

Dear Andreas Baumgarten,

It is with great honor that I announce my candidacy for the position of President of the IUSS. With over **three decades** of dedicated service to soil science, my career has been deeply connected with the global soil science community, especially through my leadership roles in the Soil Science Society of China (**SSSC**), the East and Southeast Asia Federation of Soil Science Societies (**ESAFS**), and the **IUSS**.

During my tenure as Director General of the Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences (**ISSCAS**), I had the privilege of leading one of the world's foremost institutions in soil science. This role trained my leadership skills and reinforced my belief in the power of collaboration, innovation, and strategic vision. As I prepare to retire from my role at ISSCAS, I am eager to bring the full measure of my experience, resources, and energy to the IUSS, dedicating myself fully to the responsibilities of President.

As President, I pledge to:

1. **Leverage Proven Leadership to Strengthen Global Collaboration:** My leadership at ISSCAS has provided me with valuable insights into the complexities of international cooperation. I am committed to using this experience to deepen partnerships across the IUSS, particularly in regions where soil science is still developing and underrepresented, ensuring that our knowledge and expertise benefit all corners of the world.
2. **Advance Research and Innovation with Renewed Focus:** Throughout my career, I have been a strong advocate for promoting the importance of soil science in achieving global food security, mitigating climate change, and preserving soil biodiversity. I am prepared to channel this expertise gained in mobilizing resources into supporting cutting-edge research within the IUSS.
3. **Foster Inclusivity and Diversity with a Global Perspective:** My work at ISSCAS, along with my involvement in the SSSC, ESAFS, and IUSS, has underscored the importance of inclusivity and diversity in our field. I will ensure that the IUSS remains an inclusive organization that represents the full spectrum of our global community. By fostering an environment where all voices are heard and respected, we can strengthen our collective impact.
4. **Expand Education and Outreach Efforts:** Education has always been a core focus of my work, and I believe that inspiring and training the next generation of soil scientists is one of our most important tasks. Drawing on the experience gained from leading ISSCAS, I will devote significant effort to expanding educational programs and outreach initiatives within the IUSS, ensuring that our knowledge and expertise are accessible to a global audience.

As I step away from my role as Director General of ISSCAS, I am fully committed to dedicating the resources, energy, and time required to lead the IUSS with integrity, transparency, and a deep sense of responsibility. Together, we can build a stronger, more resilient future for our discipline.

Thank you for your support and for the opportunity to serve this esteemed organization. The Vote will be open from 9AM Beijing Time (GMT 1AM) October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 9AM Beijing Time October 24<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure you join us for voting and make your voice heard.

Sincerely,

**Prof. Renfang Shen**  
Chair of Division 3, IUSS

Honorary President of Soil Science Society of China  
President of Soil Science Society of China (2012-2020)  
Director General of Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences