



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



2015
International
Year of Soils

World Soil Day celebration & Closure of the International Year of Soils 2015

“Soils: a solid ground for life”

Friday, 4 December 2015, 12.30 - 14.00
Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO headquarters, Rome

The General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2013 designated 5 December as **World Soil Day (WSD)** and declared **2015 as the International Year of Soils (IYS)**. Both WSD and the IYS are essential platforms to raise awareness at the international, regional and national levels about the **fundamental role of soils for human life**. This event, at FAO Headquarters, is intended to celebrate World Soil Day 2015 and the closure of the International Year of Soils 2015, with similar events organized in all FAO Regional Offices.

Draft Agenda

Moderator: Ms. Marcela Villarreal, Director OPC, FAO

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| 12:30 - 12:35 | Opening by Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO |
| 12:35 - 12:40 | Remarks by Mr. Kanayo F. Nwanze, President, IFAD (tbc) |
| 12:40 - 12:50 | “Healthy soils for a healthy life”:
- H.E. Mr. Alexander N. Tkachev, Minister of Agriculture, Russian Federation (video message)
- Mr. Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director-General, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Ms. Monique Barbut, UNCCD Executive Secretary (video message) |
| 12:50 - 13:00 | Presentation of the outcomes of the International Year of Soils, Mr. Sompong Nimchuar, Ambassador of Thailand to FAO, Chair of IYS Steering Committee |
| 13:00 - 13:05 | IYS Video animation “Soils and the SDGs” |
| 13:05 - 13:15 | Launch of the Status of the World’s Soil Resources Report, Mr. Luca Montanarella, Chair of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils |
| 13:15 - 13:25 | Testimonies from IYS stakeholders |
| 13:25 - 13:45 | Soils beyond 2015: using the IYS legacy, Mr. Moujahed Achouri, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO |
| 13:45 - 13:50 | Family Farming, Soils and Pulses, the linkages between the International Years in FAO, International Year of Pulses’ Secretariat and Co-Chairs (tbc) |
| 13:50 - 13:55 | Remarks by the Special Ambassadors for the International Year of Soils, Prof. Claire Chenu and Prof. Tekalign Mamo |
| 13:55 - 14:00 | Closure of the event by Mr. Daniel J. Gustafson, Deputy Director-General Operations, FAO |

