**Session Proposal**

- **Session Title**: Towards improved criteria, diagnostics, and classification of human-constructed and human-transformed soils in the World Reference Base (WRB) system.

- **Session Description**: The majority of people live in areas characterised by advanced soil transformation, which influences a variety of soil functions, including food production, water cycling, the impact on climate and environmental quality, and human health. The management of such areas and their wise use require proper soil description, naming, and mapping, which clearly reflects the origin, kind, and scale of soil transformation. Classification of human-created and human-transformed soils has been extensively elaborated in recent editions of the World Reference Base (WRB); however, there is still a need for new or improved solutions (criteria, diagnostics, qualifiers) in response to extensive research of soil transformed by agriculture, horticulture and forestry, soils in urbanised and industrial areas, and other soils created by humans such as at archaeological monuments. Contributions that discuss the concepts of ‘natural’ versus ‘anthropic/anthropogenic’ soils, local or regional attempts to ‘anthropic’ soil classification, and the risks to WRB are also appreciated.

- **Session Organizers**:

\* Cezary Kabala, chair of the IUSS Working Group WRB, Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Poland, cezary.kabala@upwr.edu.pl

\* Stephan Mantel, vice-chair of the IUSS Working Group WRB, ISRIC World Soil Information, Wageningen, The Netherlands, stephan.mantel@wur.nl

- **Target Audience**: Investigators of soils in urban, industrial, and transportation areas, as well, in archeological sites and in areas, where intense agriculture or land management has significantly transformed soils and their functions.

- **Format**: The session should involve both the oral presentations and posters.

- **Proposed Speakers**: very early invitations have been released to Przemyslaw Charzynski from Poland (member of SUITMA group, expert of urban soils), Stefaan Dondeyne from Belgium (expert of Anthrosols) and Maria Bronnikova, Russia/USA (expert of palaeosols/soils in archeological sites), but they cannot confirm their participation in the WSC 2026 yet.

- **Relevance**: large and permanently increasing number of people live in areas characterized by advanced transformation of soils, which influences variety of soil functions, including food production, cycling of water, impact on climate and environmental quality and human health, thus unequivocally related to the future mankind.