



Sociedad Latinoamericana de la Ciencia del Suelo

Oficio SGLCS/lbrs/338/15
Proxy voting signatures support for COP-21



2015
International
Year of Soils

Honorable Participants of the COP-21

OCEAN, VEGETATION, AND SOIL ARE THE THREE GREATER CAPACITY RESERVOIRS TO CAPTURE CARBON AND CURBING CLIMATE CHANGE ON OUR PLANET; therefore we, as member of the Latin American Soil Science Society, call on the participants of the World Summit on Climate Change to be held in Paris this year, to join the "Global Soil Partnership" (FAO, 2012 and UN, 2013) as the loss of this natural resource, non-renewable in terms of the period of human life, means the loss of clean and fresh water to drink; at the same time without no fertile soil and water, there would be a reduction on the vegetation that captures carbon dioxide and releases oxygen needed for life as well as the soil organisms that capture such carbon dioxide. By losing Soil we would be losing two of the major compartments with real capacity to capture CO₂ to mitigate climate change.

We invite you to consider that reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate global climate change, ensuring food security (UN, 2014), having clean drinking water essential for human life and for the maintenance of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (*Laudate Sí*, 2015), achieving sustainable agriculture (UN, 2013), and meeting the Development Goals (UN, 2015) are all objectives directly involving the natural resource soil. Therefore achieving those goals will only be possible if we preserve Soil as a common good of humankind (FAO, 2012 and UN 2013 and SLCS: Declaration of Mar del Plata, 2012).

PRESIDENCIA

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- 2-

This common good is in danger due to the expansion of cities, deforestation, unsustainable land use and poor management practices, pollution, overgrazing and the climate change itself with its consequent natural disasters.

In the vast range of soils present on Earth there are great opportunities not only to capture and sequester carbon in order to reduce CO₂ emissions and greenhouse gas, but also to increase the organic material in the soil with the consequent increase of moisture available for crop systems. At the same time it contributes to the lag of the impacts of extreme hydro meteorological events (National Alliance for Soils, 2015), and it helps to decrease the actual consequences of hunger and poverty, displacement, inequality and injustice.

From the Latin American Soil Science Society, we consider that each of the aforementioned issues, though complex correspond to partial perspectives on the same problem to solve: the preservation of life on the Earth System; therefore addressing each one separately when in reality they are interrelated and affect each other because they are part of the same system, does not advance as much as it could to achieve this fundamental objective.

That is why we express to the members of the COP-21 both our deep concern at the slight inclusion of the preservation of soil resources in your Agenda, and at the same time our strong will of interdisciplinary teamwork, and we invite all the Society around the world to consider soil resource as well as all the elements of the environment, and to join forces working to achieve the common goal of preserving life on the planet.

Sincerely yours,

The Presidents and members of the Latin American Soil Science Society.

Cuautitlán Izcalli México, November 10th 2015

Ph. D. Gustavo Bernal Gómez

President of the Latin American Soil Science Society

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- 3 -

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Please acknowledge receipt, we remain sincerely yours.

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“2015 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOILS”

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