

## **007 Soil security law**

**AWARE** of the fundamental roles that soils play in addressing the existential global challenges of food security, climate change, biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, as well as for rural livelihoods and vulnerable communities who depend directly on healthy soils and recognising that soil security is a cross-cutting issue that underlies all of these challenges;

**UNDERSTANDING** the concept of soil security as the responsible management and preservation of soil to ensure its continued ability to perform vital functions, provide essential planetary services, and protect against emerging threats to support life on Earth. The concept of soil security acknowledges five dimensions of (1) capability, (2) condition, (3) capital, (4) connectivity and (5) codification, and encompasses the social, economic and biophysical sciences as well as policy and legal frameworks;

**CONVINCED** that soil security, including soil health, deserves the same level of legal protection as these global challenges;

**RECOGNISING** the critical importance of protecting and restoring the physical, chemical and biological health of soils for their multiple functions, ecosystem services and contributions to people;

**AWARE** that intensified agricultural production, artificialisation and other land uses have escalated soil degradation, through multiple chemical, physical and biological threats, undermining its availability and capacity for food production and agricultural sustainability;

**RECOGNISING ALSO** the importance of Indigenous knowledge and the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as key stewards of soil restoration, soil health and traditional food sources, including, in particular, soil biodiversity;

**AFFIRMING** that soil security is integral to the right to a healthy environment, supporting sustainable ecosystems, food systems, human health, and non-toxic environments;

**STRESSING** the importance of promoting soil security and in particular sustainable agriculture to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the land degradation neutrality target in SDG 15 (Life on Land);

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the potential of the three Rio Conventions to protect and restore soils, and emphasizing the need to make use of technical information and strategic guidance developed under these fora, but emphasising the need for an urgent development of a dedicated global instrument to address soil security, including sustainable agriculture, holistically; and

**FURTHER RECOGNISING** the substantial work of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) and its Specialist Group on Soil and Sustainable Agriculture Law in advancing environmental law to promote soil security;

### **The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:**

**REQUESTS** the Director General to collaborate with WCEL as well as other relevant Commissions:

- a. to develop concepts and parameters for an international convention or a global legal instrument on soil security;
- b. to evaluate and propose national or regional laws to protect, restore and rehabilitate soil ecosystems, with a focus on sustainable agriculture; and
- c. to encourage States and regions to adopt appropriate measures and legal frameworks, addressing threats to soil and promoting soil security across sectors (including agriculture, mining, infrastructure), with attention to vulnerable communities, and aligned with the UNCCD and Land Degradation Neutrality targets.