

FIG Task Force on
**The Role of FIG in International Trends and Future Geospatial
Information Ecosystem**

Terms of References (TOR)

(To be approved by the Council in February and General Assembly, May 2023)

1. BACKGROUND

As the leading and premier international organization representing the interests of surveying, land and geospatial practitioners worldwide, it is essential that FIG continually reviews its role and function to remain relevant, and maintain its international impact while providing services not only to its members but also its global partners. FIG needs to consider its role in relation to its international standing and leadership in the geospatial arena, now and for the future.

In recent years we have seen significant changes in the markets and within the profession. The geospatial industry and land professions are dealing with major global challenges such as rapid urbanisation and the effects of climate change. FIG wishes to examine its role, as well as the functions and competencies of surveyors, to make sure they remain aligned with international trends and domain specific drivers which shape our industry. This will empower FIG to be fit for the future both within the geospatial market and in the wider and emerging digital transformation markets.

FIG will focus on maintaining and enhancing its professional relevance for a wider societal benefit, recognising the pivotal role that geospatial data plays as an enabler particularly in land administration. This is in the context of the UN Sustainability Agenda as well as international trends and emerging geospatial information ecosystem.

FIG needs to identify the current and potential reach and the impact it can contribute to wider geospatial areas such as Big Data and AI. This is a broad agenda and FIG needs to assess how it can work with other organisations, such as UN-GGIM, to improve its impact . The drive is that FIG aims to play a thought leadership role to create a better market for FIG members in emerging geospatial fields.

With this, the Task Force centred upon the involvement of our profession in geospatial fields to re-position its international standing and assert the essential relevance of geospatial experts in international markets. Geospatial data is a component of systems in all sectors. As such, it is expected that other professions will see geospatial as important, but the Task Force aims to secure the role of the geospatial expert in these domains.

The Task Force will be cognisant of what is happening in the FIG commissions, in order to strengthen their roles and capabilities and also avoid duplication. The Task Force will be clear in its purpose and will report to Council and the General Assembly (GA).

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE TASK FORCE

The main **objectives** of this Task Force are:

- to assess and improve the **impact** of FIG for its members and partners (existing and new partners).
- to assess and **improve the role** of FIG in international trends and future geospatial information ecosystem, as well as the role of members in global geospatial market.
- to provide **recommendations** for FIG Council to adopt and implement the outcomes of the above objectives.

The Task Force will present periodic reports to Council and other relevant channels on their findings concerning current FIG role in Global Geospatial market trends. The Task Force will undertake its work via a unified, collaborative, transparent and consultative approach together with the FIG members. In this context, the general discussions points can be:

- What are the strengths of FIG members?
- What do FIG members currently do?
- Why is it relevant?
- How to position FIG members in current international context?
- What is the evidence of benefit of FIG members as we shift to massive, 3D, real-time data underpinning all aspects of our lives?
- Literature review: What is the evidence base?
- Professional assurance of accuracy, precision, knowledge of fit-for-purpose data, privacy/security etc.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCES

In the context of its objectives, the Task Force aims to deliver two achievements:

- Assessment and analysis of FIG's current impact:
 - How is impact currently achieved by partners and members?
 - Investigation of current trends and initiatives
 - Identification of priority areas in-line with FIG Members
- Assessment and review of international trends and future geospatial information ecosystem:
 - Review of FIG's current and potential partners and activities
 - Mapping of interrelations between FIG commissions, networks and international entities
 - Identification of challenges and opportunities including new regions and markets.

4. OUTCOMES and OUTPUTS

-The outcome for this Task Force is to reinforce and grow FIG's influence as a key and influential organisation within the global geospatial data ecosystem. This will be delivered

through analysis of international trends, identification of areas where FIG can and does have the most impact, and the development of roadmaps to align with FIG members and partners.

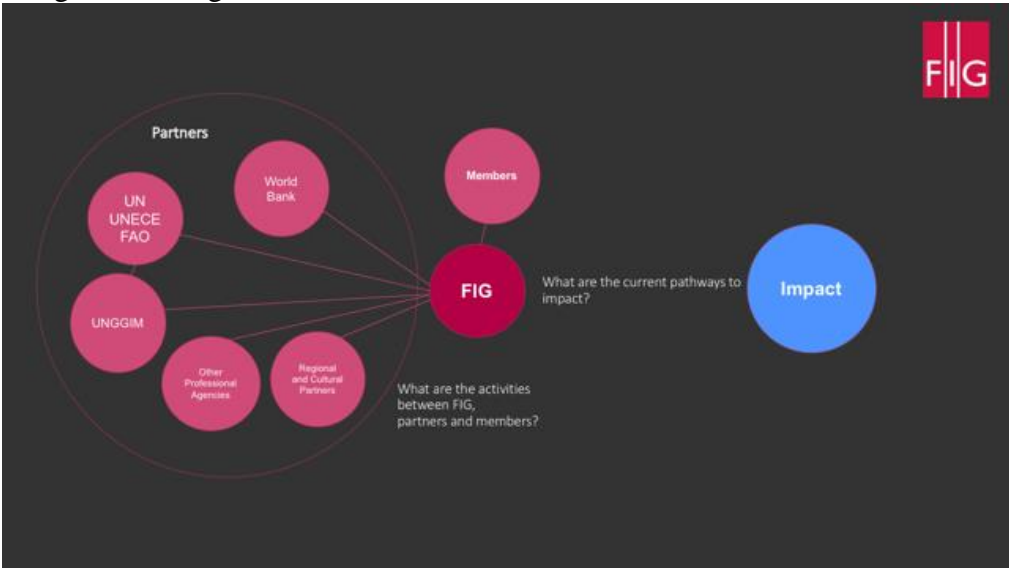
Outputs could include...a FIG booklet, series of reports/recommendations/contributions to the development of FIG profession (etc). The details of these outcomes will be listed in the advanced work plan.

5. PATHWAY and IMPLEMENTATION

A work plan will be created by the Task Force to list the activities and milestones in response to its objectives and deliverables. The Task Force will focus on:

- The current pathways to impact.
- A “SWOT” analysis of the FIG current strategy and operation, its activities with major partners and members, and possible a benchmarking with other organisations including UN-GGIM be performed and involves FIG Council.
- Trend analysis to better understand potential future directions of development and to ascertain the readiness of FIG in this context.
- Mapping of interrelations between FIG commissions, networks, partners, and international entities.
- Identification of challenges and opportunities and main international players and authorities including new regions and markets.
- Development and preparation of reports on the Task Force findings, and recommendations to Council.
- The Task Force will complete its work in 3 years and the final FIG Booklet publication be ready for release at the FIG 2025 Working Week in Brisbane.

Whilst the Task Force will have the responsibility for implementing TOR, the team will undertake this via a unified, collaborative, and consultative approach with all FIG members. In other words, the Task Force will identify, consult, and discuss with our internal and external stakeholders what we are doing well, what we can do better, challenges or trends affecting influencing the future, and how to resolve such matters.



6. PROPOSED WORK PLAN

With respect to the work plan, it is expected and highly recommended that the Task Force:

- Forms and begins work as soon as possible
- Develop a detailed work plan with expected milestones and deliveries at upcoming annual FIG events and other significant events to address and achieve objectives.
- Develop a detailed work plan that presents ways for transparency and interactions with FIG and its members and other geospatial partners to address and achieve objectives
- Support FIG to assess and improve its role regarding international trends and future geospatial information ecosystem, as well as the role of members in global geospatial market, with the development of an action list with activities for FIG to consider
- Propose methods on how to review the impact of these activities
- The work programme will be done through email, online meetings and where feasible “face to face” meetings will be organised to coincide with FIG related events.

Here is a snapshot of the deliverables and schedule:

Activities	Aims	Expected Delivery
TOR Council Approval	TOR Approval	February 2023
TF and TOR General Assembly Approval	FIG Week Orlando	May 2023
TF detailed Work Plan development with expected milestones and deliveries	Detailed Work Plan	July 2023
Assess 1: SWOT analysis of the FIG current strategy and operation, its activities with major partners and members	Evidence base for impact of FIG	Aug-Dec 2023
Mapping of interrelations between FIG commissions, networks, partners, and international entities		Oct-Dec 2023
Assess 2: Review of International geospatial trends and future ecosystem	To better understand potential future directions of development and to ascertain the readiness of FIG in this context	2023-2024
Identification of challenges and opportunities for FIG and main		2024

international players and authorities to interact		
Conduct a series of open seminars/panel discussions/workshops (virtual/f2f) to identify and capture relevant inputs for the operation and the communications of the TF	At least one activity per year, and in 2025 the activity would be to launch the outcomes of the TF	2023-2025
Regular Reports on the TF findings, and recommendations to Council		2023-2025
Final Publication- a Strategy Roadmap	For release at the FIG 2025 Working Week in Brisbane	June 2025

7. MEMBERS OF TASK FORCE

- Abbas Rajabifard (Chair)
- Hartmut Mueller
- Mikael Lilje
- Daniel Steudler
- James Norris
- Kirsikka Riekkinen
- Fredrik Zetterquist
- Others to be identified (*we will invite new members to improve diversity, regional representatives, gender balance, and young surveyors*).