

## NENA Communique'

Amman, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

We, the representatives of 12 countries from Near East and North Africa Region participating at the NENA Soil Partnership Conference held in Amman, Jordan from 1 to 3 June 2015, funded by FAO and jointly organized with the Ministry of Agriculture of Jordan and in accordance to the Terms of Reference of the Global Soil partnership, would like to:

- Appreciate the great diversity of soils in the region and their fundamental value for food security and overall sustainable development.
- Draw the attention that soil degradation is a serious process that is affecting the soils in the region through their various forms such as soil erosion by water and wind, soil pollution, nutrient imbalance soil organic matter depletion, soil alkalization soil sealing (urban encroachment), soil salinity, deterioration of soil physical properties, status of land tenure and absence of proper land governance.
- Report that the degradation process is threatening the soil resources in the NENA region and thus is affecting food production and associated food security, provision of ecosystem services, adaptation to climate change and increasing poverty. The situation is being aggravated by climate change and unsustainable soil management practices.
- Inform that the establishment of the NENA Soil Partnership is a unique opportunity for addressing the current challenges and serve as platform for promoting sustainable soil management in the region.
- Advocating for the following priorities in the region: promotion of sustainable soil management at all levels and in all land use types; restoration/rehabilitation of degraded soils. Similarly, the enhancement of soil information by using state of the art methods of digital soil mapping and advocating for having national soil information systems.
- Draw the attention that investment on the promotion of sustainable soil management is a pre-condition for achieving sustainable development. Therefore, it is fundamental to increase the investment to support the execution of actions under the priorities highlighted before.

To achieve these goals, the participants agreed to consolidate the NENA Soil Partnership by establishing the Secretariat hosted by Jordan until the next meeting and a Steering Committee that will be formed in consultation with the focal points.

The functional statement (TOR) of the NENA soil partnership will be prepared in consultation with the focal points.

Also, we agreed to establish working groups for the five GSP Pillars of Action with the composition of individual members representing countries/institutions:

Pillar 1: Chair: Mr. Hedi Hamrouni

Members: Emad Ghanma, Abdelhakim Ouzzane, Ali Abdulla, Talal Darwish, Mohamed Yacoub, Iman Sahib Salman

Pillar 2: Chair: Dr. Ali Hamid AlShabani

Members: Ahmed Madlool Mohammed, Rahma AlHabsi, Hedi Hamrouni, Atef Amriche, Ahmed Dowek

Pillar 3: Chair: Dr Rafaat Kamal Yacoub

Members: Hamdan AlWahaibi, Ali Abdulah, Talal Darwish, AbdelMagid Ali ElMobarak, Claudio Zucca, Mahamed Yacoub, Karim Ouamerali, Rachid Moussadek

Pillar 4: Chair: Rachid Moussadek

Members: Imad Ghanma, AbdelMagid Ali ElMobarak, Rafaat Kamal Yacoub, Claudio Zucca, Ali Abdulah, Mahmoud AlFrieht, Talal Darwish, Abdelhakim Ouzzane

Pillar 5: Chair: Imad Ghanma

Members: Abdelhakim Ouzzane, Mahamed Yacoub, Claudio Zucca, Hedi Hamrouni, Talal Darwish, Ali Abdulah, AbdelMagid Ali ElMobarak, Rachid Moussadek, Rafaat Kamal Yacoub

Similarly, we agreed to develop the NENA Soil Partnership Implementation Plan for a horizon of five years. The development of this plan will be facilitated by the Secretariat, the focal points and the Steering Committee ensuring a very inclusive process where all partners in the region plan an active role.

The execution of this implementation plan will be coordinated by the secretariat and the focal points.

We commit to make the International Year of Soils 2015 a successful foundation for advocating sustainable soil management in the region and especially to bring this momentum beyond 2015.

Abdullah



Imad Ghanna



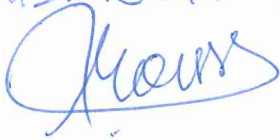
Abdelhakim OUZZANE



Ghassan Hamdallah



MOUSSADEK Rachid



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Dr. Hamdan Alwanabi



Talal Darwich



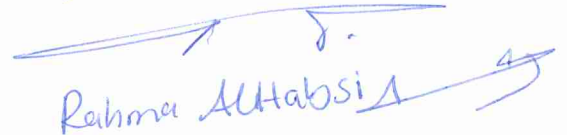
Abdulaziz

Hadi HANROUM



Amjad

Abi. Hameed Ashabw

  
Rahma AlHabsi

  
Iraq  
Ahmed Madlool Mohammed