

29th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

Written correspondence procedure – inputs from Members – original language

Item 3.5 – Report of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)

| Member name | Comments |
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| <p>Argentina Tuesday, 10 September 10:10AM</p> | <p>La Argentina agradece al Dr. Lifeng Li la elaboración del documento COAG/2024/9. Como se ha indicado en otras oportunidades, nuestro país destaca la importancia de la Alianza Mundial del Suelo (AMS) en tanto plataforma amplia e inclusiva para trabajar en temáticas fundamentales como conservación, recuperación y salud de los suelos. A través de sus diversas iniciativas (por ejemplo, INSOP, GLOSOLAN o INBS) la Alianza continúa demostrando su vigencia para generar conocimiento, promover la cooperación técnica y facilitar la circulación de información basada en ciencia para cuidar la salud de los suelos. Argentina, en tanto país poseedor de vastas hectáreas de suelos negros, se encuentra comprometida con todas las iniciativas de la AMS y desea confirmar su firme vocación para continuar colaborando en la elaboración de nuevas actividades. En ese sentido, damos la bienvenida a la propuesta de Tailandia para promover la Década sobre la Salud del Suelo en el período 2031-2040. Finalmente, Argentina entiende el establecimiento de un Grupo de Trabajo para analizar el posible mandato de un Subcomité sobre Suelos no indica, primero, el consenso entre los miembros para endosar la creación de un nuevo órgano en el marco del COAG y, segundo, tampoco presupone un resultado positivo sobre las conclusiones a las que eventualmente pueda arribar dicho Grupo de Trabajo. Como hemos señalado en otras oportunidades, pensamos que la estructura de la AMS no debería ser sometida a solapamientos o competencias con nuevos órganos que atiendan y/o aborden sus mismas temáticas.</p> |
| <p>Switzerland Friday, 20 September 12:58PM</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GSP is an excellent example of a very successful multi-stakeholder collaboration, and we commend the Partnership, its members and its Secretariat on their spirit of exchange and collaboration, both on global and regional level, and on the significant results achieved, in terms of recognition (such as the collaboration with the Rio conventions), awareness (such as global participation in world soil day), implementation (such as the project RECSOIL) or empowerment (such as the farmer-to-farmer training in the soil doctors programme). |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switzerland is committed to maintain a strong participation from all actors and a shared governance system that also spans over regional partnerships. The engagement and dynamism of the members in the Partnership is a key success feature of the GSP and needs to be fully restored. • This wide participation should be clearly considered when revising the ToR of the GSP as well as by the Ad-hoc Working Group that will look into possible ToR for a sub-committee on soils, yet to be agreed on. The mutual supportiveness and complementarity of the GSP and a possible sub-committee need to be ensured. A direct reporting line to the COAG of the GSP should still be maintained. • With these considerations, Switzerland can support the way forward decided by the GSP plenary assembly regarding the possible creation of a sub-committee on soils. |
| <p>Australia Friday, 20 September 2:51PM</p> | <p>Australia appreciates the work of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Secretariat to produce the additional papers on the implications of the proposed COAG Sub-Committee on Soils.</p> <p>We note the proposed COAG Sub-Committee on Soils does not currently meet the relevant provisions governing the establishment of a statutory body under Resolution 13/97 of the FAO Conference, noting the benchmark for the establishment of new bodies is quite high.</p> <p>We welcome the creation of the Working Group to discuss the possible mandate and TORs of the proposed COAG Sub-Committee on Soils to understand how it would complement the GSP without duplication.</p> <p>We look forward to hearing more on the processes envisaged to establish this working group, its modalities and timeframes to undertake its role.</p> |
| <p>Peru Friday, 20 September 4:58PM</p> | <p>El Perú saluda a todos los países miembros de la Alianza Mundial por el Suelo (AMS) y reconoce la importancia del suelo como recurso natural, y lo indispensable que es para mantener la seguridad alimentaria de la población presente y de las generaciones futuras; así como, su importancia y el rol que cumple frente a los desafíos ambientales actuales y la degradación del suelo. Sin embargo, también somos conscientes, que la cantidad de suelo disponible para satisfacer estas demandas no aumentará en absoluto; de hecho, la base de recursos naturales se está reduciendo debido a la degradación del suelo.</p> <p>Como observadores y miembros Alianza Mundial por el Suelo, reconocemos su trabajo y damos fe de su evolución y los esfuerzos que viene realizando para el fortalecimiento de la gestión sostenible de los suelos, implementando las diversas medidas y acciones a través de sus redes de trabajo y programas (GLOSOLAN,</p> |

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| | <p>INBS, INSOILFER, INSAS, entre otros)¹; así como, su importancia y el rol que cumple frente a los desafíos ambientales actuales y la seguridad alimentaria. Asimismo, Perú como poseedor de una gran variabilidad de suelos y condiciones edafoclimáticas, expresamos nuestra firme posición de seguir apoyando y colaborando con las iniciativas de la AMS en la gestión sostenible de los suelos.</p> <p>En este sentido, respecto a la Institucionalización de la Alianza Mundial por el Suelo (AMS), apoyamos la <u><i>mantención de la estructura actual de la Alianza Mundial por el Suelo (AMS)</i></u>, a fin de no desestabilizar y/o desnaturalizar los avances logrados hasta la fecha, por el contrario lo que se necesita es brindar seguridad y permanencia a la AMS para cumplir las actividades mandatadas por sus miembros, y que sobre todo se garantice una mayor estabilidad y continuidad en los avances registrados a la actualidad.</p> <p>Finalmente, expresamos nuestro apoyo a la <u><i>propuesta de Tailandia sobre el establecimiento de un Decenio de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Salud del Suelo para el período 2031-2040</i></u>, que permitirá visibilizar la importancia de la gestión sostenible de los suelos frente a los desafíos ambientales actuales y la degradación del suelo y lo indispensable que es para mantener la seguridad alimentaria de la población.</p> |
| <p>Canada Monday, 23 September 11:35AM</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada welcomes the reports of the 11th and 12th Sessions of the GSP Plenary Assembly. • Canada welcomes the progress made on the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 and is supportive of the identified actions and targets focused on addressing through the improvement and enhancement of soil health the global challenges of food insecurity, climate change, pollution, land degradation, and the loss of biodiversity. Through this approach the GSP will increase the visibility and relevance of soils globally. • Canada acknowledges the need to update the ToRs of the GSP to reflect the structure of the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030. • With respect to the invitation to call on the ITPS and the GSP Secretariat to facilitate the prompt finalisation of the GSHIS to enable monitoring of progress and encourage Members to contribute to its reporting as soon as the system has been finalized, Canada is supportive: robust indicators are needed to monitor progress. • Canada remains skeptical of the need for the proposed COAG Sub-Committee on Soils, with concerns over duplication of effort and resources, mandate, governance, and finances. Canada understands and supports the need to increase the visibility and relevance of soils in the work of the FAO; however, it |

¹ GLOSOLAN: Global Soil Laboratory Network

INBS: International Network of Black Soils

INSOILFER: International Network on Soil Fertility and Fertilizers

INSAS: International Network of Salt-affected Soils

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| | <p>remains unclear how a COAG Sub-Committee on Soils would facilitate this objective while maintaining the GSP in its current structure. Canada welcomes the establishment of a working group to complete the analysis on the possible mandate and ToRs of the proposed COAG Sub-Committee on Soils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada agrees with, and will act on as appropriate, the remaining invitations to the Committee to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ f) <i>reiterate</i> the call upon Members to facilitate the implementation of the Resolution for International Exchange of Soil Samples for Research Purposes under the Global Soil Laboratory Network; ○ g) <i>encourage</i> Members and resource partners to support the development and implementation of the GLOSOB for measuring and monitoring soil biodiversity; ○ h) call on Members to support the implementation of GSP initiatives and programmes aimed at improving soil health and agricultural productivity and resilience through sustainable soil management, including, the RECSOIL initiative and the Global Soil Doctors Programme among others; and ○ i) <i>welcome</i> the proposal from Thailand, endorsed by the 12th Plenary Assembly on the establishment of a United Nations Decade on Soil Health for the period 2031– 2040 and, in line with relevant FAO policies and processes, and encourage Members championing the proposal to develop a comprehensive proposal, with the support of the GSP Secretariat, and to submit it formally to the Director-General of FAO and for the consideration of COAG at its 30th Session. |
| <p>European Union and its 27 Member States Monday, 23 September 4:16PM</p> | <p>Madam/Mr Chair,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. 2. We welcome the intense activities and the progress of the Global Soil Partnership towards promoting sustainable soil management at a global level. This resonates with the goals of the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy and also the ambitions reflected in the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. 3. We agree that healthy soils and their sustainable management are essential to ensure the resilience of the agricultural sector supported by agroecological practices and other innovative approaches, in order to ensure food security and also to meet the SDGs and the international commitments on biodiversity loss and climate change. Thus we recognise that GSP actions, implemented in reinforced coordination with other international efforts, are a fundamental element in addressing present-day global challenges, and these must be ever more strongly supported and developed. 4. We would like to emphasise the need for enhanced coordination on monitoring at the regional and global level. 5. We acknowledge the need to update the GSP’s Terms of Reference (ToRs), and we request that the GSP Secretariat prepare a revised version, following an open consultation with the GSP’s Partners, and that it |

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| | <p>submit this for endorsement by the GSP Plenary Assembly, then by the COAG at its 30th Session, and finally by the Council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. We call on the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) and the GSP Secretariat to facilitate the prompt finalisation of the Global Soil Health Indicator System (GSHIS) in order to enable the monitoring of progress and encourage Members to contribute to its reporting as soon as the system has been finalised. 7. We welcome the recommendation of the 12th session of the GSP Plenary Assembly to establish an open and inclusive Working Group to prepare a detailed analysis of the possible mandate and ToRs of the proposed COAG Sub-Committee on Soils, and on how it could complement the GSP without duplicating its activities. 8. We invite the GSP and FAO to meet the high environmental ambitions set out in the European Green Deal, scaling these up to a global level. <p>Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.</p> |
| <p>United States of America Wednesday, 25 September 3:56PM</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We appreciate FAO’s regular reporting on the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). The United States welcomes the progress that has been made on the implementation of the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030. • The United States remains an active member of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) and supports the GSP call for Member to facilitate the implementation of the “Resolution for International Exchange of Soil Samples for Research Purposes under the Global Soil Laboratory Network” that was endorsed in the 27th Session of COAG (2022) and supports GSP efforts to promote the organization of national and international laboratory proficiency tests. • We support the formal institutionalization of a laboratory proficiency testing program administered by an organization with the requisite credibility to implement a program that is both impartial and technically sound, as well as the Recarbonization of Global Agricultural Soils (RECSOIL) and the Global Soil Doctors Program. • We support deliberate, transparent efforts to identify needed changes to the GSP TORs to reflect the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030. The United States does not currently see the need to create a working group to provide detailed analysis of a proposed COAG Sub-Committee on Soils at this time and suggests that the matter be removed from consideration with the understanding that it may be reconsidered in the future • Finally, the United States is willing to evaluate and discuss a proposal for a UN Decade of Soil Health for the period 2031-2040 should one be developed and submitted to the next GSP Plenary Assembly for |

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| | <p>consideration and, upon approval, submitted for consideration at the 30th session of COAG in 2025. Thank you.</p> |
| <p>Costa Rica Wednesday, 2 October 11:57AM</p> | <p>Costa Rica acoge con satisfacción los informes de las reuniones 11ª. y 12ª. de la Asamblea Plenaria de la AMS, acogemos con satisfacción los avances realizados en el marco de acción 2022-2030 de la AMS.</p> <p>Sobre la propuesta de la AMS como órgano estatuario de la FAO, Costa Rica apoya mantener la estructura actual de la AMS y de realizar el profundo análisis de las implicaciones financieras y a nivel de gobernanza de la conformación de un subcomité de suelos en el COAG.</p> <p>En lo que respecta la propuesta del Decenio sobre la salud del suelo, Costa Rica considera que esta propuesta ayudaría mucho a impulsar los objetivos globales y metas de la AMS, generando nuevas iniciativas e impulsando las existentes. Basado en el conocimiento de otras experiencias similares, sería oportuno analizar las implicaciones financieras que puede tener esta propuesta, y de la importancia del análisis por parte de la AMS, de forma detallada sobre el plan de acción, los requerimientos, movilización de recursos y la localización de nuevos aliados financieros para esta iniciativa, lo cual se considera determinante para su éxito. Se sugiere dar aprovechamiento a las plataformas ya existentes como Glinka y King Bhumibol para movilizar el apoyo. Asimismo, destacamos el papel fundamental que pueden tener las Alianzas regionales para la coordinación de las acciones.</p> |