



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

12th Plenary Assembly

03-05 June 2024

IMPLICATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUB-COMMITTEE ON SOILS UNDER FAO'S COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (COAG) AND MAINTAINING THE GSP IN ITS CURRENT STRUCTURE

Natalia Rodriguez Eugenio, GSP Secretariat



Background to GSP institutionalization



Key aspects of the detailed analyses - Cons

- Standing policy of the Conference against establishing new statutory bodies except when strictly necessary.
- Non-State stakeholders will be limited to participating as observers and must technically meet FAO's criteria to be considered as INGOs in order to be admitted as such. Private sector cannot be included.
- There might be limitations on the type of activities that the statutory body could undertake (only limited to COAG mandate)
- Additional funds would be required (circa USD 446 000/every 2 years)

Key aspects of the detailed analyses - Pros

- It would provide a formal, dedicated and coherent intergovernmental mechanism to discuss soil matters, which currently does not exist elsewhere.
- The establishment of the new body may expand the expertise that FAO could draw upon and thereby strengthen its capacity to deal with all soil-related matters, as governmental members of the Sub-Committee may differ from those participating in COAG.
- COAG would have more time to discuss high-level strategic and policy issues, rather than technical points.

Key aspects of the detailed analyses

- GSP Plenary Assembly would not report to COAG but to the Sub-Committee, which would then report to COAG (one additional layer).
- The GSP Plenary Assembly and the Sub-Committee on Soils could convene alternately one session every two years, allowing sufficient time between the Sub-Committee and COAG meetings for adequate reporting.
- The GSP Secretary and the Secretary of the COAG Sub-Committee on Soils could be the same person to ensure consistency and avoid overlaps.

Decisions made to date

- Maintain the GSP in its current status, including ITPS, all networks and RSPs. Non-state actors will continue to be involved as at present.
- If the Sub-Committee is established, ensure that there is no overlap in mandate and no competition for resources.
- Limit the financial implications for both the Organisation and donors.

Should the Sub-Committee on Soils be established and the GSP be maintained in its current form...

Financial implications:

- the additional cost would include USD 161 500 for technical staff (P3) per year, plus USD 123 200 for the translation cost of all documents into six languages (every two years);
- more resources would be needed to cover the activities of the GSP and those of the eventual Sub-Committee on Soils;

Should the Sub-Committee on Soils be established and the GSP be maintained in its current form...

Mandate:

- the GSP will continue to operate as at present and will focus on the implementation of the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030;
- The Sub-Committee will be a forum for consultation and discussion on soils and advise COAG on technical and policy matters related to soil management and on the work to be performed by the Organization in the subject matter field of sustainable soil management.

Decision to be made

- Make a recommendation to COAG 29 whether to **support or not** the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Soils while maintaining the GSP in its current status.
- If supported, the next step is to draft the proposal for its establishment, including its constitutive documents and rules of procedure, which would have to pass through the GSP Plenary Assembly, COAG, Council (through its Committees) and the Conference.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

12th Plenary Assembly

03-05 June 2024

THANK YOU



GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP