
APPENDIX F – Resolution on the international exchange of soil samples for research purposes under GLOSOLAN

The 7th GSP Plenary Assembly,

Recalling the importance of soil resources for the provision of ecosystem services essential for life on Earth and human well-being,

Highlighting that evidence-based decisions taken using harmonized and reliable data and information are critical to the achievement of sustainable soil management and food security and nutrition, a key objective of FAO's mandate,

Stressing the need for coordinated actions to harmonize and standardize soil analytical data and soil analysis methodologies globally,

Recognizing the potential of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) to go beyond laboratory boundaries, with data generated by harmonized soil laboratories methods and procedures assisting countries to (1) improve or establish national monitoring systems, (2) improve or establish National Soil Information Systems that can feed into the planned Global Soil Information System (GLOSIS), (3) report on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other international programmes, (4) support decision-making at field and policy level, (5) contribute to the development of international standards and indicators, (6) assess and monitor degraded lands and/or lands affected by climate change and other threats, as identified in the Status of the World Soil Resources report, (7) interpret soil resources for best use and management, (8) improve the link between soil chemistry, physics and biology, (9) contribute to and improve soil classification and description, (10) assist companies manufacturing laboratory equipment to improve their products, (11) expand opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation, (12) strengthen the capability of extension services, (13) identify research needs, and (14) increase investments in research.

Acknowledging the significant and growing participation of laboratories in GLOSOLAN, the many achievements of the network since its establishment in November 2017, and its well-defined and challenging work plan,

Recalling the difficulties encountered by GLOSOLAN in the exchange of soil samples for the execution of inter-laboratory comparisons in Latin America and Asia,

Having considered that GLOSOLAN provides laboratories participating in inter-laboratory comparisons with phytosanitary safe soil samples and detailed guidelines on how to handle the soil samples, minimizing the risk of any type of contamination,

Takes note of the need for GLOSOLAN to have a simplified procedure for the international exchange of soil samples for research purposes,

Welcomes the proposal of the GSP Secretariat and laboratories in GLOSOLAN to submit the request for the establishment of such a procedure to FAO Members at the 27th session of the Committee of Agriculture.

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