



### World Soil Day 2025 Event

*“Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities”*

4 December 2025, 13.15 - 14.30 hrs.

Conference Room (tbc), UNHQ, New York

Healthy soils are the foundation of life on Earth. Each year on 5 December, World Soil Day (WSD) celebrates soils and raises awareness of their importance for sustainable agrifood systems, climate action, biodiversity, and human well-being. The annual celebration, which also coincides with the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great of Thailand, pays tribute to His Majesty’s lifelong dedication to championing sustainable soil management as a means to improve people’s quality of lives.

The Permanent Missions of the Kingdom of Thailand, and XXX, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, invite you to commemorate the World Soil Day in New York, on 4 December 2025, from 13.15 - 14.30 hrs at Conference Room (TBC), UN Headquarters. The event will be conducted in English only and webcasted on UN WebTV.

World Soil Day 2025 is a call to action. It invites policymakers, scientists, city leaders, civil society, and citizens everywhere to reimagine urban spaces through their soils, ensuring that people and nature can thrive together in healthy green cities. The event will feature a variety of voices including Member States, UN Agencies, New York City’s Mayor’s Office, scientists, professors, students and local farmers.

The theme for 2025, **“Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities”**, focuses on the role of soils in cities and the challenges posed by soil sealing and urbanization. With two-thirds of the world’s population expected to live in cities by 2050, soils are the foundation of sustainable and resilient cities.

Urban soils provide essential ecosystem services: they support food production, filter water, store carbon, regulate temperatures, and sustain biodiversity. However, soil sealing, pollution, and urban expansion threaten these benefits, increasing flood risks, intensifying heat islands and threatening food production in peri-urban land.

Solutions exist. De-sealing, green roofs, urban vegetation and agriculture, composting, and sustainable urban planning can turn soil into opportunities to strengthen climate action, improve public health, reduce disaster risks, and foster inclusive and greener cities.

## **DRAFT AGENDA**

*The event will be moderated by Ms. Nandhini Krishna, Officer in Charge & Deputy Chief of Office, UNCCD/CBD Liaison Office, New York*

13.15 - 13.20	<b>Welcoming remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Cherdchai Chaivaivid, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations</li> </ul>
13.20 - 13.45	<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Ms. Annalena Baerbock, President of the General Assembly (TBC)</li> <li>H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations (TBC)</li> <li>H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (TBC)</li> <li>Permanent Representative of XX to the United Nations (TBC)</li> <li>Permanent Representative of XX to the United Nations (TBC)</li> <li>Permanent Representative of XX to the United Nations (TBC)</li> </ul>
13.45 - 13.50	<b>World Soil Day Video</b> by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand
13.50 - 14.15	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speaker 1</li> <li>Speaker 2</li> <li>Speaker 3</li> <li>Speaker 4</li> <li>Speaker 5</li> </ul>
14.15 - 14.25	<b>Q&amp;A and Intervention from the floor</b>
14.25 - 14.30	<b>Closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Angélica Jácome, Director of FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations, New York.</li> </ul>