



FAREWELL LETTER



During the Guiding Group meeting on 4 November 2020, I have handed over the chairmanship of GASL to Shirley Tarawali. Shirley has been part of GASL since the very beginning and is well known in the global livestock community, be it as Assistant Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), as Guiding Group member of GASL or as author of various key publications on sustainable livestock. Congratulations and best wishes to you Shirley.

My tenure as Chair of GASL spans from the Panama MSP Meeting in June 2016 to the virtual MSP meeting in September and the Guiding Group meeting in November 2020.

The UN Agenda 2030 with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as accepted reference frame of GASL has been an important compass for GASL ever since Panama.

The present COVID-19 pandemic shows the importance of sustainable and resilient food systems throughout the world. Sustainable livestock production and the provision of healthy animal-based food are important pillars of all food systems. GASL is a key actor to unleash the potential for sustainable livestock to foster change at all levels because of its uniqueness and its broad diversity of profiles.

With broad based Action Plans and with the newly developed Theory of Change, GASL is well placed to address the multiple challenges ahead. GASL also enjoys a stable structure with accepted rules and procedures, essential and very valuable assets.

GASL's network is global and brings together members of a wide variety of livestock systems. This network has been steadily growing, the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership meetings being the red thread along GASL's trajectory thus strengthening and enlarging this network.

The pandemic has forced us into virtual meetings and virtual debates. The success of the virtual MSP in September with eight regional and an intensive global meeting is remarkable and encouraging. Nevertheless, the virtual meetings are void of personal interaction, informal discussions and social gatherings. I must admit I really do miss these aspects a lot.

I am happy to hand over a strong Global Agenda with very important and well-defined mandates. It has been an honor to serve as chair and I wish to remain connected to GASL in the future.

Best wishes to GASL and thousand thanks to all members of GASL, Clusters, Action Networks and Guiding Group. Special thanks to the Agenda Support Team for the highly appreciated support and very pleasant collaboration.

Fritz Schneider
Chair of GASL 2016-2020