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Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Fiji:* draft resolution

World Soil Day and International Year of Soils

The General Assembly,

Noting that soils constitute the foundation for agricultural development, essential ecosystem functions and food security and hence are key to sustaining life on earth,

Affirming that soils are clearly key to addressing the pressures of a growing population and that recognition, advocacy and support for national efforts in promoting sustainable management of soils are the way ahead if the international community is to guarantee healthy soils for a food-secure world based on stable and sustainable ecosystems, especially under a current trend in which soil degradation is a major threat to the sustainable management of soils,

Recalling resolutions 4/2013 and 5/2013, adopted on 22 June 2013 by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its thirty-eighth session,¹

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development² and all its principles, Agenda 21,³ the Programme for the Further Implementation of

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-eighth Session, Rome, 15-22 June 2013* (C 2013/REP).

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.



Agenda 21,⁴ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,⁵ the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the commitments made therein and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁶

Affirming the urgent need to raise awareness and to promote and facilitate national efforts and actions towards sustainable management of the limited world soil resources,

1. *Decides* to designate 5 December as World Soil Day and to declare 2015 the International Year of Soils;

2. *Invites* all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe World Soil Day and the International Year of Soils in an appropriate manner;

3. *Calls upon* Governments and relevant regional and international organizations to make voluntary contributions and lend other forms of support to World Soil Day and, in particular, to the International Year of Soils, and invites non-governmental organizations, other relevant stakeholders and the private sector to provide voluntary contributions and support to the campaign for and organization of World Soil Day and the International Year of Soils;

4. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 and in the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, to support and facilitate the implementation of World Soil Day and the International Year of Soils, in direct collaboration with Governments, relevant regional and international organizations, civil society and the general public, and also invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to keep the General Assembly informed of the progress made;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States in order to encourage them to carry out activities to commemorate World Soil Day and the International Year of Soils, and of the organizations of the United Nations system for the provision of necessary assistance to those efforts.

⁴ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁵ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁶ Resolution 66/288, annex.