Charter on Climate Crisis
Prologue:

Both climate change scientists and experts on biodiversity say indigenous communities around the world are becoming increasingly vulnerable to the effects of global warming.

We, over hundred representatives of pastoralists from across the Gujarat, call the attention to recognize the important role of Pastoralism as a sustainable way to use the natural resources in world. There is a growing body of scientific evidence showing that the Pastoral people’s use of natural resources is in harmony with nature, and promotes environmental integrity and conservation of both wild and domestic biodiversity. To endorse this, pastoral representatives from 6 Districts have come together to a conclusion with the participatory tools and techniques method that the main factors contributing towards the climate change are the anti pastoral Government policies and its support to handful of capitalist promoting industrialization.

Today Maldharis have become dependent on others for their livelihood and there is also social ignorance for Maldharis. As a result of this they have lost their social status and hence, their self esteem.

Based on this conclusion a draft was framed stating our demands/Declaration at national and international level Governments and policy makers.

Our Conclusion:

The entire process shows that by using the concept of participatory tools and techniques, the many visible and hidden benefits that pastoralists bring to local, national and regional levels can be revealed. It urges the Governments to realize the tremendous potential that Pastoralism holds as an adaptive strategy in harsh arid environments and bring out the pastorals from cycle of poverty, conflict and environmental degradation. The Government should recognize the fact that Pastoralists are 'invisible assets' in fight against poverty and climate change.
Our Strengths:

1. **Today** many scientists have started believing that traditional indigenous knowledge about nature and ecosystems is an indispensable part of the fight against climate change and loss biodiversity.

2. **More** traditional interventions practiced by the pastorals have crucial connections in strengthening people’s resiliency in the face of increased stress on climate.

3. The community still enjoys the **customary leadership** and customs and major decisions are taken keeping the entire community in loop. Our sense of Pastoralism (Maldariyat) is very strong. We are valued for our value for words given and our strength of character.

4. Intact ITK.

5. The diverse and rich **livelihood options** we have kept alive in using our existing natural resources.

Our Demands/Rights/Declaration

1. **PROVIDE** the necessary policy support to achieve our economic and social development in harmony with nature;

2. **SUPPORT** the strengthening of the organizations of pastoralists at national, regional and international levels, including through the promotion of programmes to disseminate relevant knowledge on rights and policy among pastoral and other mobile communities;

3. **URGENTLY ADOPT** at the national level—with full participation of nomadic and other indigenous peoples—legal and instruments to protect the collective rights of mobile peoples, by ratifying the International Labour Organization Convention 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, and by developing national legislation in line with this declaration and other relevant international instruments;

4. **RECOGNIZE** and **RESPECT** our customary laws, customary institutions and leadership, and our common property rights and customary governance and use of
natural resources that we have managed sustainably by using them seasonally or as buffer zones in times of climatic and other disasters;

5. **REVERSE** policies and legislation that negatively affect mobile peoples, and **DEVELOP** adequate mechanisms of restitution, and compensation in case mobile communities have lost access to their customary resources;

6. **RECOGNIZE** the crucial role of indigenous knowledge and the capacity of pastoralists and all other nomadic and transhumant communities to conserve biodiversity in full compatibility with pastoral livelihoods;

7. **EMPOWER** mobile communities in the management of existing protected areas and, **RECOGNIZE** their customary territories as community conserved areas (CCAs) when so demanded by the concerned mobile peoples and communities;

7. **PROMOTE** conditions and mechanisms for lasting peace and conflict resolution at all levels;

8. **CORRECT** urgently government policies and plans favoring only sedentary populations with the full participation of concerned nomadic peoples, and **PROMOTE** policies and international legislation to facilitate cross-border mobility by pastoral and other nomadic peoples who have traditionally lived in more than one country, and facilitate free movement of herds respecting relevant safeguards where needed;

9. **RESPECT** Pastoralism and mobility as distinctive sources of cultural identity, integrity and rights;

10. **ADOPT** measures to reverse negative environmental impacts of development schemes, and **SEEK** prior and informed consent before all private and public initiatives that may affect the integrity of mobile indigenous peoples’ customary territories, resource management systems and nature;

11. **ASSURE** equal access by pastoralists and other mobile communities to higher education, and **DEVELOP** specific educational programmes on Pastoralism and subjects related to mobile and nomadic communities, **PROMOTE** action-research of relevance to mobile communities and **ENSURE** access by mobile communities to such relevant educational and action-research programmes;

12. **PROMOTE** education of children in mobile communities by providing mobile and boarding schools as required, using the indigenous or local languages, and
**RESPECT** the dignity of mobile communities by incorporating in the teaching curriculum elements of the local culture and indigenous knowledge;

13. **PROVIDE** adequate and appropriate health services and health education for nomadic communities, including mobile clinics and migratory frontline health workers.

14. **ITK PERCOLETION**

15. **DEVELOP** strategies and mechanisms to support pastoralists to reduce the impact of droughts and climatic change.

16. **PROMOTE** control of markets with policy, incentives, infrastructure development, capacity building and access to information, in order to achieve fair trade conditions.

**Need to focus on**

Access to food.

Means of production.

Power and potential of pastoral people.

Need to talk about concrete action.

Livestock and we are not creating CO₂; industrial livestock production who creating CO₂.

Ecological contribution of the pastoralist.

We are creating employment for others, too.

Drought is no 1 problem in Mongolia for more than 10 years. Many people are dying.

Pastoralist are mainly in the dry land area.

Side event at Copenhagen