Asia. For example, agriculture's share in the GDP in Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan ranges from approximately 15.2 to 50.0% and agricultural land covers between 53 to 78% of the entire territory of which between 44 to 85.3% is pasture land These last figures are on average 3 times higher than the percentage of pasture land in all of Asia .

Land degradation is severe in Central Asia, reducing the productivity and threatening the livelihoods of millions of farmers and pastoralists. In Central Asia the rural population particularly relies on livestock production, so there is a need to support and implement sustainable pasture management systems.

In Central Asian countries currently practicing different tenure systems, such as: open access; individualised (private/rented); common property; state managed systems; and mixed systems.

According to the importance of mining sector the allocation of pasture land to the herder's communities are being postponed in Mongolia, and this is issue on recognizing traditional land use rights of herders and their communities.

We, in representation of the pastoralists organizations of Central Asia, call society for a better recognition of pastoralists, and appeal the following:

To the National, Regional and Global Institutions

- We appeal the Central Asia Pastoralist Alliance is now should be included in any national and regional discussion affecting the livelihoods of our pastoralist peoples and rangelands

To the United Nations we appeal:

- We appeal that the United Nations support and approve Mongolian Proposal to declare 2026 as International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

To herder's communities the civil Society organizations

- We are calling all herder's, pastoralist organizations and associations to join our network for exchange experiences and knowledge sharing, using the traditional and innovative methods and collaborative learning in Central Asia.

This declaration is recognition growing our network in Central Asia and the expression of our strategy and activities for next 3 years that need to be supported by International Land Coalition, FAO Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, UNEP and other international organizations and donors.

Tashkent, Uzbekistan , **2019.09.11**