

COMMON FORUM ON CONTAMINATED LAND IN EUROPE



**GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOIL POLLUTION
(GSOP18)**

2 – 4 May 2018; FAO – ROME, ITALY

Namur, 24 May 2018

GSOP 2018 – AIM AND OBJECTIVES

1st step in implement **Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM)**

→ in terms of preventing and reducing harmful substances in soils ... to maintain healthy soils and food safety in accordance with the SDGs


UNEA (United Nations Environment Assembly, 3rd session, Dec. 2017), **Resolution 3/6**

→ **Managing soil pollution to achieve sustainable development**




GSOP 2018 – BACKGROUND

UNEA Resolution 3/6

- recalling SDGs, emphasis knowledge gaps and lack of data and information on soil pollution
 - Its impacts on health and the environment globally
 - requests UNEP to cooperate to international organisations and initiatives (including e.g. ICCL, Minamata & Stockholm Convention)
 - calls for (several) actions (*e.g. an international conference = GSOP18*)
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GSOP 2018 – THEMES & KEY QUESTIONS

- Soil pollution on Agricultural Fields
 - The impact of soil pollution on food production and safety, the environment and overall human well-being
 - Remediation of pollutes sites
 - Global Status of soil pollution
 - ***Developing policies and setting thresholds for addressing soil pollution***
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GSOP 2018 – COMMON FORUM

😊 9 countries/regions participating

- Theme 4.1: policies & setting thresholds for addressing soil pollution:

→ 4 out of 8 presentations

SUMMARY available

<http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/resources/highlights/detail/en/c/1128604/>

<http://enb.iisd.org/download/pdf/sd/enbplus206num6e.pdf>

thinking. Johan Ceenaeme, Public Waste Agency of Flanders, Belgium, provided an overview of lessons learned after 20 years of soil remediation policy implementation in Flanders, emphasizing that via the Soil Certificate, the market can guarantee soil investigation and remediation have been completed.

Eloana Janice Bonfleur, Federal University of Paraná, Brazil, discussed reference values for potentially harmful elements in soils from the Atlantic rainforest in Brazil. Jussi Reinikainen, Finnish Environment Institute, discussed the derivation and application of soil guideline values (SGVs), stressing that SGVs can never replace a proper site-specific risk assessment.



Jussi Reinikainen, Finnish Environment Institute, Finland ©FAO

GSOP18 – KEY MESSAGES

- the case studies described at the Symposium indicated overall extensive global soil pollution;
- organic compounds and emerging contaminants represent the main challenges;
- there is a need to increase research to support informed decision-making;
- a global assessment of soil pollution should include modeling chemical production and emissions, prioritize highly contaminated sites, and assess at country level the main contaminants and impacts; and
- the need for developing accessible technologies to assess soil pollution.

UNEA Resolution 3/6 – FUTURE

UNEP to prepare (elaborate)

1. **Report** on available scientific information and data

→ extent and future trends of soil pollution

→ risks and impacts on health, environment and food security

2. **Technical guidelines** for the prevention and minimization of soil contamination to support the implementation of VGSSM

→ **WATCH OUT: 2nd working group envisaged:**
assessing, mapping, monitoring, reporting on soil pollution



◆ Thanks for your attention!



<http://enb.iisd.org/download/pdf/sd/enbplus206num6e.pdf>