



Montpellier, 31 October 2023

Dear Members and Partners of the High-Level Segment of the 7th "4 per 1000" Day,

Since 2019 and for more than two years, the world has been focusing on the CoViD 19 pandemic, and from 2022 on the food sovereignty of States, a consequence of the Russo-Ukrainian conflict.

Prior to these two major crises, the attention of governments, but also of private players, seemed to be finally focused on the environmental challenges of our modes of economic development. Climate change and biodiversity, to which we can add desertification, were highlighted as top priorities, and a general hopeful movement to meet these global challenges was perceptible, without ignoring or minimising the need for food security for all.

Since 2022, countries have been turning in on themselves, showing less solidarity and international cooperation, while at the same time seeking greater self-sufficiency and autonomy in feeding their countries and regions. The increase in the price of energy, raw materials, synthetic fertilisers, and therefore foodstuffs, as well as the resulting inflation, have confronted governments with difficult but understandable choices, overshadowing the longer-term future with more short-term considerations.

In this context, considerations about our soils and their health have taken a back seat, even though many of us still proclaim and repeat that Soil Health is the only guarantee of humanity's future on the planet, and the prerequisite for combating climate change, biodiversity erosion, desertification, and food insecurity.

CoP 28 of the UNFCCC and CoP 16 of the UNCBD and UNCCD will be opportunities that we must not miss to put soil health at the top of the international political agenda. We propose that we all work towards this goal, starting with CoP 28 in Dubai, and taking advantage of World Soil Day to put soil health at the top of the international agenda of the Rio Conventions. We hope that many representatives of the members, partners and friends of the Initiative will be able to take part in the "4 for 1000" day, as well as in the many parallel events organised by the Initiative or in which the Initiative will take part during the CoP.

It is against this backdrop that the **7th day of the "4 per 1000" Initiative will be held on 6 December 2023**, in a hybrid format: face-to-face for those attending CoP 28 and online for those unable to attend.

- In the morning, the theme of the Partners' Forum (an advisory and discussion body) will be: **"Let's put soil health higher on the international agenda and act together now!**
- The Members' Consortium (the decision-making body) will meet in the afternoon of the same day.
- Full details will be available and regularly updated on the dedicated page of the Initiative's collaborative platform: <https://wiki.afriis.org/display/4D23> .



As has become a tradition, the Partners' Forum will open with a High-Level Segment moderated by the Chair of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, during which leading figures representing Members and Partners will be invited to take the floor to present their activities and their vision of the implementation of the Initiative's Strategic Plan [2020-2050] and the importance of Soil Health for the future of Humanity in relation to the day's theme.

We are pleased to extend a formal invitation to you to attend this conference, in particular the High-Level Segment, which will begin in the early hours of **6 December 2023**.

In order to organise your participation and, if you wish, your speech (on site or online - this year the recorded videos will be added to the final video), we would be grateful if you could contact the Initiative's Executive Secretariat (secretariat@4p1000.org).

We look forward to your continued support and participation.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. **Stéphane LE FOLL**
Chairman
of the "4 per 1000" Initiative

Dr **Ibrahim-Assane MAYAKI** & Ms. **Gabrielle BASTIEN**
Vice-Chairmen
of the "4 per 1000" Initiative.