

Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils

Chairperson's report

Presented by Neil McKenzie
on behalf of Luca Montanarella



GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP

itps

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL
PANEL ON SOILS

The ITPS

NORTH AMERICA

- **Dr. Jon Hempel** – United States
- **Prof. Dr. John Daniel Pennock** – Canada

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- **Dr. Maria de Lourdes Mendonca Santos** -Brazil
- **Dr. Miguel Taboada** - Argentina
- **Dr. Carlos Roberto Henríquez** - Costa Rica
- **Dr. David Espinosa Victoria** - Mexico
- **Dr. Julio Alegre** - Peru

EUROPE

- **Dr. Helaina Black** - United Kingdom
- **Dr. Jaroslava Sobocká** - Slovak Republic
- **Dr. Dominique Arrouays** – France
- **Dr. Luca Montanarella** – EC
- **Dr. Pavel Krasilnikov** - Russia

AFRICA

- **Dr. Isaurinda Dos Santos Baptista** Costa -Cape Verde
- **Dr. Martin Yemefack** - Cameroon
- **Prof. Dr. Victor Chude** - Nigeria
- **Dr. Mohamed Badraoui** - Morocco
- **Prof. Dr. Tekalign Mamo** - Ethiopia

ASIA

- **Prof. Dr. Gan Lin Zhang** – China
- **Prof. Dr. Milkha Singh Aulakh** – India
- **Dr. Kazuyuki Yagi** – Japan
- **Dr. Suk Young Hong** – Republic of Korea
- **Dr. Pisoot Vijarnsorn** – Thailand

NEAR EAST

- **Prof. Dr. Seyed Kazem Alavi Panah** – Iran
- **Prof. Dr. Elsiddig Ahmed ElMustafa ElSheikh** – Sudan
- **Dr. Abdullah AlShankiti** – Saudi Arabia

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

- **Dr. Marta Camps Arbostain** - New Zealand
- **Dr. Neil McKenzie** - Australia

The first 12 months

- An ambitious work program has been established.
- Full meetings of the ITPS were held in July 2013 and April 2014.
- Numerous other meetings of ITPS members were held to support new initiatives and activities.
- The ITPS members are strongly engaged and there has been excellent progress on key activities.
- We now have a global authority on soil science and a valuable new international mechanism for linking science and policy.



Plans of Action

Pillar	Focus	ITPS Decision
1	Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity	Endorsed at ITPS 2 April 2014
2	Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soil	Endorsed at ITPS 2 April 2014
3	Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps and priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions	Revised draft due March 2015 for consideration at ITPS 3
4	Enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines	Endorsed at ITPS 1 July 2013
5	Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources	Endorsed at ITPS 2 April 2014

Status of the World's Soils Report

- The central focus for the ITPS is preparation of definitive and regular reports on the status of the world's soils.
- Work on the first report began in earnest in at the start of 2014 and it will be published on World Soils Day at the end of the of the International Year of Soils in 2015.
- Due to the short timeframe, the first report will establish the benchmark condition of soils using peer-reviewed scientific publications – it will set the framework for future reports and outline priorities for investigation and monitoring.
- A subset of ITPS members form the Editorial Board for the report and a highly experienced Managing Editor has been appointed.
- The structure of the report has been agreed and contributions are being obtained from the broader scientific community through a system of Coordinating Lead Authors.
- The report will include regional assessments that will be overseen by Regional Coordinating Authors.

World Soil Charter

- The original World Soil Charter was endorsed by the FAO Conference in 1981 and is now outdated.
- The ITPS has prepared a revised World Soil Charter that addresses contemporary issues while at the same time retaining the enduring message of the original.
- The revised World Soil Charter effectively provides a narrative for the work of the ITPS and the GSP more generally.
- Refer to Agenda Item 8 for further details.

Linkages to existing panels and initiatives

- The ITPS is mandated to establish close links with existing technical panels and related initiatives.
- The ITPS will fill a critical void by providing scientific advice on soils to entities including the CBD, IPBES, UNCCD and UNFCCC.
- The first and second ITPS meetings have devoted sessions to the establishment of functional links with the relevant entities.
- Discussions have begun on how the ITPS can contribute to the IPBES Thematic Assessment on Land Degradation and Restoration (2017).
- The GSP has been aiming to connect to the UNCCD at all levels but effective mechanisms for collaboration are yet to be formally established.
- A close collaboration with the newly established UNCCD Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will be pursued through the secretariats (GSP and UNCCD).
- Input and advice was provided to the G8 Food Security Working Group in February 2014

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Post-2015 agenda

- The ITPS recognized opportunities for the soil community to contribute to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- The ITPS pursued various avenues for incorporating soils into the new targets and indicators for the SDGs.
- Despite these efforts, no explicit recognition could be established.
- However, the process of negotiation and the preparation of various documents clarified many issues for the ITPS.
- An ITPS Working Group is continuing to operate with the FAO Secretariat on Post-2015 matters.
- A priority will be the preparation of short statements on soils that can be used by negotiators involved with the further development of international monitoring and reporting systems.

Supporting the transition from planning to implementation

- ITPS members have been heavily involved in the establishment and planning of the GSP (e.g. Pillars of Action, Regional Partnerships, World Soils Report).
- Many activities are now moving from planning to implementation.
- The work load is increasing significantly.
- The success of the ITPS and the broader GSP will be constrained unless more resources are allocated to these critical activities.