

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

The **Special Session of the Farmers' Forum with Pastoralists and livestock breeders** was jointly organized by IFAD and VSF International at IFAD Headquarters in Rome on 12-13 February 2016.

18 representatives of pastoralists' and livestock breeders' organizations from Africa, Asia and Latin America participated to the Special Session, bringing messages from the regional consultations that have been organised in January. The consultation meetings gathered over 200 representatives from 38 countries, and aimed to collect the burning issues, the needs, the demands and the proposals to improve the livelihoods of pastoralists and extensive livestock breeders.

During the Special Session the outcomes of the regional consultations were presented in plenary by the regional delegates, and participants worked in groups to consolidate the regional statements and recommendations to IFAD on the priority areas of investment, policy dialogue and improved partnership.

VSF International presented the framework of the regional consultations, the results of the mapping of stakeholders engaged in pastoralism in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as some preliminary results of the surveys on households' practices, available services and public policies affecting pastoralism. Furthermore, the main findings of the Joint Evaluation Synthesis of IFAD/FAO Engagement with Pastoral Development (2003-2013) were presented by IFAD's Independent Officers of Evaluation. Finally, the Statement of WAMIP<sup>1</sup> was read in plenary.

The two-day session has produced a **Statement of the Special Session with Pastoralists and Extensive Livestock Breeders**<sup>2</sup> that was delivered to the Farmers' Forum, held on 15-16 February. The following main message has been given to the Farmers Forum Steering Committee and IFAD:

*"Pastoralism is the main livelihood in marginal agricultural land and provides multiple ecosystem services and social benefits. Pastoralists though suffer from lack of recognition and unfavourable policies that affect crucial aspect of livestock mobility and communal land access. We call upon IFAD to start a pastoralist policy guiding tailored approaches and investments as well as reinforce institutional capacities of pastoralist organisations- IFAD is called upon to promote the inclusion of pastoralist and extensive livestock breeder organisations at different stages of its working model to cater for cross-border dimension of pastoralism, support gender balance and inclusion, security and tenure of pastoralist communal land and the governance of natural resources, particularly cross border movement, mobility and conflict. Global and regional grassroots alliances of pastoralists and extensive livestock breeders should be included and actively participate in the articulation and all processes of the Farmers Forum".*

### **Pastoralism and extensive livestock breeding issues during the Farmers' Forum (15-16 February 2016):**

During the Farmers' Forum, the pastoralist representatives have pointed out the importance of UN agencies to create synergies with each other, especially in the initiatives like Pastoralist Knowledge Hub and Committee on World Food Security (CFS) process hosted by FAO and that empowers the pastoralists not only in economic terms but also in policy advocacy, institutional capacity building and knowledge sharing.

---

<sup>1</sup> The World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Pastoralists (WAMIP), is a global alliance that represents the voices of pastoralists and their political message and position since its first gathering held in Segovia, Spain in 2003.

<sup>2</sup> The Statement can be downloaded in 3 languages (English, French and Spanish) at <http://vsf-international.org/statement-pastoralism-fafo/>

The President of IFAD Mr. Kanayo F.Nwanze welcomed the pastoralist delegates to the Farmers Forum and emphasized the principles of inclusiveness and transparency of the FAFO process and highlighted that “For the new comers I hope this session will be enriching, instructing and empowering and we planted our relationship in fertile soil. I think we will all continue to grow the seeds”.

The chair of the Special Session Mr. Djibo Bagna highlighted that “We had meeting with pastoralists and livestock breeders that has made us possible to enlarge our family”.

Among the outcomes from the Special Session and the Farmers’ Forum, held in conjunction with IFAD’s Governing Council, organizers announced a plan to make the platform for dialogue more inclusive, inviting pastoralists and livestock breeders to take part, and more decentralized creating stronger links to smallholders and family farmers on the ground.

**The 18 regional delegates participating to the Special Session of the Farmers’ Forum with Pastoralists and Livestock Breeders:**

- For ASIA region: Ms. Munkhbolor Gungaa, Mr. Atai Ayatkhaan, Mr. Tashi Tsering Ghale, Mr. Hanwant Singh Rathore
- For WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA: Mr Dodo Boureima, Ms. Saoudata Walet Aboubacrine, Mr. Ibrahima Aliou, Ms Oumou Kairy Diallo
- For EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA: Mr Benjamin B. Mutambukah, Mr Roba Fantalle Jilo, Ms Shoba Liban, Mr Edward Porokwa
- For NORTH AFRICA AND NEAR EAST: Mr Said Fagouri and Ms Sarah Hatim Ibrahim Abdelarahman
- For LATIN AMERICA: Ms Maria Teresa Alvarez, Ms Julia Alicia Amarilla Leiva, Mr Egidio Sixto Icuna Funes, Mr Higinio Porto