

**ITPS-IV/15/Report**

# **Report of the Fourth Working Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils**

**Rome, Italy, 14-18 September 2015**



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

**itps**  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL  
PANEL ON SOILS

**ITPS-IV/15/Report**

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**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Rome, 2015**

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## **1. Opening of the session**

The Fourth Working Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) of the Global Soil Partnership was held at the headquarter of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, 2015.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Luca Montanarella (ITPS Chair). Mr Moujahed Achouri (Director of the Land and Water Division at FAO) welcomed the ITPS members.

## **2. Introductory remarks by Panel members**

Panel members briefly introduced themselves, providing affiliations and a description of expertise in soils. A list of participants is given as Annex 1.

## **3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**

Group discussion on the adoption of the agenda. Request was made to add an agenda item regarding an update on International Year of Soils activities. Agenda and addition were approved.

## **4. Introduction to the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)**

The Secretariat provided background on the history of the GSP underlining that:

- Funding is currently provided by the European Commission, Thailand, Switzerland, and Russia.
- The GSP currently has 450 partners including all FAO's member countries.
- There are now 135 country focal-points to the GSP and their nomination have significantly improved communication.
- The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) is expected to provide scientific and technical guidance on global soil issues primarily to the GSP and in relation to specific requests submitted by global or regional institutions.
- An update on the status of regional soil partnerships was provided including some of the issues and challenges in which ITPS could support to.

Further clarifications on the structure of function of the GSP were provided during discussions.

## **5. Introduction to the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS)**

Mr. Luca Montanarella (Chair of the ITPS) provided a presentation on the ITPS. During his presentation, Mr. Montanarella noted that a lot was achieved during the first term (2013-2015) of the ITPS including the preparation of the "Status of the World's Soil Resources" due for release on World Soil Day in December 2015. This involved more than 200 contributors and the production of a main report which is more than 600 pages in length. The Chair highlighted to members that maintaining their independent expert status is critical and we should not be bound by our constituencies. He concluded by noting that the ITPS needs to be more directly involved in the

implementation of the Pillar Plans and the Regional Soil Partnerships, and that closer collaboration with the climate change community is required. Finally, he thanked the Secretariat and previous panel members for their valuable work.

## **6. Election of Chair and Rapporteur**

Considering that Mr. Luca Montanarella performed the role of ITPS Chair between 2013-2015, the Secretariat called upon the nomination of candidates for taking the role of ITPS Chair for the period 2015-2017. Strong support was expressed for the work performed by Mr. Luca Montanarella as chair of the first ITPS. Subsequently, Mr. Neil McKenzie nominated Mr. Luca Montanarella for a second term as ITPS Chair. This notion was fully supported by all ITPS members, therefore Mr. Montanarella accepted to take this role again. Mr. Gary Pierzynski volunteered to be lead rapporteur with assistance from Miguel Taboada, Peter de Ruiter and Neil McKenzie.

## **7. Review and finalization of the draft concept note on “Voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of soil resources”**

Mr. Luca Montanarella referred ITPS members to GSPPA:111/2015/4 (Draft Concept Note for the Development of Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Soil Resources) and the Revised World Charter as distributed to ITPS. The Chair reminded ITPS members that a consensus on the concept note document was required by the end of the meeting as a revised concept note shall be submitted to the attention of FAO members before the FAO Council in December 2015. If this concept note will be endorsed by FAO constituencies, the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines will heavily influence the activities of ITPS for the next two years.

Mr. Dan Pennock provided context and in particular the proposed relationship between the Revised World Soil Charter and the Guidelines. The Revised World Soil Charter is holistic and based on the concepts of ecosystem services. The Charter provides a definition of sustainable soil management and explicitly recognizes biodiversity. The principles and actions in the Revised World Soil Charter provide a framework for specifying sustainable soil management in more detail. It was noted that the primary purpose of the Concept Note is to present a process for developing the Voluntary Guidelines.

An earlier draft of the concept note document was approved by the ITPS at their April 2015 meeting and then discussed at the GSP Plenary in June 2015. Comments from the GSP Plenary were incorporated into the draft presented to the ITPS. Throughout the week, ITPS members discussed successive drafts of the Concept Note. This process was led by Dan Pennock and supported by an ad hoc working group (Dan Pennock (chair), Pavel Krasilnikov, Neil McKenzie, Juan Comerma, Gan-Lin Zhang, Miguel Taboada, and Bhanooduth Lalljee).

The process for developing the successful *Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure* (VGLT) is highly relevant and ITPS members received a briefing from Mr David Palmer (FAO staff) on that initiative. Considerable resources were available (i.e., several million dollars and many years) for consultations with stakeholders on land tenure and it is expected that similar resources would not be available for this case. Mr Palmer emphasized that consultation with all stakeholders is essential for achieving ownership and support from those who may be affected. Key points from the experience with the land tenure guidelines were as follows.

- The consultation preceded the drafting process.
- The consultations promoted the initiative and there were 15 major consultations over two years.
- Funding was provided for civil society groups to prepare for involvement.
- There was a large web-engagement and newsletters in multiple languages.
- Technically, few things emerged that were not known by tenure experts but the consultation process built the ownership.
- The Zero Draft focussed on principles and practices including the essentials of tenure across land, fisheries and forestry.
- Different political, cultural and religious views were considered.
- The drafting process was exhaustive and involved a huge task of consensus building (word by word, sentence by sentence) that covered some contentious issues (e.g. land grabbing).
- The final text was wanted by everyone and no one wanted to be responsible for failure
- There has been significant uptake of the VGLT including by agribusiness.

Considerable discussion followed on how to organize the voluntary guidelines for sustainable soil management and this formed the basis for the changes to the Concept Note. A timeline was also discussed. Related efforts to develop sustainable soil management guidelines were noted (e.g. current work by ISO). Ultimately, the Voluntary Guidelines will need to be approved by the FAO Committee on Agriculture which meets next in September 2016 and again two years later. It was decided the ITPS could not complete the entire process in time for the September 2016 meeting unless if required by members. A consultation process will be used for the draft voluntary guidelines but the extent of the process will be dependent on available resources. At a minimum, an email consultation would be employed. At the earliest a draft document would be available by April 2016 with the intent of holding an ITPS meeting at that time to further develop the guidelines. This schedule is considered likely to change. The results of the discussions are reflected in the final concept note for which the ITPS has consensus.

#### Summary Outcomes:

- a. Consensus was obtained on the improved version of the concept note as revised during the ITPS meeting (see Attachment one).
- b. The Concept Note will be submitted to the different FAO constituencies by the Secretariat.
- c. In case the process for developing the Voluntary Guidelines is endorsed, the ITPS will develop a technical document on sustainable soil management to support implementation.

### **8. Follow up of the “Status of the World’s Soil Resources” report**

Ms. Lucrezia Caon (GSP Secretariat) provided a presentation on the development and status of the report, focusing on the pending activities for its release on the World Soil Day celebration scheduled on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Further, Mr Neil McKenzie and Mr Dan Pennock provided considerable background on both the full “Status of the World’s Soil Resources” report and the “Summary for Policymakers” which was submitted to the GSP Plenary in June 2015 (now referred to simply as the “Technical Summary”). The Main Report is ~600 pages in length and represents a large effort by ~200

contributors in less than two years. It will be the primary output from the first ITPS. The Summary is virtually complete and style editing and layout are underway for the main report.

ITPS members were asked to provide comments on both the Summary and the Main Report. However, only minor changes are now possible particularly given that the third ITPS Session in Potsdam endorsed both the Summary and the Main Report. It was acknowledged that quite a few synchronization issues remain between the two reports. Mr Ahmad Muhaimeed, Mr Bhanooduth Lalljee, Mr Gan-Lin Zhang, Mr Amanullah, Mr Brajendra, and Mr Juan Comerma agreed to provide comments and they are to be provided to Mr Neil McKenzie by September 28 and he will consolidate and provide final changes to Ms Lucrezia Caon by October 2.

Discussion of the Summary Report was held over several sessions at the ITPS meeting. The version of the report with near final layout and graphics was discussed. Ms Nicoletta Forlano (Communication and Information Officer, GSP Secretariat) provided details of the review and editorial processes underway. After considerable discussion, it was agreed to stay with the original plan of producing the Main Report, the Technical Summary along with two other documents (a 20 pages summary and a 4 pages highlight) for specific target audiences (policy makers) and media releases. Members of the original Editorial Board (including the ITPS Chair) agreed to assist the Secretariat in preparing these additional materials given challenge on translating technical information into accessible language for policy makers and general audience.

ITPS members provided feedback on the graphics and layout of the Summary Report. The main suggestions were as follows.

- Ensure the images reflect the full range of environments and types of agriculture considered by the report. Figures should not link one region only.
- Refine the graphical design for the summary tables, and in particular the symbols used to denoting improving and deteriorating trends in soil condition.

Members were asked to provide details on various errors and typographical issues to Mr Neil McKenzie for collation and submission to the editorial team in the Secretariat.

#### Summary Outcomes:

- a. Final review comments on the Status of the World Soil Resources are due to Mr Neil McKenzie by September 28, 2015.
- b. Draft summary accepted by the ITPS pending minor changes outlined above.
- c. The Secretariat will work with ITPS to produce additional products from the full report and summary. Products to include a 20 pages summary and a 4 pages highlight for policy makers. Other media releases and summary briefs are also expected.

## **9. Follow up on the GSP Plans of Action and the Regional Implementation Plans**

Mr Rainer Baritz (GSP Secretariat) provided a presentation on progress of implementation plans for the five pillars. Pillar 4 is the most advanced and like Pillar 5, it has a predominantly global outlook. Pillars 1, 2 and 3 are more regional in nature and their implementation pathway is via Regional

Implementation Plans in the different Regional Soil Partnerships. It was emphasized by the Chair and members that the ITPS needs to be involved in the development and implementation of the five pillars because they are central to the success of the GSP. More specific discussions were held on the status of each pillar.

### **Pillar 1**

Regional implementation plans are under development and cover all pillars including Pillar 1. It was recognized that the concept note on voluntary guidelines for SSM will be central to the work of Pillar 1. The development and promotion of the Revised World Soil Charter is another example. The Secretariat will use such documents in order to mobilize resources for projects such as developing extension services or projects improving degraded soils. It was noted that the ITPS will prepare a document on sustainable soil management even if concept note for voluntary guidelines is not endorsed by members.

### **Pillar 2**

Activities relating Pillar 2 are already underway. The International Year of Soils has been a central focus and the next World Soil Day will be used to release the Status of the World's Soil Resources and to announce the first World Soil Prize.

The ITPS expressed a strong desire to maintain the IYS momentum. It was agreed that a calendar of activities would be helpful and the Secretariat requested all members to provide updates on past and planned events in their region.

Questions were raised about any plan for having a Global Soil Week in 2016. The Secretariat responded that this is lead by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Germany which, up-to-date, did not circulate any news on this event.

### **Pillar 3**

Planning for Pillar 3 has been difficult although the Plan of Action was endorsed by the GSP Plenary in June 2015. However, a large effort is required to develop a practical implementation plan. The Chair reminded members that they have an important role to play particularly because many members are involved in setting national strategies for soil research, development and extension. It was agreed that some of these national research plans provide a good starting point for developing the implementation plan. It was agreed that the implementation plan should be consistent with the research needs identified in the Status of the World's Soil Resources report.

### **Pillar 4**

The draft implementation plan for Pillar 4 proposes the establishment of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII) (as proposed in the ITPS endorsed Plan of Action for Pillar 4). ITPS members were informed of plans for an INSII workshop at FAO-Rome, 17-19 November 2015. It is hoped that the implementation plan for Pillar 4 will be finalized at this workshop.

The Secretariat confirmed that a communication about the INSII workshop was sent to all 135 GSP country focal points asking for comments on the draft implementation plan for Pillar 4 and to identify

the appropriate contacts at their respective national soil survey/information agencies. The response was limited. Of the 32 countries that did respond, 18 provide no comments or a positive comment, 10 had only minor comments, and 4 provided substantive comments.

Members outlined several communication issues including some relating to the effectiveness of country focal points. The Secretariat is working to solve the known communication problems and sought assistance from members. It was agreed that communications from the Secretariat should go to all GSP partners and not just country members and focal points because some national institutions have joined the GSP to overcome some of the communication issues that are evident in some countries. It was agreed that the Secretariat will directly contact the leading international soil information institutions to ensure they are present at the INSII meeting in November.

The Chair noted the resolution from the GSP Plenary that the frequency of future reports on the Status of the World's Soil Resource would depend on the successful execution of the GSP Pillar 4 Implementation Plan, as reliable time series of soil data and information are clearly needed for updating the SWSR.

#### **Pillar 5**

The existing plans for Pillars 4 and 5 are explicitly linked and it was recognized that implementation activities have to be tightly coordinated. It was noted that Pillar 5 requires a wide range of skills (e.g. informatics, laboratory analysis, soil classification). At this stage, the implementation plan for Pillar 5 has not been prepared.

#### **ITPS Pillar Working-Groups**

The session concluded with the establishment of ITPS Working Groups for each pillar.

Group members and chairs are as follows.

**Pillar 1:** Dan Pennock (chair); Siousa Moala Halavatau, Fernando Prenchach, Tala Darwish, Juan Comerma, Isaurinda Baptista, Oneyda Hernandez Lara, Ahmad Muhaimeed, Saeb Khresat

**Pillar 2:** Maria de Lourdes Mendonça Santos Brefin (chair); Gary Pierzynski, Pavel Krasilnikov, Amanullah, Botle Mapeshoane, Oneyda Hernandez Lara, Siosua Moala Halavatau, Fernando Prenchach, Brajendra

**Pillar 3:** Brajendra (chair); Miguel Taboada, Juan Comerma, Isaurinda Baptista, Gary Pierzynski, Martin Yemefack, Neil McKenzie

**Pillar 4:** Neil McKenzie (chair); Siousa Moala Halavatau, Maria de Lourdes Mendonça Santos Brefin, Miguel Taboada, Bhanooduth Lalljee, Dan Pennock, Peter De Ruiter, Ahmad Muhaimeed, Gunay Erpul, Gan-Lin Zhang

**Pillar 5:** Bhanooduth Lalljee, chair; Juan Comerma, Ahmad Muhaimed, Martin Yemefack, Gary Pierzynski, Gan-Lin Zhang, Oneyda Hernandez Lara, Neil McKenzie, Pavel Krasilnikov, Amanullah

Summary outcomes:

- a. ITPS members are encouraged to follow up on the INSII invitation sent to their countries to encourage participation at the November workshop.
- b. Communications from the Secretariat should go to all GSP partners and not just country members and focal points
- c. In direct coordination with the GSP Secretariat, the ITPS Pillar Working groups are to convene as soon as possible and commence activities to support implementation of the respective plans of action endorsed by the GSP Plenary.

## **10. Report on the collaboration between ITPS and IPBES, IPCC and the SPI of UNCCD**

This agenda item was originally divided into two parts but it was handled as a singled item during the meeting. Mr Luca Montanarella began by making a presentation on “Report on the Collaboration between ITPS and IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services), IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), SPI (Science Policy Interface)”. The Secretariat reported that efforts were made in order to develop synergies and collaboration with existing panels as mandated by the GSP Plenary Assembly. The Secretariat has sent letters to leaders to the three Conventions and successful responses were obtained from UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) and IPBES. UNFCC and IPCC have not responded up to now. For IPCC, agriculture is not a main focus. There is an opportunity at Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris in December. The French Government will announce its global soil organic carbon initiative.

The Chair proposed that the ITPS should prepare a position paper on soil carbon, climate change and agriculture for COP21 to be distributed during key events as facilitated by the GSP Secretariat. This was supported and the Chair will take the lead with assistance from Dan Pennock, Neil McKenzie, Brajendra, Amanullah, Gan-Lin Zhang, Gary Pierzynski, Martin Yemefack, Gunay Erpul, Peter de Rooter, Bhanooduth Lalljee, and Miguel Taboada. Dan Pennock will provide the first draft using an extract of the key messages from the Status of the World’s Soil Resources report. An initial draft should be complete by the first full week of October and open for comments for 2-3 weeks with final draft done in early November.

Mr Rainer Baritz reported on the French initiative after attending a meeting hosted by the OECD in Paris on 16 September. The initiative is entitled “4 per 1000: Soils for Food Security and Climate”. The premise is that a 4 per 1000 annual growth rate in the soil carbon stock (3.5 GT/yr) can stop the present increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. See [www.Ag4climate.org](http://www.Ag4climate.org) for additional details. Some of the issues relating to the initiative were discussed including divergent views between countries on adaptation and mitigation measures. The initiative will promote sustainable soil management, monitoring, and applied research. The French government will host an action day event at COP21 for the announcement and the GSP will be involved.

An update on the IPBES global assessment of land degradation was discussed and the ITPS will continue to monitor and participate as appropriate.

Summary Outcomes:

- a. Produce position paper on climate change in time for release at COP21
- b. Monitor and contribute as appropriate to Ag4climate initiative
- c. Monitor and contribute as appropriate to the IPBES assessment of land degradation due for release in 2017.

## **11. Development of a work plan for ITPS 2015-2017**

The last GSP Plenary Assembly requested the ITPS to develop its work plan for the period 2015-2017. Several discussions were held on this topic during the meeting. Much of the work plan and timing will depend on the disposition of the concept note at the FAO Council meeting in December 2015. Various ITPS products were discussed and a summary of agreed upon activities is presented in Annex II. The current workplan does not refer to the Voluntary Guidelines for SSM which will be a major undertaking. Working group memberships are identified elsewhere in the meeting report. Another possible project that was discussed but not formally accepted was a scenario analysis on the future of the world soil resources under various stressors or combination of stressors. Alternatively, such scenarios could be included in 4 separate position papers for each of the research needs identified in the Status of the World's Soil Resource report. No action was taken and no workgroups were identified for these projects.

The Secretariat also reminded the ITPS that they were specifically requested by the GSP to produce a 2 page document that provides a process and time line for the next revision of the Status of the World's Soil Resource report. The need for new data was again stated. No time line was discussed or workgroup identified.

Summary Outcomes:

- a. Develop and submit formal work plan for consideration by GSP Plenary in May 2016.
- b. Develop ITPS products identified in meeting report and Annex II.
- c. Finalize plans for preparation of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management after concept note is considered by FAO Council in December 2015.

## **12. Discussion about the SDG process and support to its implementation**

Mr Luca Montanarella provided a presentation on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Three of the goals directly or indirectly involve the soil resource.

***SDG Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.***

**Target 2.4:** By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

***SDG Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.***

**Target 3.9:** By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

***SDG Goal 15: Sustainably manage forest, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.***

**Target 15.3:** By 2020, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world

Considerable discussion took place regarding the role of ITPS in the new SDGs. The need for indicators was mentioned and it was concluded that they must be measurable to be employed. There was discussion of having the pillar 3 working group focused on SDGs but the decision was made to form a separate workgroup to draft a position paper outlining the role of soils in meeting the SDGs.

Workgroup: Botle Mapeshoane, chair; Peter de Ruiter, Juan Comerma, Gan-Lin Zhang, Martin Yemefack, Bhanooduth Lalljee, Nsalambi Nkongolo, Fernando Prechach, Neil McKenzie, and Miguel Tabaoda.

**Summary Outcomes:**

- a. Develop a position paper on the role of soils in meeting the SDGs.
- b. Monitor and contribute as appropriate the implementation of SDGs by relevant parties.

### **13. Date and venue of the next meeting**

Several options were discussed. The concept note indicates a possible meeting date in April 2016 assuming a zero-order draft of the Voluntary Guidelines for SSM is prepared by then. This date is tentative. If ITPS does not meet in April 2016 the most likely date would be after the GSP Plenary in June. Location was also discussed and there was a preference expressed to meet in one of the regions.

**Summary Outcomes:**

- a. Plan next ITPS meeting based on progress on work plan.

### **14. Any Other Business**

ITPS members described an impressive list of IYS activities taking place in their countries or regions and commended the need to keep the soil momentum.

### **15. Closing session**

Appropriate thanks were expressed to all who contributed to the meeting prior to adjournment.

## **ANNEZ I: List of Participants**

### **ITPS Members**

#### **Africa**

Mr. Nsalambi V. Nkongolo (Democratic Republic of Congo)  
Mr. Bhanooduth Lalljee (Mauritius)  
Mr. Martin Yemefack (Cameroon)  
Ms. Isaurinda dos Santos Baptista Costa (Cape Verde)  
Ms. Botle Mapeshoane (Lesotho)

#### **Near East and North Africa**

Mr. Brajendra (India)  
Mr. Amanullah (Pakistan)  
Mr. Talal Darwish (Lebanon)  
Mr. Ahmad S. Muhaimeed (Iraq)  
Mr. Saéb AbdelHaleem Khresat (Jordan)

#### **Latin America and Caribbean**

Mr. Juan Antonio Comerma (Venezuela)  
Mr. Miguel Taboada (Argentina)  
Ms. Maria de Lourdes Mendonca Santos Breffin (Brazil)  
Mr. Fernando Garcia Préchach (Uruguay)  
Ms. Oneyda Hernandez Lara (Cuba)

#### **GSP Secretariat**

Mr. Ronald Vargas  
Mr. Rainer Baritz  
Ms. Lucrezia Caon

#### **North America**

Mr. Dan Pennock (Canada)  
Mr. Gary M. Pierzynski (United States of America)

#### **Asia**

Mr. Gan-Lin Zhang (China)

#### **Europe**

Mr. Luca Montanarella (Italy)  
Mr. Gunay Erpul (Turkey)  
Mr. Peter de Ruiter (The Netherlands)  
Mr. Pavel Krasilnikov (Russian Federation)

#### **South West Pacific**

Mr. Neil McKenzie (Australia)  
Mr. Siosuia Moala Halavatau (Tonga)

#### **Apologies and absentees**

Mr. Sapon Chomchan (Thailand)  
Mr. Rainer Horn (Germany)  
Mr. Kazuyuki Yagi (Japan)

## ANNEX II: ITPS work plan 2015-2017

Activities	2015			2016												Responsible	Notes	Deadline	
	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December				
<b>INSII</b> - Support in the implementation of the workshop																	ITPS working group #4 <i>Leader</i> : N. McKenzie	The GSP Secretariat will make available on the website the names of the focal points	December 2015
<b>COP21 UNFCC</b> - Position paper ITPS: 2-3 pages																	D. Pennock & L. Montanarella	Dan and Luca to write the first draft that will be distributed among the other ITPS members for feedback thereafter	30 Nov. – 11 Dec. 2015  31 Oct. 2015: first draft available
<b>Sustainable Soil Management</b> - Concept note SSM																	-	The outcome of the FAO Council does not really matter as our initiatives can be taken over by pillar 1	December 2015
<b>World Soil Day 2015</b> - Release of the SWSR together with the technical summary and the executive summaries																	FAO communication office to present the draft to the ITPS for review	The executive summaries are the 4 and 20 pages documents thought for policy makers	December 2015
<b>SDG paper</b> - First draft of the position paper - Development of soil indicators																	SDG working group	-	March 2016  December 2016
<b>Plenary Assembly 2016</b> - Progress report - Implementation of 5 plans of action																	The 5 working groups identified within the ITPS	-	February 2016: implementation of the 5 plans of action End of March 2016 (the latest): progress report
<b>Cooperation with SPI</b> Implementation of joint activities																	All		December 2016
<b>Work program (draft) &amp; way forward</b> for regular reporting																	G. Pierzynski, M. Taboada & L. Montanarella	It very much depends on the decisions taken by the Council. Additionally, the next SWSR is dependent on the implementation of pillar 4	April 2016: before the Plenary
Reaction to the <b>zero-draft of IPBES</b>																	-	-	January 2016