Agenda Item 30: Membership Issues (Voting Rights)

Report back from Break Out Session (20 May 2011)

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• Break out attended by 16 Member Associations
• Good, open discussion on the issues
• Key points made grouped on the next slides
• Then consideration of the way forward
Structural issues

• The structure of associations in each country is a matter of law and history
• This structure determines how many members from each country, and therefore votes
• Some current associations could split, with several FIG members emerging
• Do we want a unified profession?
• We also now have regional/language associations etc

Do we need to change?

• Is this the best system yet devised?
• If it isn’t broken, do we need to fix it?
• Is this a natural task following the governance changes over recent years?
• How can we decouple fees from votes?
• How important are voting rights – is it more important to belong and share in the work of FIG?
• Decide these things first: do we need to change?
The consequences of change

- Smaller associations would have their rights watered down – leaders and followers?
- FIG budget includes support for poor associations – but change would reduce their rights
- Or does a change recognise the amount of funding larger MAs provide to FIG?
- How often would we need to review – or agree to fix for say 5 years?

Possible models

- Keep system simple eg. 1/2/3; 1/3/5
- Linked to number of surveyors with maximum, say 5 votes
- Break points will be fairly arbitrary
- Consider the ‘average’ GA with around 50 MAs attending, including most of the large ones
- Base it on FIG being a Federation of Member Associations
Other members
- Should Corporate Members have a vote?
- Any changes need to be tightly linked to the vision of FIG
- Perhaps a collective say for Platinum Corporate Members, not an individual say?

Conclusion
- There are different views
- It needs more time and investigation to resolve this matter
The way forward

• We need to continue the discussion and decide on the issues
• We need to be thorough but keep to a reasonable timetable
• The breakout suggested that a Task Force be convened to progress the issue
• Other possibilities include for Council to progress the matter
• Council will be guided by the GA