

MEETING MINUTES

FIFTH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOILS (IYS) STEERING COMMITTEE (SC)
FAO HEADQUARTERS (PHILIPPINES ROOM (C277))
THURSDAY, 09 APRIL 2015, 10:00 – 11:30

MEETING ATTENDEES:

Sompong Nimchuar (Chairperson, Thailand), Rosemary Navarrete (Australia), Olthof Willem (European Commission), John Norris (USA), Nazareno C. Montani Cazabat (Argentina), Patrick Heffer (IFA), Ahmed Shalaby (Egypt), Roberta Maria Lima Ferreira (Brazil), Federica Veschi (Thailand), Cristina Grandi (IFOAM), Luisa Volpe (WFO), Andrea Ferrante (La Via Campesina), Patrick Heffer (IFA), Marco Marzano de Marinis (WFO), Marcela Villarreal (IYS Secretariat, FAO), Yon Fernandez Larrinoa (IYS Secretariat, FAO), Ronald Vargas (IYS Secretariat, FAO), Sally Bunning (FAO), Riccardo DelCastello (FAO), Craig Chibanda (FAO), Oscar Ruiz (FAO), Ana Saez (FAO), Michela Baratelli (FAO), Fiona Bottigliero (FAO)

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ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND THE MINUTES OF THE THIRD IYS-SC MEETING;

- The minutes of the 4th meeting of the IYS-Steering Committee (SC) and the agenda of the 5th meeting were approved with no changes.

ITEM 2. DECISION ON THE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INSURERS (AIAG) AND SOCIETY FOR NEW INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES (SONIA)

- The Chairperson gave the floor to the IYS-Secretariat which informed members about the written feedback received after circulating the information and requests to the IYS SC members for their information and comments. Nine (9) IYS-SC members replied to the membership requests to the Steering Committee made by AIAG and SONIA.
- The conclusion was that members agreed to:
 - accept the request made by AIAG to become a member of the IYS-Steering Committee; and
 - ask for more information about SONIA and the organizations/constituency they represent.
- The Secretariat clarified that the request had come from the Indigenous Peoples caucus through Ms. Myrna Kay Cunningham Kain (FAO Special Ambassador for Family Farming), and also agreed to request further detailed information from SONIA concerning the specific organizations it would represent.
- Members agreed to make a final decision about SONIA's request at the next IYS-SC meeting upon receiving the relevant information from the Secretariat, and decided that with this request the membership to the IYS-Steering Committee was now closed and SONIA would be the last application reviewed by the committee.

ITEM 3. REPORTING ON IYS IMPLEMENTATION AND RECENT IYS EVENTS

International Year Of Soils (IYS)

- The Secretariat informed the members about the key IYS events that had occurred since the last meeting as well as those that would take place in the near future. In particular:
 - the ongoing Regional Soil Partnership Workshops which are being used as a platform to mainstream the IYS; and
 - the upcoming Global Soil Week (GSW) to be held in Berlin, German from 19 to 23 April 2015 organized by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS).
- Members were informed that on Tuesday, 21 April 2015 from 12:30 to 14:00hrs there would be a session titled “*Celebrating the International Year of Soils at the Global Soil Week: Healthy soils for a healthy life*”, co-hosted by the IYS-Steering Committee and other stakeholders.
- The Secretariat also informed members that the organizers of the GSW had agreed to fund the participation of three Permanent Representatives from non-OECD countries that are members of the IYS- Steering Committee. The Secretariat further underlined that participation was essential because the event presented an opportune platform for advocating and garnering support for the International Year of Soils (IYS).

ITEM 4. MEMBERS’ PARTICIPATION AND ORGANIZATION OF SIDE EVENTS

- The Secretariat informed Members about the possibility and importance of collaborating in organizing side events during various upcoming FAO meetings and conferences such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
- The Secretariat also informed members that it was organizing a Side Event on Tuesday, 21 April 2015 in New York, UN Headquarters during the XIV session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues titled: “International Year of Soils: exploring links between indigenous food systems, protection of native seeds and sustainable livelihoods”.
- Members were informed about the upcoming 12th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which will take place in Ankara, Turkey from 12-23 October 2015. The conference was identified as a potential platform for organizing a side event.
- Members reaffirmed the desirability of having an IYS side event during the FAO Conference in June.

ITEM 5. ANY OTHER ITEMS

- Members did not raise any other items for discussion and the Chair informed the members that the next IYS-SC meeting will be on 13 May 2015.

The Chairperson briefly summarized the main discussions of the meeting, thanked the Members for their contributions, and concluded the meeting at 11.35 pm.