THE GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK (GASL) IS A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP (MSP) ESTABLISHED IN 2011. IT IS A RECOGNIZED PLATFORM FOR FACILITATING DIALOGUE, SHARING GOOD PRACTICES AND POLICIES, AND PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE GLOBAL LIVESTOCK SECTOR. ITS MAIN PRINCIPLE IS THAT ALL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEMS CAN BE MORE SUSTAINABLE, NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE. THE 2022-2024 GASL ACTION PLAN, APPROVED BY GASL DONORS AND PARTNERS, IS THE STRATEGIC COMPASS FOR GASL’S KEY INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS.

WHAT IS GASL?

The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) is a multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) established in 2011. It is a recognized platform for facilitating dialogue, sharing good practices and policies, and promoting the sustainability of the global livestock sector. Its main principle is that all livestock production systems can be more sustainable, no matter where they are. The 2022-2024 GASL Action Plan, approved by GASL donors and partners, is the strategic compass for GASL’s key initiatives and actions.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

The Global Agenda facilitates dialogue, assembles and communicates evidence to foster practice change and advocates for changes in policy.

VISION

By 2030, sustainable, inclusive, resilient and diverse livestock systems across the world contribute significantly to the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030 and are integral to sustainable food systems.

MISSION

As a multi-stakeholder partnership, the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock pursues the following principles:

- Stakeholders work towards a common goal, based on voluntary commitments of each actor
- GASL facilitates dialogue between different stakeholders across a broad range of sectors
- Stakeholders derive mutual benefits from the process through win-win agreements and can learn from each other during the process
- GASL strives for equity and inclusiveness for all relevant stakeholders
- Processes involve agreement on governance mechanisms – such as who participates in decision-making – as well as the rules and modalities of cooperation, in order to ensure transparency and accountability

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- The Guiding Group consists of five representatives from each of the seven Clusters; it is supported by the Agenda Support Team (secretariat) and an elected Chair
- The Clusters ensure that all sectors of society participate in an open and voluntary manner; although knowledge-based, the approach is inclusive and geared towards consensual change, showing respect for a diversity of views
- Action Networks are thematic groups of technical experts: they gather evidence, design the tools and guidelines available, enhance practice change, and provide inputs for policy change
- Rules and procedures approved by the Guiding Group form the institutional frame of reference for GASL
- The Agenda Support Team, the secretariat, is hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome

The GASL definition of livestock sustainability

“Livestock sustainability refers to production approaches that simultaneously meet long-term conditions to ensure society’s food and nutrition security, livelihoods and economic growth, animal health and animal welfare and stable climate and efficient resource use (the four livestock sustainability domains) in order to contribute to sustainable food systems”.

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SUSTAINABILITY DOMAINS
The sustainability domains grew out from a proposal of FAO to the 10th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin in 2018 and frame GASL’s actions and Theory of Change.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS
1. Provision of a unique platform to discuss livestock sustainability with a broad and diverse participation
2. Establishment and development of eight Action Networks, which encompass the main factors affecting livestock sustainability such as social, economic and environmental issues
3. Progress towards a more consensual view on sustainable livestock as well as policy and practice change
4. Technical solutions for sustainable livestock globally, regionally and nationally, such as a resource-use efficiency matrix, silvopastoral techniques, a multi-criteria grasslands value model, the positioning of dairy products as a source of nutrition and employment in Asia, livestock environmental assessment and performance guidelines, solid evidence on the positive relationship between dairy and poverty reduction, livestock sustainable investment guidelines, and productivity-boosting good practices related to animal welfare and mitigation of the impact of antimicrobial resistance
5. Adoption of GASL’s principles and MSP approach in specific countries and regions seeking appropriate policies and legislation in favour of sustainable livestock: Mesoamerica and South America (low-carbon livestock production), Mongolia (Mongolian Agenda for Sustainable Livestock) and at initial stages in GASL regional chapters in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and Africa
6. Active support from GASL partners to design a sustainable livestock policy master plan in Kenya and Ethiopia
7. Twelve annual Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Meetings in Brazil, Thailand, Kenya, Canada, Colombia, Panama, Ethiopia, Mongolia, the United States of America, two virtual ones (2020 and 2021), and Ireland (hybrid).

MEMBERSHIP
The Global Agenda membership is made up of seven clusters. As of 1 October 2022, the Global Agenda has 121 official partners, including 20 governments.

GASL AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)
The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a broad framework of action with critical importance for humanity and the planet. The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock has taken the decision to adopt a key role in its implementation, catalyzing and guiding the sustainable development of the livestock sector through the continuous optimization of its economic, social and environmental outcomes. Nine out of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals have been identified as having significant, direct links to the livestock sector.

HOW TO JOIN
Membership is open to organizations who support our vision and core values.
2. Email the signed copy to Eduardo.ArceDiaz@fao.org, Lavinia.Scudiero@fao.org cc Livestock-Discussion@fao.org