1. **Title**  
Global Soil Partnership

2. **Type**  
Inter-Divisional Symposium

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