



**1. Title**

Global Soil Partnership

**2. Type**

Inter-Divisional Symposium

**3. Organizer(s) & Convener**

Pavel Krasilnikov

Eurasian Center for Food Security of Lomonosov Moscow State University, 119991, GSP-1, Leninskie Gory, 1, building 12, Moscow, Russia

Tel: +7-495-9393641

Fax: +7-495-9394239

E-mail: krasilnikov@ecfs.msu.ru

**\* Convener**

Ronald VARGAS

Land and Water Division of the Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

00153Rome,Italy

Tel:(+39)0657053037

Fax:(+39)0657053064

E-mail: Ronald.Vargas@fao.org

**4. Rationale**

Soil is a finite natural resource. On a human time-scale it is non-renewable. Soils, the foundation of agricultural development and ecological sustainability, provide the basis for food, feed, fuel, fiber, water availability, nutrient cycling, organic carbon stocks, biodiversity, and as a platform for construction. The area of fertile soils is limited and is increasingly under pressure by competing land uses and degradation. Urgent action is needed to reverse this trend and maintain healthy soils required for feeding the growing population and meeting their further needs. This can only be ensured through a strong partnership. In September 2011 FAO has launched the establishment of the Global Soil Partnership as requested by COAG (CL 140/3). The symposium should report the strategic goals of the program and the progress in its development.

**5. Objectives**

The symposium is supposed to make a world-wide announcement of the first stages of development of the important FAO initiative.

**6. Description**

The symposium should include one invited keynote lecture and 4 to 6 oral presentations plus a poster session.

