

Report to the 45th General Assembly FIG Congress 2022, 11-15 September 2022, Warsaw, Poland

FIG Commission 1 – Professional Practice and Standards

With the endorsement of the Work Plan (2019-2022) for Commission 1 in the 42nd General Assembly in Hanoi, Vietnam, three working groups formed in the previous term were continued in this term. This report covers the progress update since then and concludes my term as the Chair of Commission 1 from 2019-2022.

2. Working Groups

2.1 WG 1.1 International Ethics and Standards (Chair: Timothy Burch)

Timothy Burch of the National Society of Professional Surveyors of the United States has taken up Chair of Commission 1 Working Group 1.1 with effect from December 2020.

I have represented FIG as a Trustee on the International Ethics Standards Coalition (IESC). The IESC, with about 120 Member organisations, has produced a new version of International Ethics Standards in May 2021, which consists 12 international ethical principles (<https://ies-coalition.org/standards/>) in seven languages including English and German, with Bulgarian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish to follow. Two new Principles on Diversity and Respect were added to the original ten principles of Accountability, Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest, Financial Responsibility, Integrity, Lawfulness, Reflection, Standard of Service, Transparency and Trust. Diversity is to encourage practitioners to promote an inclusive and open environment, enabling people of varied abilities and identities to enter and thrive in their workplaces and respective professions, while the principle of Respect is to encourage practitioners to treat others with consideration, avoid diminishing any person's capacity for freedom, privacy and independence, and shall recognise the importance of both engaging with others without discrimination or prejudice and sustaining their wellbeing and personal safety.

Quite a number of FIG Member Associations have already adopted these new Ethical Principles for themselves. FIG Council supports IES and the ethical code. As the IES is a general Code of Ethics, the FIG council has asked the Working Group to look for best practice examples of the IES-Code in our professional environment (surveying, geospatial, land management, valuation, construction surveying, cadastre, etc). Once these best practice examples have been successfully applied in the surveying related profession, which are presented and discussed, FIG Council will discuss whether the current FIG Ethics Code should be updated or adapted to the IES-Code. This can finally lead to a discussion about a harmonisation or replacement of the existing Ethical Code of FIG.

The online **Discussion Session on Ethics** within the theme of Smart Surveyors for Land and Water Management held in the eFIG Working Week 2021 in Amsterdam has successfully shared with the delegates the updates on ethics in the working group,

gained their opinions, information on uptake and implementation of IES, and discussed individual challenges within each country represented. It also went through the new 12 International Ethical Standards principles and agreed they remained fit for purpose. The discussion group enthusiastically endorsed the addition of Diversity and Respect as two new Principles to the revised IES Code and emphasised the importance of each one to foster positive environments for future opportunities.

The WG will continue looking into how to implement the Standards in FIG, and take the opportunity to review if the Statement of Ethical Principles and Model Code of Professional Conduct published in 1998 (FIG Publication No. 17) needs to be revised based on the outcome of the best practices. It is the goal of this WG to continue the implementation of expanding and updating our current Standards to consider the revised IES Code of Ethics. Discussions will continue during the 2022 Congress with final recommendations being presented at the 2023 Working Week in Orlando.

2.2 WG 1.2 Women in Surveying (Chair: Robyn McCutcheon)

Robyn advised that there has not been much progress throughout 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic since the roundtable discussion in the FIG Working Week 2019 in Hanoi. However, the action items, which include promoting women in surveying, addressing hidden bias towards women in surveying, tackling the lack of gender diversity and how best to promote women in the surveying industry and to discuss individual challenges and case studies in each country represented are still relevant.

The FIG women in surveying network, if the situation warrants, hope to work towards improving communications for the group. The network is also proposing a 'Charter for Women', the scope of which is to ensure that the FIG community reflects the values of diversity and inclusion. In the WG we do need to make sure we are highlighting diversity and do not specifically overburden women with leading the change to inclusion, therefore all members of the FIG community are invited to contribute.

A round table discussion which was planned in the working week in Amsterdam in 2020 were meant to focus discussions on the diversity and inclusion issues which face our members, but unfortunately it didn't happen due to the pandemic. Hope there will have updates in the next General Assembly covering the issues relating to women including the World Bank 'Stand for her land' and the UN Sustainable Development Goal No. 5 Gender Equality, and whether we should come up with the following statements for 'Charter for Women':

- FIG promotes diversity and inclusion as a key value
- FIG members must challenge unconscious bias by seeking out diverse views when making decisions or collaborating with colleagues
- FIG commits to equal gender balance on speaking panels.

This WG will be seeking a new Chair for the next term so the Commission would like to thank Robyn for her efforts in promoting a positive environment for this WG during the tumultuous period of the pandemic. Commission 1 looks forward to continuing her great work to make further progress for women in geospatial professions around the world.

2.3 WG 1.3 International Boundary Settlement and Demarcation (Chair: Haim Srebro)

Following the FIG Publication 59 International Boundary Making edited by Haim Srebro, which was produced through Commission 1 in 2013, Haim and his Working Group members Vincent Belgrave, Andrea Cantile, Donald Grant and William A. Robertson, who are all highly qualified experts and practitioners in ‘boundary marking’, published the FIG 76 International Boundary on Unstable Ground through Commission 1 in 2020.

Haim introduced at the international boundary session in eFIGWW2021 an article on 25 years of joint Israeli-Jordanian boundary maintenance as well as articles on international boundaries on unstable ground. The latter included three articles following FIG Publication No. 76, on river boundaries, on boundaries in lakes, on boundaries on glaciers, and instability of boundaries as a result of tectonic plate movement. Jurg Kaufman introduced the "Border Manifesto referring to the importance of boundaries and to the contribution of surveyors to peaceful living in the world. He said that FIG should develop measures and help to enforce professional treatment of boundary issues. Following the discussion in the boundary session Bill Robertson referred to the influence of tectonic plate movement on boundaries and to the importance of the contribution of FIG to UN-GGIM initiatives.

During the Commission 1 session in the eFIGWW in 2021, Haim introduced the activities of the Working Group on international boundary making, including the two published FIG Publications numbers 59 and 76, and the intention to publish a third FIG publication on maritime boundaries.

Using the platform of discussion with FIG Vice-President Mikael Lilje, Haim reported to 44th FIG General Assembly on the activities of the FIG Working Group on international boundary making. The main topics of the report, in addition to the report on FIG Publications 59 and 76, and in addition to the announcement on a new publication on maritime boundaries were the following insights. Stability is important for international relations, and stability of international boundaries is of utmost importance in peace keeping throughout the world. Stability of boundaries is crucial and a prerequisite for the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goal No.16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Surveyors play a central role in the boundary making process and FIG has a special role regarding the methodology and standards for precise and sustainable boundaries to support global requirements. FIG President Rudolf Staiger included the announcement on a new FIG Publication on maritime boundaries in his concluding remarks.

After eFIGWW2021, Haim published two articles in GEOCONNEXION on ‘Surveyors: The Peace Makers’ (https://static.geoconnexion.com/downloads/int_v20i03_020-022_FIG.pdf) and ‘Surveyors: The Boundary Setters’ (<https://www.geoconnexion.com/publication-articles/surveyors-the-boundary-setters>), following FIG Publication 59 on International Boundary Making and FIG Publication 76 on International Boundaries on Unstable Ground.

3. Events

A FIG Commission 1 Workshop on Professional Standards and Practice in Surveying and Mapping in the Countries along the Belt and Road Routes had been held in Deqing, China from 17-18 Sept 2020. The workshop was organised by FIG Commission 1 and The People's Government of Deqing County, China, hosted by Zhejiang Province Society for Geodesy Photogrammetry and Cartography, The Administration of Huzhou Moganshan High-tech Industry Development Zone, China, and Beijing iSpatial Co., Ltd., FIG Corporate member, and guided by the Chinese Society for Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography. Owing to the COVID-19, it was held in a hybrid mode, onsite and online, and was well attended by 200 participants. Thanks to the support given by China in organising the workshop successfully.

4. Publications

a. FIG 76 International Boundary on Unstable Ground:

<https://www.fig.net/resources/publications/figpub/pub76/figpub76.asp>

b. Commission 1 Newsletter in Dec 2020:

https://www.fig.net/organisation/comm/1/Library/newsletters/com_1_Newsletter_Dec_2020.pdf

c. A joint publication Commission Chairs Publication on 'Key Global and Technology Drivers impacting Surveying: Reflections by the FIG Commission Chairs', Mar 2021 at GIM International Issue 1 Business Guide 2021:

https://issuu.com/geomarespublishing/docs/gim_international-issue_1business_guide_2021?fr=sYmEwZjMwODM2Nzc

Lastly, my sincere thanks to the efforts contributed by the Chairs of the Commission 1 Working Groups and the support from FIG, its members and representatives. I wish the Chair Elect of Commission 1, Timothy Burch, every success over the next term.

Submitted By: Winnie SHIU, Chair, FIG Commission 1 (2019-2022)