

UF/IFAS
Soil and Water Sciences Department

2181 McCarty Hall A
PO Box 110290
Gainesville, FL 32611 -0290
352-294-3151
352-392-3399 Fax

Professor Roger Swift
Chairman of the Nominating Committee of the IUSS
University of Queensland
Australia
rswift@uqg.uq.edu.au

Dear Professor Swift,

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate, along with Dr. Dominique Arrouays, Professor Alex B McBratney for the Presidency of IUSS. I have known Alex for decades, have visited his state of the art laboratory in Sydney and worked with him at many occasions in different countries on the digital soil map of the world, about which we co-published a key paper on the subject (*Science* 325: 680 – 681). Dr. Arrouays has detailed his many recognitions, including the Dokuchaev Medal, being among the 13 most recognized soil scientists in the world, and his election to the Australian Academy of Science. He also describes Alex's service to IUSS, to which I wish to add that he served as deputy secretary-general to Alfred Hartemink, performing many different support functions to the Union as a whole. Dr. Arrouays has also described in detail Alex's outstanding record of scholarship and publications, to which I am in full accord.

Having served as director-general of one of the international agricultural research centers of the CGIAR, I clearly see Alex as a great leader and manager. His leadership comes from his engaging personality, name recognition and enthusiasm, which will allow him to use soil science in ways that people follow most positively. I feel he will do an excellent job in representing IUSS as a progressive, solidly science-based organization in tune with the Twenty-first Century. But to be successful, the next IUSS president must also be a good manager, being a good listener and following up on the myriad details of the organization. Alex is both a great listener and a person who follows up diligently. Not many outstanding scientists are leaders and managers. Alex McBratney certainly is one. I am sure if elected that he will not just bask on the glory of the office, but work hard on leading and managing IUSS with gusto. Alex is ready for the IUSS presidency and the IUSS should be ready for him.

Sincerely,



Pedro A Sanchez

Research Professor of Tropical Soil Science, University of Florida
World Food Prize laureate
MacArthur Fellow "genius award"
Fellow of the soil science societies of America, Colombia and Cuba.
Doctor of Science Honoris Causa, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Guelph University, Ohio State University and North Carolina State University
Member of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States