



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Technical Committee of the Global Soil Laboratory Network

Since its establishment in 2017, the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) aimed to support soil laboratories all over the world to build and strengthen their analytical capacity. This is done by organizing training and meetings, by developing and publishing informative material such as guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Good Practices, and by organizing proficiency tests (PTs) among laboratories operating in different countries and regions. The number of publications released (in multiple languages) by the network has increased in the past few years in order to address the challenges faced by laboratories in different parts of the world. The material produced requires a smoother publication procedure in order to guarantee a participative decision-making process and to provide a high-level of technical quality of the publications. Moreover, as the network success strongly relies on the voluntary contributions of its members, it is important to better allocate the available human resources. This requires a preliminary screening of the proposals on the initiatives to implement as well as the documents and reports to publish, in order to focus on those activities which address the main needs of soil laboratories in a more effective way.

For this reason, during the [4th GLOSOLAN annual meeting](#) network members agreed that a new procedure will be adopted for the publication of GLOSOLAN technical documents and to decide which activities to implement.

GLOSOLAN members will discuss the activities to be implemented at a global level and documents to be published during the Regional Soil Laboratory Networks (RESOLANs) meetings. The proposal will be reported to GLOSOLAN through the RESOLAN Chairs. A Technical Committee will be established to advise on the activities proposed and to support the working groups that will be created to draft the documents. Working groups will be composed of by GLOSOLAN members who volunteer, based on their areas of expertise and level of knowledge. Activities and documents will be ultimately endorsed during the annual GLOSOLAN meetings.

The Technical Committee will be tasked to:

- Review the proposals made by the RESOLANs and GLOSOLAN on the writing of technical documents;
- Approve or reject the proposals – decisions which will be reported to all GLOSOLAN members by the GLOSOLAN coordinator;
- Advise the working groups on how to write the technical documents approved by the Technical Committee.

Anyone interested in joining the Technical Committee can submit an expression of interest to the GLOSOLAN Coordinator. The Technical Committee shall not be composed of more than twenty persons, with at least one representative from each RESOLAN. The term of the members of the Technical Committee will be two years after nomination, renewable to one more term after agreement by GLOSOLAN members during its annual meeting. Candidates will be selected by GLOSOLAN coordinator, GLOSOLAN Chair and Vice-Chairs and RESOLAN Chairs on the basis of their knowledge, experience and technical competence as well as their commitment to GLOSOLAN and the time they are able to devote to the work. Members of the Technical Committee who would not be able to end their mandate for any reason, will be replaced by another person, maintaining the regional balance. A member of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) will be invited to be part of the GLOSOLAN Technical Committee.