

## **Statement submitted by Brooke in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The UN General Assembly Resolution on Agriculture development, food security and nutrition, adopted in December 2022, calls for action to protect working animals. It also notes the importance of animal health in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the need for a holistic One Health approach.

Earlier that year, a UN Environment Assembly resolution recognised the interconnected nature of animal welfare, environment and sustainable development.

These two recent resolutions are ground-breaking milestones in defining people's relationship with animals and the natural environment in a post-Covid world. We now must work together to make them a reality.

At Brooke, we work with communities around the world for whom the main livelihood asset is their working animal – a horse, donkey or mule. These animals plough fields, carry water, transport goods to market, children to school and the sick to health providers. Thanks to their work, communities can earn an income to pay for nutritious food, medical expenses and school fees and lift themselves out of poverty. Yet, these animals have historically been absent from policies, programmes and investment and as a result their health and welfare are not protected.

Working animals must be included in the definition of livestock, counted as part of livestock censuses and covered by financial investment.

That way animals in good health and welfare can continue being productive and support people's health, incomes and food security, as crucial but forgotten elements to meet the SDGs by 2030.

We are calling on UN agencies, governments, civil society and other stakeholders to work together to ensure these resolutions that recognise the role of animals in sustainable development are implemented and acted upon.