

Response from Secretariat

Item 3.3 Report on the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)

We are grateful for the wide support towards the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and its activities. The Secretariat invites all members and partners to continue with this proactive approach towards sustainable soil management.

We thank in particular Argentina, Australia, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Thailand for chairing the Regional Soil Partnerships in their respective Regions.

We acknowledge with thanks the agreement for requesting the Secretariat to perform a detailed assessment about the legal, financial, non-state actor, decision-making process, role of Regional Soil Partnerships and Focal points on the eventual institutionalization of the GSP. The request will be implemented accordingly and submitted to the 28th COAG session.

The support towards the work of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) and the Resolution for the International exchange of soil samples for research purposes is appreciated. The Secretariat took note of the fact that the exchange of soil samples between countries constitutes a challenge and a complex matter. It became clear that this is an important step towards harmonization of soil laboratory data between countries and regions. The Resolution proposed, which was supported during the 7th GSP Plenary Assembly, aims to facilitate this process under the GLOSOLAN framework. This Resolution is not mandatory and may be of use by those countries who find it necessary.

Regarding Canada question on the ITPS workload, a prioritization of activities is in place in coordination with the ITPS chair. The preparation of the new Status of the World's Soil Resources report is taken as a priority.

We appreciate the comments from Colombia and we would like to note that the COAG document does not include all detailed GSP activities, but highlights the main achievements. The Global Black Soils Map will be launched next year so will be reported accordingly. Similarly, the SoilSTAT and GLOSIS will be reported during next session.

We thank Costa Rica for their active participation in the GSP activities and for successfully chairing the 8th GSP Plenary Assembly.

We thank the European Union for their active engagement into the Global Soil Partnership and for the financial support provided for the different stages of this partnership.

We recognize the bold action taken by the EU in launching the European Green Deal and accept their kind invitation to scale it up at global level. GSP is preparing a proposal for the scaling up of activities through the GSP Regional Soil Partnerships.

GSP secretariat would like to confirm its commitment regarding the completion of the global assessments of soil biodiversity, soil pollution, and carbon sequestration potential at farming level, as well as other initiatives that the GSP is pursuing with partners through key actions such as RECISOIL.

We welcome Mexico's recently enhanced of the country's engagement in the GSP activities.

GSP acknowledges with many thanks the Russian Federation support as a founding member of the GSP, and express our thanks for being one of the main donors of the GSP, allowing for the partnership's growth and production of a number of products that have triggered action at national level.

Furthermore, we thank the Russian Federation for funding the Glinka World Soil Prize that set a frontier to recognize unique soil contributions.

We acknowledge with thanks the continued financial support of Switzerland for the activities of GSP.

We acknowledge Thailand's significant support as a founding member of the GSP.

We thank Thailand for funding the King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award which is a successful incentive for promoting World Soil Day celebration and adherence.