

World Soil Day celebration and closure of the International Year of Soils 2015

“Soils, a solid ground for life”

Friday, 4 December 2015 (12:30-14:00)

Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO headquarters, Rome

This event will be live webcast in: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4013/icode/>

Agenda

Moderator: Marcela Villarreal, Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, FAO

12:30 - 12:40 Opening by Mr. José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO
Message by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

12:40 - 12:50 “Healthy soils for a healthy life”:
- H.E. Mr. Alexander N. Tkachev, Minister of Agriculture, Russian Federation (video message)
- Mr Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director, Natural Capital, DG Environment, European Commission (video conference)
- Ms. Monique Barbut, UNCCD Executive Secretary (video message)

12:50 - 13:00 Presentation of the outcomes of the International Year of Soils, H.E. Sompong Nimchuar, Permanent Representative of Thailand to FAO, Chair of the IYS Steering Committee

13:00 - 13:05 IYS Video animation “Soils and the SDGs”

13:05 - 13:15 Launch of the Status of the World’s Soil Resources Report, Mr. Luca Montanarella, Chair of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils

13:15 - 13:25 Testimonies from IYS stakeholders

13:25 - 13:40 Soils beyond 2015: using the IYS legacy, Mr. Moujahed Achouri, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO

13:40 - 13:45 Family Farming, Soils and Pulses, the linkages between the International Years in FAO, H.E. Nadeem Riyaz, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to FAO, Co-Chair of the IYP Steering Committee

13:45 - 13:55 Remarks by the Special Ambassadors for the International Year of Soils, Prof. Claire Chenu and Prof. Tekalign Mamo

13:55 - 14:00 Closure of the event by Mr. Daniel J. Gustafson, Deputy Director-General Operations, FAO

Music especially composed for the International Year of Soils by the “Formidable Vegetable Sound System” will be played before the event starts.