

# **JEJU DECLARATION**

## **“Soils Embrace Life and the Universe”**

**Proclaimed at the Soil Parade**

**of the 20th World Congress of Soil Science (20WCSS)**

**Monday, June 9, 2014**

**Jeju, Korea**

Soils are important for life and the functioning of the world’s ecosystems, and they face increasing challenges for their protection and sustainable use. We, the members of the International Union of Soil Sciences from more than 130 countries worldwide, are willing to contribute with information, knowledge, and resources to increase information about the worldwide importance of soils by raising soil awareness through new ideas and concepts about the value of soils on a global scale, as follows:

1. Soils are not dirt under our feet but the basis of our life;
2. Soils influence plant, animal, and human health. Therefore, we have to manage them carefully and sustainably;
3. Soils are an essential and finite natural resource and, therefore, need to be protected by all means;
4. Soils are complex in nature and heterogeneous in spatial distribution. Therefore, we all, irrespective of race, gender, culture, or location, must cooperate to increase the knowledge about our soils;
5. Soil loss and degradation are much quicker than soil formation. Therefore, we must protect our soils by developing a long-term strategy;
6. Besides food security, soils are closely related to water resources, biodiversity, energy generation, climate change, environmental health, and ecosystem services. Therefore, we must develop concepts for their sustainable use;
7. The value of soils is unknown to most politicians, decision makers, and the broader public. Therefore, we need to develop outreach programs for raising soil awareness.

8. Soils are used for urbanization, industrialization, waste disposal, and other forms of use, thus impacting long time food production. Therefore, we need to develop best management concepts for maintaining and restoring the ecological functions of our soils;
9. Because soils are our common basis, we should highlight their value and benefits by celebrating December 5 as the World Soil Day in all countries of the world.