


May 2013

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|  | منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة | 联合国 粮食及 农业组织 | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture | Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций | Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura |
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CONFERENCE

Thirty-eighth Session

Rome, 15-22 June 2013

International Year of Soils (Draft Resolution)

Executive Summary

The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand has proposed within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), the celebration of an International Year of Soils (IYS) in 2015. "Healthy soils for a healthy life", has been suggested as a theme for raising awareness of the importance of sustainable soil management as the basis for food systems, fuel and fibre production, essential ecosystem functions and better adaptation to climate change for present and future generations.

Extract from CL 146/REP:

39. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 4 of the FAO Policy on the Proclamation of International Years¹, the Council decided to make an exception to its application and endorsed the following proposal:

- a) regarding declaring 2015 the International Year of Soils as a platform for raising awareness of the importance of soils for food security and essential eco-system functions, the Council agreed that the Draft Conference Resolution, as set out in [Annex] [...], be submitted to the 38th Session of the Conference for adoption; and
- b) [...]

40. The Council reiterated the application of the FAO Policy on the Proclamation and Implementation of International Years for all future proposals, including the requirement for an evaluation following each International Year.

Suggested action by the Conference

The Conference may wish to approve the draft resolution in Annex and to request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring the Year 2015 as the International Year of Soils.

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

Mr Pasquale Steduto
Land and Water Division
(Tel. +39 06570 54084)

¹ C 2013/LIM/15



Annex

Resolution .. /2013
International Year of Soils

THE CONFERENCE,

Noting that soils constitute the foundation for all agricultural development, ecosystem functions, food security and are the key to sustaining life on Earth;

Recognizing that the sustainable intensification of agriculture to feed the growing population by 2050 will depend increasingly on healthy and fertile soils across the world;

Affirming that soils are clearly key to addressing the pressures of a growing population and that recognition, advocacy and support for promoting sustainable management of soils is the way ahead if the international community is to guarantee healthy soils for a food secure world based on stable and sustainable ecosystems.

Recognizing that soils constitute a fragile foundation and that soil degradation is a far-reaching long-term process which threatens global soil resources and therefore compromises actions in favour of climate change adaptation and efforts to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty;

Recalling the urgent need to raise awareness and to promote and facilitate actions towards the sustainable management of soils in order to contribute to the agreed sustainable development goals of a zero-hunger and land-degradation neutral world as stated at the Rio+20 Conference;

Trusting that such a celebration would establish a platform and will encourage actions to promote and implement activities in favour of the sustainable management of global soil resources

Affirming the urgent need of raising public awareness of the importance of soils for food security and ecosystem functions;

Requests the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring the Year 2015 as the International Year of Soils.

(Adopted on ...)