



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP

Terms of reference

Governance of the Regional Soil Laboratory Networks (RESOLANs)

Background

In November 2017, the [Global Soil Laboratory Network \(GLOSOLAN\)](#) was established to build and strengthen the capacity of laboratories in soil analysis, and to respond to the need for harmonization of soil analytical data. GLOSOLAN is organized into [Regional Soil Laboratory Networks \(RESOLANs\)](#), the skeleton of GLOSOLAN. After the successful establishment of the Regional Soil Laboratory Network for Asia ([SEALNET](#)) in 2017, Latin America ([LATSOLAN](#)) in 2018, and the Pacific ([ASPAC](#)), Africa ([AFRILAB](#)), Europe and Eurasia ([EUROSOLAN](#)) in 2019, GLOSOLAN successfully launched the Regional Soil Laboratory Network for the Near East and North Africa ([NENALAB](#)) on 9 June 2020.

At the time of their launch, each RESOLAN decided to adopt a different governance depending on their perceived needs (TORs available in the Annexes of the first RESOLAN meeting report). However, during the 2021 annual meetings, all RESOLANs agreed on the need to adopt a common governance based on the most successful governance model adopted by the regions over time. In this regard, the decision for all RESOLANs to have one chair, one or two vice-chairs, and a steering committee was made.

RESOLAN chair

Each Regional Soil Laboratory Network is led by a chair that works in coordination with the RESOLAN vice-chair(s), the RESOLAN steering committee and the GLOSOLAN coordinators at the Global Soil Partnership. The term for the chair is two years, extendable to a second term during the annual RESOLAN meeting.

The RESOLAN chair is tasked with:

- i) contributing to the preparation of the annual RESOLAN meeting and leading their implementation;
- ii) developing and implementing the RESOLAN work plan with the support of the RESOLAN vice-chairs, the RESOLAN steering committee and the GLOSOLAN coordinators;
- iii) maintaining active communication with GLOSOLAN, the GSP Secretariat and the GSP's Pillar 5 Working Group, in relation to the implementation of the RESOLAN activities. In this regard, the RESOLAN chair is responsible for bringing regional needs and priorities to the attention of the above-mentioned bodies;
- iv) supporting National Reference Laboratories in the region to establish their National Soil Laboratory Networks (NASOLANs) and to define and implement NASOLAN activities;
- v) supporting the GLOSOLAN coordinators in evaluating the compliance of the National Reference Laboratories with their [terms of reference](#), and helping to identify the best candidate to replace those laboratories that do not comply with their mandate;

- vi) representing the RESOLAN at official national and international meetings and events;
- vii) contributing to the mobilization of financial resources to execute RESOLAN activities with the support of the RESOLAN vice-chair(s), the regional steering committee, the GLOSOLAN chair and vice-chair, and the GLOSOLAN coordinators.

RESOLAN vice-chair(s)

Each RESOLAN chair is supported by one or two vice-chair(s) that are tasked with assisting the chair in complying with his/her mandate. The number of vice-chairs is based to the need to overcome cultural and language barriers, which may be present between laboratories operating in the same region. The vice-chairs are elected during the annual RESOLAN meetings. Their mandate is two years after election, extendable to a second term.

RESOLAN steering committee

In order to provide sufficient support to countries, the decision to establish a steering committee was made. In this regard, the steering committee is tasked with:

- i) supporting the RESOLAN chair and vice-chair(s) in implementing the activities and work plan defined during the RESOLAN meeting;
- ii) providing suggestions on how activities in the RESOLAN work plan should be adapted to particular situations within the region;
- iii) supporting the RESOLAN chair and vice-chair(s) in assessing the compliance of the National Reference Laboratories to their [terms of reference](#), especially regarding the establishment of the NASOLAN and the implementation of national work plans;
- iv) supporting the GLOSOLAN coordinators in organizing capacity development sessions by proposing training topics tailored on regional needs and by identifying potential trainers among RESOLAN members and other experts from the region;
- v) defining indicators to monitor and assess the performance of GLOSOLAN members.

The steering committee is composed of a maximum of seven people depending on the number of countries and laboratories in the region. The members of the steering committee are selected by the RESOLAN chair and vice-chairs, the GLOSOLAN chair and vice-chair and the GLOSOLAN coordinators based on the following criteria:

- they should be the most active members of the RESOLAN;
- they should have high technical skills in order to provide sound advice on the activities to be implemented in the region and provide technical advice to countries as needed;
- they should have good social skills in order to smoothly communicate with laboratories in their RESOLAN and trigger cooperation between laboratories and countries;
- they will be selected based on their language skills as if. This applies to regions like Africa (need for English and French), the Near East and North Africa (need for French and Arabic), Latin America and the Caribbean (Spanish, Portuguese and English) and Europe and Eurasia (need for English and Russian) where there is the need to overcome language barriers.

Members of the steering committee will be identified assuring gender and geographic balances. The experts identified by the RESOLAN chair and vice-chairs, the GLOSOLAN chair and vice-chair and the GLOSOLAN coordinators to take the positions will be presented at the RESOLAN meetings. Ultimately, RESOLAN members will be asked to approve/reject the candidates. The term of the RESOLAN steering committee is two years, extendable to a second term. The steering committee reports to the RESOLAN chair and vice-chair(s) which ultimately reports to the GLOSOLAN chair and vice-chair, and to the GLOSOLAN coordinators.

The RESOLAN chair, vice-chair(s) and the steering committee meet on a regular basis in order to assign tasks, review progress, and ensure the active participation of all countries in the region to RESOLAN and GLOSOLAN activities.

