



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Terms of Reference

GLOSOLAN Committees

Background

Since its establishment in 2017, the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) has worked on building and strengthening the analytical capacities of soil laboratories worldwide while harmonizing methods and data. In 2021, the network reached 800 members. Thus, GLOSOLAN expressed the need to review and strengthen its governance in order to answer an increasing number of requests for support, and better allocate the time of the experts working on GLOSOLAN publications and trainings. Additionally, GLOSOLAN expressed the need to support its Chair, vice-Chair and coordinators at the GSP in monitoring the implementation of GLOSOLAN activities and in developing the GLOSOLAN work plan. In this regard, GLOSOLAN decided to establish a Technical and a Steering Committee.

GLOSOLAN Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is tasked with:

- i) Supporting the GLOSOLAN Chair and Vice-Chair in monitoring the achievements, progress and needs of the network;
- ii) Contributing to the review and update of the GLOSOLAN ten year work plan;
- iii) Supporting the GLOSOLAN Chair, Vice-Chair, and Coordinator in identifying priority areas of work and in overcoming regional and eventually national differences;
- iv) Advising GLOSOLAN on its communication strategy as to enlarge the network and promote the implementation of GLOSOLAN activities and the use of GLOSOLAN products;
- v) Supporting the GLOSOLAN Coordinator in mobilizing financial resources.

The Steering Committee is composed of the GLOSOLAN Chair and vice-Chair, the GLOSOLAN coordinators, and maximum five advisors selected based on the following criteria:

- They should have a good knowledge of how the GLOSOLAN network works, its mission and vision;
- They should be the most active members of the GLOSOLAN;
- They should have high technical skills in order to provide sound advices on the activities to implement and provide technical advices to countries and regions as needed;
- They should have good social skills in order to smoothly communicate with GLOSOLAN members and facilitate cooperation between laboratories and countries;

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- They should be experts in one of the following areas of work: proficiency testing, standard operating procedures, financial resources mobilization, concept note writing, and communication;
- They should have a good knowledge of financial mobilization strategies in order to support and advise GLOSOLAN on fundraising.

Members of the Steering Committee will be nominated by the GLOSOLAN Coordinators, ensuring regional, gender and expertise balance. The term of the GLOSOLAN Steering Committee is two years, extendable to a second term.

The GLOSOLAN Steering Committee meets on a regular basis in order to assign tasks, review progresses, and ensure the timely implementation of the GLOSOLAN work plan.

GLOSOLAN Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is tasked with:

- Reviewing the proposals made by RESOLANs and GLOSOLAN on the writing of technical documents and the harmonization of standard operating procedures. Recommendations on the SOPs to include in the annual GLOSOLAN work plan will be presented at the annual GLOSOLAN meeting for endorsement;
- Approving or rejecting the proposals – decisions, which will be reported to all GLOSOLAN members by the GLOSOLAN coordinators;
- Advising 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 coordinators, by completing the [dedicated application form](#) and attaching their CV. 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 is two years, renewable to a second term. Candidates will be selected by the GLOSOLAN coordinators, the GLOSOLAN Chair and Vice-Chairs, and the RESOLAN Chairs on the basis of their knowledge, experience and technical competence (on GLOSOLAN areas of work) as well as their commitment to GLOSOLAN and the time they can devote to the work. Members of the Technical Committee who would not be able to carry out their mandate for any reason, will be replaced by another person, maintaining the regional and expertise balance. A member of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) will be invited to be part of the GLOSOLAN Technical Committee.