INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS (FIG) REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SOUTH ASIA

ON 'CLIMATE RESPONSIBLE LAND GOVERNANCE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE: SAFEGUARDING LAND RIGHTS' HELD IN KATMANDU, NEPAL ON 14-16 NOVEMBER 2024

CALL TO ACTION: DRAFT

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PREAMBLE

The participants at the FIG Regional Conference held in Nepal on the 14-16 November, 2024 in Katmandu, hosted by the Nepal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (NICS), have acknowledged that the climate crisis represents the single greatest challenge facing humankind. We need to ensure that the planet remains sustainable and our people remain resilient. This theme underpins the FIG Council's vision of sustainability over the term 2023-2026. Because of the importance of climate change to the global community, FIG wishes to examine and actively promote the engagement and role that surveyors, property managers land practitioners can play in contributing to the climate change agenda. FIG wishes to lead its members so that they can fully understand, articulate and use their expertise and practical knowledge to tackle the important challenges in climate action, including focusing on the economic impact on the tenure (including ownership) and value of undeveloped and developed land.

This Regional Conference for South Asia and Call to Action is intended to be a major milestone in achieving the FIG vision. The NICS, as an FIG Member Association, has actively worked to support the achievement of this vision and milestone with reference to the South Asia region. This Regional Conference discussed a range of climate challenges in the region such as greenhouse gas emissions/carbon, biodiversity loss, deforestation and large-scale land use change, urban sprawl into agricultural land, flooding, land-slides, water scarcity, and more, also considering disaster resilience and the safeguarding of the land rights of vulnerable people.

The expertise of FIG Members in the region and the role of surveyors and land practitioners are critical in achieving the climate change agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Surveyors, property managers and land practitioners contribute to sustainability through a wide range of activities as evidenced from the Call to Action below. Young surveyors have a critical role to play in this also because of the uncertain outlook for the South Asian region due to climate change and poorly managed natural disasters. Regional cooperation will improve the ability of FIG Members, surveyors, property managers and land practitioners to achieve humanities climate goals.

This Conference which is focused on climate action builds on, and takes forward, the work of previous FIG conferences, workshops and publications addressing climate such as:

FIG Christchurch Declaration: Responding to Climate Change and Tenure Security in Small Island Developing States: The Role of Land Professionals (2016). This Declaration highlighted the United Nations frameworks which should underpin the work of surveyors, such as the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure, Forests and Fisheries (2012). It also identified some of the key elements needed to address climate change such as building climate resilient land governance, valuation approaches and capacity development. Regional capacity development and technical coordination, collaboration and partnerships was identified as key to meet the climate crisis.

FIG Publication No. 65 The Surveyors Role in Monitoring, Mitigating, and Adapting to Climate Change, FIG Task Force on Surveyors and Climate Change (2014). This report highlighted the key role surveyors play regarding climate resilience in different sectors such as: urban, including peri-urban areas, rural areas, coastal zones, forest resources, carbon credit markets, large scale agriculture, water resources, the construction of physical infrastructure, energy and the spread of disease. All of these issues are important for the South Asian Region and our resolutions need to ensure we can address the climate issues in all these sectors.

FIG Publication No. 55 Spatial Planning in Coastal Regions, Facing the Impact of Climate Change (2010). This report focuses on climate change in coastal zones and highlights the issues of spatial planning, impacts of climate change on coastal zones and sea level rise, coastal zone management, assessment of coastal vulnerability, valuation of coastal resources (including non market) and coast adaptation, policy processes for coastal adaptation including for wetlands, mangroves, Small Island Developing States and moving coast lines. Again, all of these issues are important for the South Asian Region and our resolutions need to ensure we can address the climate issues associated with coastal zones.

KEY MESSAGES

This Call to Action aims to deliver concrete strategies and actionable recommendations to

- Strengthen and safeguard land rights against climate challenges
- For collaborative partnerships for climate resilience and to bridge gaps
- Enhance disaster resilience through knowledge and capacity
- Enhance regional responses through best Practices and fit-for-purpose standards
- Strengthen land governance and empower land practioners
- Increase monitoring and measuring for climate action

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In this **Call To Action**, we call on all FIG Member organizations, affiliates and surveying professionals, particularly in the South Asian Region, to become involved in climate responsible land governance and disaster resilience, including safeguarding land rights as per the Call to Action resolutions below:

Call to action proposals
Continue to Engage and Bridge the Gaps 1.1 Identify gaps in practical knowledge, capacity, implementation, resources, and coordination within the region related to addressing climate change and disaster challenges with a focus on safeguarding land rights of vulnerable groups by using spatial data for climate action and disaster recovery. 1.2 Bridge the gaps in the region by empowering and engaging communities, professionals and organizations to effectively address climate change, support disaster recovery, and safeguard land rights of vulnerable groups through the use of spatial data.
Unite for Collaborative Partnerships: From Local Action to Global Impact – Connecting Professionals to Advance Spatial Governance 2.1 Establish collaborative regional partnerships among (sub-)national and regional institutions (academic, professional, civil society) for effective practical knowledge sharing and technology transfer to address the multifaceted challenges of climate change, disaster management, , land-climate nexus, and transboundary climate issues. 2.2 Create a collaborative regional professional forum that brings together government authorities, professionals, academicians, civil society organizations, private sector and development partners from across the region that will advocate and facilitate knowledge sharing of use cases, best practices and knowledge, technology transfer, to support coordinated climate action and disaster recovery by using spatial data, focusing on safeguarding land rights and promoting sustainable development. 2.3 Establish a platform for regional dialogue to align policies and strategies on climate change and disaster resilience, ensuring coordinated efforts and government-led support across the region. 2.4 Implement a mechanism to evaluate the impact of collaborative efforts, allowing continuous improvement and optimization of regional partnerships and initiatives.
Measure and Monitor Climate Change and Natural Disaster 3.1 Create further practical knowledge and capacity regarding positioning and measurement, engineering surveys, quality assessment and standard setting to measure, monitor and verify climate change and natural disaster as it affects land, water and marine, in partnership with environmentalists at the regional, national and local levels. 3.2 Encourage regional and international organizations to produce manuals that guide governments in developing rapid procedures for addressing climate change and managing disasters. Comparative studies of country-level land systems and responses can help achieve this goal.

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Govern through Strategic Land Governance

4.1 Develop climate responsive land governance frameworks and fit for purpose land administration by leveraging on UN-GGIM Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) and global land and environmental frameworks, also to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4.2 As actions to combat climate change often affect land and property, establish transparent digital database systems for the registration of property ownership, as well as recording the land rights and values.

4.3 Improve the transparency in the real estate markets to increase public acceptance of compensation (financial or otherwise) of the advantages and disadvantages for the value of land and property resulting from measure to combat climate change.

4.4 Re-design survey systems to better support national environmental goals on carbon, biodiversity and degradation/restoration, land use change, (NDCs, NBSAPs, LDN, NAPs), for adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage, and for managed retreat. Re-design to support national carbon emission reduction sector plans (e.g. transport, agriculture, forestry, mining) balanced with economic growth, poverty reduction and just transition by supplying geodata for scenario planning and decision making.

4.5 Strengthen coordination and partnership within and across government to safeguard land rights, undertake climate action, disaster recovery and promote sustainable development in the face of climate change and natural disaster.

4.6 Enhance policy, legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks for climate action and to respond to natural disaster. This includes recognizing all forms of tenure, sorting out regulatory conflicts, regulating the fair settlement of conflicts and identifying the effects of climate protection on the value of real estate.

4.7 Strengthen capacity to respond to evolving sustainability legislation and regulations and disclosure standards.

4.8 Create user friendly portals for local authorities to better manage their land and water resources and respond to their local communities, including Indigenous people.

4.9 Develop strategic land use planning and spatial data infrastructure/land information systems for disaster management through consultative, inclusive, gender-responsive and participatory approaches.

4.10 Empower communities through awareness raising about risk, early warning, insurance and access to investment.

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4.11 Empower youth to be able to undertake advocacy and influence policy by supporting the creation of youth-led advocacy networks and campaigns that focus on safeguarding land rights and promoting climate-resilient land governance.

Respond to Disaster and Protect People and Planet

5. Promote natural disaster resilience for communities, professionals and organizations by developing practical knowledge and capacity rapid response, disaster recovery and reconstruction, including supplying data for early warning systems, emergency management, and forecasting.

Innovate, Value, Protect: Advancing Land Valuation for Sustainable Risk Management

6.1 Develop innovative and participatory approaches to land and property valuation such as addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, determining non-market and ecological values, and assessing risks and vulnerabilities.

6.2 Enhance the understanding on the importance of land and property valuation work in disaster management and recovery particularly in determining insurance claims and compensation for damages, ensuring fair and adequate financial support for affected individuals and communities and implementing post-disaster recovery and reconstruction plans.

Empower Land Practioners

7.1 Develop practical knowledge and capacity to utilize spatial data and innovative technologies for climate action planning and assessment of disaster vulnerability, risk and tenure insecurity before and after disaster. Strengthen capacity to design methodologies for measuring climate impact by evaluating various sources of technical innovation, available datasets, data interoperability, data cleaning capabilities, affordability, addressing the digital divide, and the availability of climate models. LADM/STDM could reduce costs for data creation and provision.

7.2 Develop the capacity to use spatial data at the right scale for regional and national settings for forecasting of events, scenario development, planning and implementation for managing vulnerable groups, vulnerable terrain and national and transnational biodiversity hot spots and balancing environmental goals, food security and land and water governance.

7.3 Develop practical knowledge and capacity to use data on the price of real estate and land, analyse it and gain knowledge on the impacts of climate action and compensation for expropriated land or the protection of its natural resources by the owners or rights holder.

7.4 Strengthen customer relations around new technology capabilities and market segment to improve customer satisfaction. Support customers' climate action regarding integration into their business strategy, showing evidence of climate impact, setting targets/goals, products/services, innovation and transparency.

7.5 Foster youth leadership in climate-resilient land governance through leadership programs, mentorship opportunities, youth representation in policy forums.

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7.6 Develop the capacity to assess the carbon footprint of each product or service.

Ethics and Elevating Standards/Ethics, Equity, Sustainability: Surveying for a Just Future

8.1 Enhance professional ethics to effectively respond to increasingly complex situations involving emergency technologies.

8.2 Strengthen quality assessment and risk management practices for new technologies, tools, databases, methods and processes being applied for climate action.

8.3 Document best practices and create use cases for the region to build practical knowledge and capacity, and to scale up successful strategies and tailor them to local contexts, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of regional and national responses.

8.4 Identify base minimum requirements and develop iterative fit for purpose standards and design, also for the efficient collection of geodata and price data for developed and undeveloped areas. Strengthen the ability to design for replicability and scale.

Climate Responsive Workforce for the Future

9.1 Scale up the capacity and efficiency of the industry work force to respond effectively through training, increased public-private partnerships, government led strategic planning, and the application of new technologies.

9.2 Re-design the curriculum of surveying, land management and valuation education and training with more climate responsive content. Strengthen soft skills on how to negotiate precision, timeliness, relevance, customer needs and modern technology with ethical concerns.

9.3 Integrate youth into disaster resilience strategies by capacity building in disaster risk reduction using modern tools and technologies and supporting youth research and innovation.

Innovative Smart and Safe Cities

10.1 Re-design urban systems and create smart cities through the innovative use of data and technology for land use planning, fit-for-purpose land administration, informal settlement upgrading, sustainable waste management, digital services and e-governance, and green and resilient infrastructure. Develop the responsible use of remote sensing and AI technology to support urban land management.

10.2 Protect the land rights of those who own, occupy, permanently, temporarily, where rights are registered and unregistered during disaster recovery and actions to address climate change.

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