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منظمة  
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# COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

## SUB-COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK

### First Session

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### Report of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock

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## I. Introduction

1. The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) is a partnership of diverse livestock stakeholders committed to the sustainable development of the sector. Its members contribute towards enhancing livestock stakeholders' commitments, investments and adoption of good practices and policies in support of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a multi-stakeholder partnership process. GASL has completed its 2019–2021 Action Plan<sup>1</sup> is now implementing its 2022–2024 Action Plan.

<sup>1</sup> Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. 2019. *GASL Action Plan 2019–2021: Enhancing the contribution of the livestock sector to the Sustainable Development Goals with a multistakeholder partnership approach* [online]. [Cited 18 January 2022].

[http://www.livestockdialogue.org/fileadmin/templates/res\\_livestock/docs/About\\_Agenda/GASL\\_AP\\_2019-2021.pdf](http://www.livestockdialogue.org/fileadmin/templates/res_livestock/docs/About_Agenda/GASL_AP_2019-2021.pdf)

Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org).

2. While recognizing the importance of livestock for all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),<sup>2</sup> GASL focuses its actions on nine SDGs,<sup>3</sup> based around four sustainability domains.<sup>4</sup> The 2022–2024 Action Plan continues this focus, along with strengthening knowledge exchanges and the sharing of sustainable solutions, which will help inform upscaling actions by Members of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG)’s Sub-Committee on Livestock.
3. Through multiple actions, including webinars, publications, pilot initiatives and regional and global meetings, GASL facilitates dialogue and gathers and delivers scientific evidence to inform practice and policy changes that foster livestock sustainability worldwide. During the last ten years, GASL has coordinated collective and individual stakeholder policy dialogues and actions to foster sustainability throughout the livestock sector.
4. The 27th Session of COAG invited GASL to report regularly on its work to the Sub-Committee on Livestock.
5. This report summarizes GASL’s global reach, its activities since October 2020 and highlights of its 2022–2024 Action Plan.

## II. GASL’s global reach

6. Countries and regions that have adopted appropriate policies and legislation in favour of sustainable livestock development are now promoting GASL’s multi-stakeholder partnership approach.
7. Examples of such practice and policy change in favour of sustainable livestock development are observable in Mesoamerica (Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean outcomes)<sup>5</sup> and Mongolia,<sup>6</sup> with developments taking place in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and South America. In response to stakeholders’ requests, a process to initiate GASL regional chapters in Africa and Latin America was launched in 2020, focusing on facilitating consultations.

## III. Key activities since October 2020

8. Focus has been on the theme “Embracing change and harnessing diversity: the roles of livestock in sustainable food systems”,<sup>7</sup> including regional and global multi-stakeholder partnership

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<sup>2</sup> Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. 2016. *Panama Declaration* [online]. [Cited 18 January 2022]. [www.livestockdialogue.org/fileadmin/templates/res\\_livestock/docs/2016/Panama/2016\\_GASL\\_PANAMA\\_DECLARATION.pdf](http://www.livestockdialogue.org/fileadmin/templates/res_livestock/docs/2016/Panama/2016_GASL_PANAMA_DECLARATION.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. No date. Tools session around SDG15 – Focusing on efficiency of production. In: *Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock* [online]. [Cited 18 January 2022]. [www.livestockdialogue.org/resources/resources/7th-mps-addis-ababa-08-12-may-2017/tools-session-around-sdg15-liz-wedderburn-agresearch/en/](http://www.livestockdialogue.org/resources/resources/7th-mps-addis-ababa-08-12-may-2017/tools-session-around-sdg15-liz-wedderburn-agresearch/en/)

<sup>4</sup> Global Forum for Food and Agriculture. 2018. Shaping the future of livestock – sustainably, responsibly, efficiently. Communiqué 2018 [online]. [Cited 18 January 2022]. [www.gffa-berlin.de/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/GFFA\\_2018\\_Kommunique\\_EN.pdf](http://www.gffa-berlin.de/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/GFFA_2018_Kommunique_EN.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> FAO. 2017. XIV Reunión de la Comisión de Desarrollo Ganadero para América Latina y el Caribe (CODEGALAC). Capítulo Mesoamérica. In: *FAO* [online]. Rome. [Cited 18 January 2022]. [www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/es/c/1069747/](http://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/es/c/1069747/)

<sup>6</sup> FAO. 2019. FAO in Mongolia. Sustainable livestock is no longer an option. In: *FAO* [online]. Rome. [Cited 18 January 2022]. [www.fao.org/mongolia/news/detail-events/en/c/1206718/](http://www.fao.org/mongolia/news/detail-events/en/c/1206718/)

<sup>7</sup> Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. 2021. Embracing change and harnessing diversity: the roles of livestock in sustainable food systems. In: *Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock* [online]. [Cited 18 January 2022]. [www.livestockdialogue.org/events/events/multi-stakeholder-meetings/11th-mps-online-7-11-june-2021/en/](http://www.livestockdialogue.org/events/events/multi-stakeholder-meetings/11th-mps-online-7-11-june-2021/en/)

meetings, and on the joint organization of an independent dialogue<sup>8</sup> as part of the UN Food Systems Summit. These activities have enabled further refinement of the theory of change as the basis for the new 2022–2024 Action Plan. Several livestock-related coalitions with diverse views emerged through the UN Food Systems Summit, for which GASL will facilitate dialogues along with access to support for the implementation of Members' agrifood systems transformation plans that include sustainable livestock solutions.

**IV. The GASL 2022–2024 Action Plan: Embracing change and harnessing diversity to contribute to sustainable food systems**

9. The 2022–2024 Action Plan will harness GASL’s multi-stakeholder partnership processes, connecting stakeholders to make the “whole bigger than the sum of its parts”, thereby contributing to its vision for sustainable, inclusive, resilient and diverse livestock conditions across the world. This in turn will contribute significantly to achieving the SDGs and to ensuring that such livestock conditions are integral to sustainable food systems by 2030.

10. The 2022–2024 Action Plan has three overarching outcomes:

- 1) Evidence and practice change: GASL network partners from academia/research institutions, public and private sectors, civil society, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations jointly assemble robust scientific evidence, share lessons and exchange practices for more sustainable food systems.
- 2) Dialogue: Livestock and non-livestock stakeholders engage in GASL-convened dialogues to share scientific knowledge, foster consensus, align interventions and formulate joint actions towards more sustainable livestock systems.
- 3) Policy change: Public and private decision makers use robust scientific evidence and expertise gathered by and communicated through GASL to change policies so that they are in favour of more sustainable livestock.

11. These outcomes will be achieved using a theory of change approach (summarized in Table 1), based on spheres of control, influence and interest. A monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed to track progress and support the review and adjustment of actions, including modes of engagement with other stakeholders, such as the Sub-Committee on Livestock and the Committee on World Food Security, and with consumers and producers. The Sub-Committee on Livestock is invited to comment on these synergies and engagement.

Table 1. Theory of change summary

Sphere of control: Assemble and deliver evidence-based options and solutions. Through collaboration, learning and knowledge exchanges, livestock stakeholders gather evidence and recommend proven practices and solutions that can be applied to achieve more sustainable livestock systems.	
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing effective and inclusive internal knowledge exchange processes.</li> <li>• Raising awareness of the multiple and diverse roles of livestock in development.</li> <li>• Enabling and supporting stakeholders to promote and deliver good practices and policies for more sustainable, inclusive and resilient livestock solutions.</li> </ul>
Sphere of influence: Facilitate stakeholder engagement and understanding. Through inclusive discourse and access to knowledge and evidence, raise awareness of sustainable livestock opportunities and their contributions to development outcomes.	

<sup>8</sup> UN Food Systems Summit. 2021. Embracing change and harnessing diversity: the roles of livestock in future food systems [online]. [Cited 18 January 2022]. [www.summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12562](http://www.summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12562)

Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting communication and knowledge-sharing with livestock and non-livestock stakeholders external to GASL.</li> <li>• Providing evidence, tools and guidelines to inform and advise local, regional and global decision makers.</li> <li>• Facilitating dialogue between GASL members and other external livestock and non-livestock stakeholders.</li> <li>• Ensuring that local, regional and global decision makers access, use and deploy options for more sustainable livestock-based practices underpinned by supporting policies.</li> </ul>
<p>Sphere of interest: Catalyse food system policy changes. Through outreach, engagement and evidence-based communications, make the case to include more sustainable livestock options in development programming and resourcing worldwide.</p>	
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicating qualitative and quantitative evidence about the roles of livestock in sustainable development and future food systems.</li> <li>• Ensuring dialogues that include livestock elements take place during global forums, in development agency planning, etc.</li> <li>• Using examples of successful policy and practice changes to inform global decision-making of the changes needed and the multiple roles of livestock in development.</li> </ul>