

**FAO/FIG Technical session: A time to Improve Land Governance:
How can Land Professionals support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on
the Governance of Tenure (VGGTs)**

Thursday 5th May 11.00-12.30
Blossom Lady 2, Addington Raceway, Level 3

Land (other natural resources) provide humanity, among others, food and shelter, economic production and a basis for social, cultural and religious practices. Rights of access are increasingly affected by climate change, natural disasters, population growth, urbanization and the growing demands for land for agriculture including for bio-energy initiatives. Responsible governance of tenure of land and other natural resources can help reduce undernourishment, hunger and poverty and create opportunities to support social and economic development. Weak governance hinders sustainable use of the environment, hinders economic growth, can condemn people to hunger and poverty and the loss of lives through violent conflicts.

Within the context of the FIG Work Plan for 2015 – 2018, the FIG Council has a vision of a *“modern and sustainable surveying profession in support of society, environment and economy by providing innovative, reliable and best practice solutions to our rapidly changing and complex world, acting with integrity and confidence about the usefulness of surveying, and translating these words into action.”*

The recently endorsed Sustainable Development Agenda and Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, to take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 – 20 October, 2016 can support this vision by providing unprecedented global momentum to improve land governance. The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) present an unprecedented international soft law instrument that is a reference for work to ensure that people benefit from secure and equitable tenure rights.

FIG and the New Zealand Institute for Surveyors will lead in realizing an international Working Week that will include several important aspects of the VGGT framework.

Objectives of the session

Improving governance of tenure requires contributions by all, including ensuring synergies with similar initiatives, as different actors and stakeholder groups can make their own specific contributions. Surveyors, whether in their everyday work or in their contribution to country, regional and global processes play a fundamental role.

This high-level session roundtable discussion will discuss challenges, ideas, solutions and opportunities for surveyors to improve governance of tenure at global, regional and country levels. Tabled for debate the session will provide concrete examples that can be taken by individuals to solutions that require long-term concerted efforts.

Objectives of this concept Note and Instructions to Participants

Roundtable panellist will pick up on these issues, deep dive into what is possible for land professionals and inform an agenda for concerted efforts.

The closing output is an Action Statement for the role of surveyors in improving governance of tenure as it applies to the VGGT. This will be captured by a rapporteur, and subsequently posted on the FIG web site inviting Member associations to feedback and preferably test the actions for further reporting back at the FIG working week in 2017.

The event will address the questions:

- What are the global game changers that support efforts to improve land governance?
- What lessons have been learnt by the 'early adopters approaches'?
- What necessary requirements are for land professionals effective input and roll-out of the VGGT within their own country levels?

Outcomes

The outcome of the discussions will

- Hear the closing panel clarifying their feedback and possible actions from the discussions.
- Feed into a joint FIG/ FAO Policy Brief on actions for the role of surveyors in improving governance of tenure as it applies to the VGGT, and
- Be used as an inputs into other FIG Member Association's debates, e.g the Africa FIG Regional Networks event 2016.

In the roundtable session speakers will cover the key topics of:

- Overviewing the VGGT content
- Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties, specifically customary tenure systems
- Responses to emergencies specifically applied to Natural disasters
- Ensuring a gender equal approach for men and women in policy and implementation strategies.
- Applied to Land management experiences from participants including land administration and valuation.

Session format and Opening Questions:

1. Opening: (7 mins) Chair Diane Dumashie:

- Short introduction on purpose of roundtable i.e. Identify different actors and stakeholder groups and their specific contribution made by LP's to improve country, regional and global processes
- + 2 sentence bio intro of each panellist, and
- brief introduction to need for improving governance of tenure and SDG as game changers

2. Setting the scene: Paul Munro-Faure: The VGGT: Approach, Global game changing and Relevance to Land Professionals (13 mins)

- Diane's opening to PMF: What are the VGGT in the context of a global game changer and specifically the relevance and lessons learnt from the 'early adopters approaches' ?
- **Addressed to PMF:** How was this process envisaged as a game changer to Land Professionals in their contribution to improving land governance?

3. Open to audience for Q One & A (10 mins)

- What are your views on what you have heard?
- What is the potential contribution of FIG and partners to the follow-up and review of implementing the VGGT?

4. Question set Two to Panellist: Taking as our lead headings from within the VGGT's, what is the role of land professional's surveyors (i.e what challenges lie ahead and perhaps early ideas for solutions)

- **Addressed to Nepal:** Responses to emergencies specifically applied to Natural disasters (Total 20 mins)
 - I understand that you were involved in the Nepal VGGT National workshop, can you briefly tell us the aim of the workshop, and specifically what, if any lessons could be drawn on the role that land professional may play in implementing the VGGT in this context (**4 mins**)

And addressed to Floor

- What are your views on what you have heard?
- What is the potential contribution of FIG and partners to the follow-up and review of implementing the VGGT?

Addressed to Uganda: Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties, specifically customary tenure systems

- With your experience supporting the government to implement customary certificates of ownership in Uganda, do you see that the VGGT help or hinder the opportunity to combine the Statutory with the customary systems? (4 mins)

And addressed to the Floor: Whilst on this topic of Legal recognition, I'd like to ask a question to two different audience participants:

- Administration of Tenure/ Richard Grover: Taxation/ valuation:
- Administration of Tenure/ tbc / Spatial planning
- Administration of Tenure/ Cherise tbc / open:

Back to Uganda and Floor to explore

- With your capacity building hat on, What are the necessary requirements for an effective follow-up and review of land professionals input and roll-out of the VGGT within their own country levels?

5. Roundtable Question set Three to Panellist and Q/A: Global game changers and their relevance to surveyors (practical ideas and next steps) (20mins):

- **Addressed to Samoa:** Cross cutting themes such as gender equal approach for men and women (**4 mins**)
 - Having successfully written the Technical gender Guidelines for the Samoan VGGT implementation framework what was the most rewarding aspect in the collaborative process?

And addressed to the floor....

- What
- **Addressed to Philippines:** Cross cutting themes stakeholder selection and government working with LPs (*3 mins*)
 - From your own experience, could you outline how governments can drive programs such as your own Agrarian Reform Program with the VGGT principles?
 - Who do governments need to ensure emerging policy will be successful?

And addressed to others....

- **Audience for Q/ A**
- **Dialogue on:** What are the necessary requirements for an effective follow- up and review of land professionals input and roll out of the VGGT within their own country levels?

6. Roundtable Question set Four (5 mins): Q to panel

Can you give me in 1 minute your key highlights in response to:

- What are necessary requirements for an effective follow-up and review of land professionals input and roll-out of the VGGT within their own country levels?
- What is the potential contribution of FIG and partners to the follow-up and review of implementing the VGGT?

7. Rapporteur: Robin McLaren What we've heard and (*practical actions and next steps*) (5 Mins)

8. Closing and Thanks/ Diane Dumashie