

28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

Item 3.6: Report of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)

The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Plenary Assembly has met twice virtually since the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 27). The main outcomes of these assemblies are set out in COAG document COAG/2022/3 *Status of implementation of the recommendations of the 27th session of COAG*.

During the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly¹, the Global Black Soil Distribution map was launched, and a new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 “*Healthy soils for a healthy life and environment: from promotion to consolidation of Sustainable Soil Management*”² was endorsed, with minor modifications.

In response to the COAG 27 request, reports on the legal³ and financial⁴ implications of a proposed institutionalization of the GSP were prepared. Five options were identified: (1) status quo (GSP remains as it is); (2) a commission or committee under Article VI of the Constitution (an Article VI Body); (3) a commission or committee under Article XIV of the Constitution (an Article XIV Body); (4) a subsidiary body of COAG (a COAG Sub-Committee) and; (5) establishing a COAG Sub-Committee and maintaining the GSP.

The 10th GSP Plenary Assembly manifested its full support to maintain the GSP with all its components. In order to eventually consider option 5, the Plenary Assembly requested further detailed information on its implications, and recommended the organization of an Extraordinary Session of the GSP prior to the 28th Session of COAG to review the detailed implications of option 5 and to provide a recommendation to be considered at the 28th Session of COAG.

The Committee is invited to:

- *welcome* the reports of the 9th and 10th Sessions of the GSP Plenary Assembly, as well as all the progress made in combating soil degradation and promoting sustainable soil management at all levels;
- *support* the implementation of key normative tools and initiatives such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers, and the Protocol for the Assessment of Sustainable Soil Management, RECSOIL: recarbonization of global soils, the Global Soil Doctors Programme, among others;
- *welcome* the Global Black Soil Distribution Map and acknowledge the need for promoting the sustainable management and conservation of black soils, given their crucial importance for global food security and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- *support* the new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 “Healthy soils for a healthy life and environment: from promotion to consolidation of Sustainable Soil Management”, endorsed by the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly and presented in section II; and
- *consider* the recommendations of the 10th Session of the GSP Plenary Assembly, contained in document COAG/2022/18, and of its Extraordinary Session contained in document COAG/2022/23; and *provide guidance* on the five options for the proposed institutionalization of the GSP, based on the analysis of legal and financial implications (as presented to the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly and to its Extraordinary Session) and summarized in section III of the COAG document COAG/2022/18.

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¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/cc0430en/cc0430en.pdf>

² www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/GSP/tenth_PA/Annex_1_GSP_Action_Framework.pdf

³ www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/GSP/tenth_PA/Annex_2_Legal_implications.pdf

⁴ www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/GSP/tenth_PA/Annex_3_Financial_Implications.pdf