United Nations and International Federation of Surveyors

The Bathurst Declaration on Land Administration for Sustainable Development
The cumulative evolution of society’s land administration needs (western examples)

- **pre-industrial revolution**: land as wealth and cadastre as basic record and fiscal tool
- **industrial revolution**: land as commodity and cadastre as land market tool
- **post-war reconstruction**: land as scarce resource and cadastre as planning tool
- **sustainable development**: land as scarce community resource and cadastre as land management tool
The relationship of humankind to land is dynamic.

As a result, the supporting land administration infrastructures are dynamic.

The humankind to land relationship is changing due to global drivers.
• half the world’s population lives in urban areas;
• 40-60% of urban population have no secure land tenure;
• 2/3 of world’s population will live in water stressed conditions by 2025;
• a tenfold reduction in resource consumption of industrialized countries is necessary to meet the needs of developing countries;
Social and Environmental Imperatives

• in 1995, 25% of the world’s mammal species were at risk of total extinction;

• women account for half the world’s population but they own only 1% of world wealth;

• every continent faces indigenous rights issues.
Why the Bathurst Declaration

- nearly three decades since the Stockholm Declaration on the environment;
- seven years since Agenda 21;
- still far from sustainable development;
- imperative for fundamental institutional, legal and technological reforms;
- land administration infrastructures are crucial for sustainable development.
Background

- FIG Statement on the Cadastre - 1995
- UN-FIG Bogor Declaration on Cadastral Reform - 1996
- MOLA Land Administration Guidelines 1996
- FIG CADASTRE 2014 - 1998
- UN-FIG Bathurst Declaration Land Administration for Sustainable Development - 1999
40 world experts in land administration from:

- 5 continents
- 25 developing and developed countries
- 5 UN agencies and World Bank
- FIG and particularly Commission 7 (Cadastre and Land Management)

Chosen for their expertise and established record of achievement in their respective areas
United Nations

• UN DESA, Division for Sustainable Development, New York;
• UN DESA, Division for Statistics, New York;
• UNCHS (Habitat), Nairobi;
• UNFAO, Rome;
• UNECA, Addis Ababa;
• World Bank, Washington DC;
• Meeting of Officials of Land Administration (MOLA), UNECE; and
• PCGIAP created by UNRCC for Asia and the Pacific.
Extended to experts with backgrounds including:

- surveyors,
- lawyers,
- economists,
- valuers,
- anthropologists,
- geographers,
- planners,
- information technologists,
- government administrators,
- academics,
- private sector.
Pre-workshop:

- draft outline of the Declaration and draft of key topics
- many participants (25) were asked to prepare a paper on a recommended topic that was based around the workshop themes
One-week residential workshop:

- each topic discussed in small groups then debated in plenary
- draft of key points for comment and modification
- three Plenary Discussions of successive drafts of Declaration, Recommendations and Report
International Melbourne Conference

- Official launch of Bathurst Declaration on Land Administration for Sustainable Development
- Presentation of position papers
- Extensive discussions
Future Actions

- Report to UNRCC for Asia and Pacific, March 2000
- Report to UN Sustainable Development Commission in New York in April, 2000
- Present to FIG General Assembly, May, 2000
- Present at a wide range of conferences and distribute to countries and NGOs widely
Executive Summary

The Bathurst Workshop examined:

- future humankind/land relationships,
- the role of land in sustainable development,
- food, water and land policies,
- land tenure and land administration systems,
- how land markets, land registration, spatial planning and valuation interact, and
- re-engineering land administration systems.
Global context:
• sustainable development (social, economic, environmental)
  e.g. rapid urbanization, water crisis, land degradation
• economic restructuring
• information revolution
• globalization
The Bathurst Declaration

Calls for:

• legal security of tenure and access to property for all men and women;
• institutional reforms to give people full and equal access to economic resources and investment in the necessary property infrastructure;
• halving the number of people around the world who do not have effective, secure access to property rights in land by the Year 2010;
The Bathurst Declaration

Calls for:

- investing in the necessary land administration infrastructure and in dissemination of land information to achieve reforms;
- strengthened cooperation between land administration professionals;
- full and active participation by local communities in formulating and implementing the policy agenda;
Calls for:

• improved access to land and to land administration systems by all, especially women, indigenous groups, the poor and the disadvantaged;

• development of user-driven systems for sustainable development;

• flow of information on land and property between government agencies and the public;
The Bathurst Declaration

Calls for:

• efficient operation of land markets through appropriate regulatory frameworks that address environmental and social concerns;

• UN to undertake a study and produce an atlas of global land tenure and land administration issues;
The Bathurst Declaration

Calls for:

• coordinated UN-FIG education and training in land administration;
• country profile analyses of land administration systems;
• development of performance indicators.
Sustainable development is not attainable without sound land administration.

Conclusion

- Good Land Information
- Better Land Policy
- Better Land Administration
- Better Land Use