

# Acknowledgement of Land Administration by UN-GGIM

The Fifth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) was held from 3-7 August 2015 at the United Nations headquarters in New York, USA. FIG was represented at this session by its president, Prof Chryssy Potsiou. During the Fifth Session, the application of geospatial information for land management and land administration was on the agenda. A background document on this topic was available which states that “geospatial/ land information and its management are fundamental to successful land administration and the derived benefits to the economies and overall sustainable development of nations. Furthermore, it is critical to the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as it is able to provide reliable data on land, including its tenure and dimensions, at local scales. Despite substantial work being undertaken and completed on land issues by non-government organisations, professional bodies and global organisations, more work needs to be undertaken to consider the geographical information management aspect which assists considerably with land governance, land administration and management.” This background document is founded on a series of land administration and management initiatives developed over the last decades. Amongst those founding initiatives are the ‘Continuum of Land Rights’ from UN-Habitat and the ‘Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure’ from FAO. Efforts by FIG in support of the development of a global land administration are highly recognised in this background document. The FIG ‘Bathurst Declaration’ identifies the need for the promotion of



▲ President Prof Potsiou meets colleagues during the Fifth Session of UN-GGIM.

institutional reforms to facilitate sustainable development and for investment in the necessary land administration infrastructure. The Land Administration Domain Model and related Social Tenure Domain Model have been developed with FIG. The joint FIG/ World Bank Declaration on Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration declares that land administration should be designed to meet the needs of people and their relationship to land, to support security of tenure for all and to sustainably manage land use and natural resources.

During the Fifth Session, the FIG president congratulated UN-GGIM and the member countries for including land administration on the UN-GGIM agenda. She stated that FIG believes this is a major step towards achieving the Post-2015 Development Goals. She further stated that, although we are living in the era of the globalised economy, not all citizens of this world experience the benefits of inclusive and efficient land administration. Those benefits include transparency in the management of land and the necessary

infrastructure to enable people, especially low-income earners, to acquire access to capital, to improve their standards of living and to protect the planet. FIG strongly believes in the land administration concept and has already developed long-standing activities, in-depth research, international cooperation with FAO and the World Bank and a series of publications in this field. FIG declares its strong commitment to continuing its cooperation with UN-GGIM in this field and to building upon the existing experience and knowledge, avoiding any duplication of efforts, avoiding any time delays and working closely, hand in hand with the countries, in a joint mission to translate these words into action. The UN-GGIM event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2016 will focus on land administration and management. ◀

#### More information

[ggim.un.org](http://ggim.un.org)  
[www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net)



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