



## High-Level Forum on Pastoralism: A Decade of Progress and New Directions towards Resilience and Security

Date: November 6-8, 2024 | Palais des Congrès | Nouakchott, Mauritania

### Concept Note (V1.3, September 11)

**Context:** Pastoralism plays a major role in the economies of West African countries in general, and particularly in the Saharo-Sahelian region, where it contributes significantly to food and nutritional security for local populations, sustainable management of natural resources, adaptation to climate change, source of income as well as poverty alleviation. Livestock, including pastoral systems, account for nearly 15% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of countries and the sector provides a source of employment and income generation for a large part of the population. A major asset for the Saharo-Sahelian countries, pastoralism is also a powerful vector of regional economic integration through the flourishing trade it generates, across borders, including in the coastal countries of Western Africa. With their lifestyles and expertise, pastoral herders are the best able to adapt to and invigorate the changing environment of the Saharo-Sahelian space. However, the resilience of pastoral societies is put to the test by compounded shocks and their environmental, economic, social, and even political consequences. Most importantly, the areas that pastoralists occupy, and which sustain them are now prey to cross-border civil insecurity and are being used for agricultural expansion. Faced with this threat, the Ministers in charge of livestock and security, sector experts and development partners met in N'Djamena/Chad in May of 2013, to reflect on the contribution of pastoral livestock to the security and development of the Saharo-Sahelian areas. This was the first milestone, the so-called “N’Djamena Declaration on Pastoralism.”

In October 2013, the High-Level Forum on Pastoralism in Nouakchott of the Heads of State and Governments of the six Sahel countries (i.e. Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) adopted the "Nouakchott Declaration", calling for ***"securing the way of life and the means of production of pastoral populations and increasing the gross output of livestock activities by at least 30% in the six countries over the next five years, with a view to significantly increasing the income of herders within a 5 to 10-year horizon."*** Ten years later, many achievements have been made with notable positive impacts on pastoral and agro-pastoral populations in the areas of animal health, sustainable management of natural resources, development of livestock production and marketing infrastructure, social inclusion of herders, particularly women and youth, and strengthening of national institutions in charge of livestock. But new challenges like droughts, desertification, food insecurity, economic issues and political insecurity have arisen that are threatening the resilience of pastoral communities.

The World Bank has backed pastoralism in the Sahel through the Regional Sahel Pastoral Program (PRAPS-1 project from 2015 to 2021 and its ongoing second phase, PRAPS-2, since 2021). The Bank's commitment has also inspired contributions from development partners like the EU, AFD, AfDB, IDB, and MCC/MCA.

**Objective:** The High-Level Forum on Pastoralism aims to take stock and evaluate the results achieved, and progress made in the past ten years in the Sahelian and West African countries. It intends to reassess strategies in response to new challenges and emerging opportunities, with the goal of guiding future investments towards enhancing productivity and resilience, of the livestock sector and securing pastoral systems in the region. **Expected Outcome:** The three-day High-Level Forum will identify practical strategies to transform the livestock sector in the Sahelian and West African countries drawing on the policy insights, shared experiences, and opportunities. It will equip participating countries and parties with knowledge on how to foster, strengthen and concretize regional and international support to livestock and pastoralism through a new Declaration based on a unifying message. It will help consolidate partnerships between the private sector, the governments and development partners, and renew the commitment to a roadmap for the next decade while addressing sustainability of pastoral communities and contributing to security in the region.

**Timeline:** The event will take place from November 6 to 8.

**Venue:** Palais des Congrès, Nouakchott, Mauritania.

**Key Participants:** The Forum will bring together Heads of State and Ministers of Finance, Agriculture and Livestock, across the West African and Sahelian countries, representatives from development partners, relevant private sector stakeholders, and representatives of regional organizations.

**Proposed Structure of the Event:** The Forum is scheduled over three days in a hybrid format, with technical sessions taking place during Day 1 & 2, followed by the High-Level political event that will involve the Heads of State and Government. Technical notes are being produced to feed into the first two days.

**The first day** will review the implementation of commitments, considering all the dimensions (environmental, economic, and social) of the 2013 Declaration.

**The second day** will allow for consultation with stakeholders, define a common vision and future commitments in the field of livestock and pastoralism. It will fuel discussion and peer learning.

**The third day** will be attended by Heads of State and will focus on ways of strengthening and concretizing regional and international solidarity in support of pastoralism through a new Declaration which will be based on a message on pastoralism and agro-pastoralism, considering sub-regional realities and current political situations in the livestock and pastoralism sub-sector in coastal countries.

A draft agenda is available in ANNEX 1.

**Forum organizers:** See ANNEX 2.

## ANNEX 1: AGENDA

### High-Level Forum on Pastoralism: A Decade of Progress and New Directions towards Resilience and Security

Nouakchott, Mauritania | Time: 9:00-18:00 | November 6-8 2024

#### Day 1: November 06, 2024

| Time           | Description  |
|----------------|--|
| 8:00 – 9:30    | <b>Registration and Networking with Coffee.</b><br><b>Arrival of Invited Guests</b>  |
| 9:30-10:00     | <b>Arrival of the Prime Minister and Ministers</b>   |
| 10:00 – 11:00  | <b>Official Opening Ceremony Moderated by the Director of Ceremony</b><br>Opening Prayer<br><b>Welcome Address</b><br><b>Address</b><br><b>Keynote Speech or short video (under preparation)</b><br><b>End of the Official Opening Ceremony – Director of Ceremony</b> |
| 11:00 – 11:15  | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |
| 11:15 – 12:45  | <b>Session 1: The Nouakchott Declaration and its Objectives: What has happened in the last ten years?</b><br><b>Discussion</b>   |
| 12:45 – 14:00  | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| 14:00 – 15:00  | <b>Session 2: Panel on Challenges and Issues</b><br><b>Discussion</b>  |
| 15: 00 – 16:00 | <b>Session 3: Panel on Regional Challenges and Issues (contd.)</b><br><b>Discussion</b>  |
| 16:00 – 16:15  | <b>Break</b>   |
| 16:15 – 17:30  | <b>Session 4: Panel on Private Sector Challenges and Issues</b><br><b>Discussion</b>   |

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| 17:30 – 18:00                   | <b>Plenary summary of the day and program for the following days</b>   |
| 18:00 – 19:00                   | <b>Cocktails</b><br><b>Announcements and Addresses</b>   |
| <b>Day 2: November 07, 2024</b> |  |
| 8:00 – 9:00                     | Breakfast and Networking   |
| 9:00 – 9:30                     | <b>Day 1 Summary</b>   |
| 9:30 – 11:00:                   | <b>Session 6: Workshops on the Way Forward</b>   |
| 11:00 – 11:15                   | <b>Break</b>   |
| 11:15 – 12:30                   | <b>Session 7: Recap of the three workshops by the rapporteurs</b><br><b>Presentation of conclusions in terms of perspectives</b>                                       |
| 12:30 – 14:00                   | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| 14:00 – 15:30                   | <b>Session 8: Round Table Discussion – Implications for projects and programs to support pastoral livestock farming (with TFPs in attendance)</b><br><b>Discussion</b> |
| 15:30 – 16:00                   | <b>Break</b>   |
| 16:00 – 17:30                   | <b>Session 9: Regional Perspective to Securing Pastoral Systems in West Africa and the Sahel</b><br><b>Discussion</b>  |
| <b>DAY 3: November 08, 2024</b> |  |
| 8:00 – 9:00                     | <b>Breakfast and Networking</b>  |
| 9:00 – 9:15                     | <b>Day 2 Summary</b>   |
| 9:15 – 10:30                    | <b>Session 10: Review the Declaration and Finalize</b>   |
| 10:30 – 10:45                   | <b>Coffee</b>  |
| 10:45 – 12:00                   | <b>Session 11: Panel on Donor coordination and support to the Livestock sector</b><br><b>Discussion</b>  |
| 12:00 – 15:00                   | <b>Lunch – Break for afternoon prayers</b>   |
| 15:00 – 15:30                   | <b>Arrival of Invited Guests</b>   |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 15:30 – 16:00 | <b>Arrival of the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania – H.E. Mohamed Ould Ghazouani</b><br><b>Official Address to the conference – by the President</b>  |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | <b>Session 12: Video excerpts from Nouakchott+10 : Une décennie d'actions en faveur des communautés pastorales et agropastorales au Sahel et en Afrique de l’Ouest - Bilan et perspectives</b><br><b>Fireside Chat – (45 mins)</b> |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | <b>Session 13: Ministerial Roundtable</b><br><b>Moderated by Ousmane Diagana, Vice President, Western and Central Africa, World Bank</b>   |
| 18:00 – 18:30 | <b>Presentation of the “New Declaration” for the next Decade</b><br><b>Endorsement by the Roundtable</b>   |
| 18:30         | <b>Official Closing Ceremony</b><br><b>State Dinner</b>  |

## ANNEX 2: FORUM ORGANIZERS

The Forum is organized by CILSS and the World Bank, with political support from the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, ECOWAS and WAEMU.

The preparation and organization of the Forum involves two bodies: A steering committee (COFIL) and technical organization committee (TOC):

**Steering Committee (COFIL):** A steering committee has been set up and is chaired by the Executive Secretary of CILSS and includes a senior authority from the host country Mauritania, a representative of the CILSS coordinating Minister from Chad, the political integration IGOs (ECOWAS, WAEMU), the World Bank, the SWAC and the RBM Executive Secretary. This committee sets the forum's main strategic orientations and is responsible for lobbying Heads of State and mobilizing resources.

**Technical Organization Committee (TOC):** The Technical Organization Committee is being chaired by the Deputy Executive Secretary of CILSS and includes the General Directors of AGRHYMET, CCR, AOS, INSAH, a senior official from the Mauritanian Ministry of Livestock, technical and financial partners (WB, AFD, EU, ENABEL, DDC/Swiss Cooperation, FAO), PRAPS-2 National coordinators, APEX (APESS, RBM, ROPPA) and National (GNAP and FNE) producer organizations.

The TOC is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Forum's administrative, technical, scientific, logistical and communications activities.

The TOC is assisted by four support units housed by CILSS:

- Technical and Scientific Assistance Unit (CTS);
- Administrative and Financial Support Unit (CAF);
- Logistics and Protocols Support Unit (CLP);
- Communication Support Unit (CAC).

The CTS and the World Bank work in close collaboration with IRAM-CIRAD Consortium, responsible for supporting the scientific organization of the Forum.