



Dear INSOP members,

As the year draws to a close, on behalf of the Network Steering Committee and the Global Soil Partnership Secretariat, we would like to extend our sincere thanks for your continued support of and engagement with INSOP's work over the past 12 months. Your expertise, commitment, and valuable contributions have been essential to our shared efforts to prevent and address soil pollution worldwide.

We wish you and your loved ones a healthy, successful, and prosperous 2026.

## UPDATES

📍 **Mark your calendar: 3rd INSOP Annual Meeting – January 2026**



We are pleased to announce that the **Third INSOP Annual Meeting** will be held **virtually on 20–21 January 2026**.

👉 **Registration is now open:**

[https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JT6SkjIVS9a-3LJcrA7Tgg](https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JT6SkjIVS9a-3LJcrA7Tgg)

The two-day meeting will provide an opportunity to review progress made by the Network, discuss and agree on the INSOP work plan for 2026–2027 and further strengthen collaboration among INSOP members.

On the second day, invited guest speakers will address key topics, including:

- Soil pollution in conflict-affected areas

- Soil monitoring frameworks and soil pollution indicators
- Approaches to soil pollution risk assessment
- Links between soil and human health

#### **Working group leadership elections:**

Elections will also be held for leadership positions in the following INSOP working groups:

- **Soil and Groundwater Working Group** (hydrogeology background preferred)
- **Soil Pollution Policy and Regulation Working Group** (policy-oriented background preferred)

Members interested in leading either working group are invited to submit their **CV** to the GSP Secretariat. During the meeting, candidates will have **3–5 minutes** to present their experience and motivation, followed by a vote by the membership. Further details on responsibilities can be found in the **Terms of Reference**, available [here](#).

#### **Standard operating procedure for microplastic detection in soil**

INSOP, in collaboration with the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**, is leading the development of a globally harmonized standard operating procedure (SOP) for the detection and quantification of microplastics in soil.

Organizations currently using **ATR-FTIR** for microplastic analysis are warmly invited to join the technical working group and contribute to the development of this important protocol.

#### **Looking for an engaging read? Explore this new resource**

A new open-access volume of the **International Yearbook on Soil Law and Policy (IYSLP)** examines sustainable soil management amid multiple global crises, including climate change, conflict, migration, and food security.

The contributions highlight how soils are affected by these challenges, the critical role of soil health in building resilience, and recent developments in international soil governance. Featuring regional and national case studies, the volume offers valuable insights into policy, governance, and the socio-economic dimensions of soil management. Featuring regional and national case studies, the 23 chapters provide valuable insights into policy, governance, and the socio-economic dimensions of soil management.

#### **Read the full volume here:**

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-032-03251-5>

#### **Anything to share with the Network?**

Do you have an upcoming event, publication, call for collaboration, or other initiative related to soil pollution? We would be delighted to help spread the word.

INSOP members are warmly encouraged to share relevant items with the Network by sending them to the **GSP Secretariat**, and we will be happy to include them in future INSOP updates.