

**Report to the 25th General Assembly
FIG Congress in Washington, 19-26 April 2002**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, FIG/UN LIAISON

May 2001 – April 2002

General

The FIG has an active and long standing relationship with a wide range of United Nations agencies including the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (from 1 January 2002 United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), UNESCO, the World Bank and a range of regional United Nations organizations like the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (and its Working Group on Land Administration), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, as well as United Nations sponsored organizations such as the Permanent Committee for GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP), the Permanent Committee on SDI for the Americas (PC-IDEA).

The engagement of the FIG with United Nations agencies has been a policy of the Federation since the Finnish Bureau, with the relationship between the FIG and the UN being increasingly strengthened through the Australian, British and now American Bureaux. As a result of this increased activity the FIG appointed a Director for FIG/UN Liaison for the duration of the American Bureau/Council.

While I hold the office of Director, FIG/UN Liaison, I do not undertake or coordinate all FIG and UN activities, however the position does act as a focus and does permit the FIG to raise its profile with UN agencies. Certainly under the British and now American Bureaux, the Bureau itself has become active in strengthening UN relationships, with the Director of the FIG Permanent Office now playing a significant facilitation and coordination role between the FIG and UN. At the same time the FIG commissions have substantially increased their interaction with UN and its agencies with Commissions 1, 3 and 7 being particularly active.

This report comprises two major components – being a summary of the activities undertaken by the Council, FIG Office and commissions since the last General Assembly, and a summary of UN activities undertaken or facilitated by me in my role as Director or personally. However I wish to acknowledge that as a result of an increasing number of activities between the FIG and UN agencies, this report may overlook some of the joint activities. For these omissions I apologise.

Activities undertaken by the FIG Council, the FIG Office and individual Commissions

The FIG Council, with active support from the FIG Office, is responsible for the creation and updating of Memoranda of Understanding between the FIG and key UN agencies. To date there is Memorandum of Understanding between the FIG and UN-HABITAT and a Memorandum of Co-operation is ready for signing with FAO on land tenure related issues.

The FIG Council and particularly President-elect Professor Holger Magel, together with the Director of the FIG Permanent Office, Mr. Markku Villikka, have taken a leading role in the input and participation of FIG in activities associated with the UN-HABITAT (UNCHS-Habitat) Istanbul+5 meeting and the forthcoming Johannesburg Summit (Rio+10) focusing on progress on implementation of Agenda 21 and sustainable development issues.

As part of this commitment the FIG has produced and endorsed its own Agenda 21 under the chairmanship of Mr. Helge Onsrud (Norway).

A highlight of the FIG-UN relationship over the past year has been the involvement and sponsorship of the International Conference on Spatial Information for Sustainable Development held in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2001. This Conference achieved a long standing objective of the FIG to involve as many commissions as possible in such UN sponsored initiatives and as such, I am delighted that Commissions 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10 were involved. Totally almost 500 participants from 40 countries participated. The conclusions of the Conference are recorded in a joint FIG / UN publication "The Nairobi Statement of Spatial Information for Sustainable Development.

Jes Ryttersgaard, Chair of FIG Commission 3, who was in charge for the Nairobi Conference attended also together with Paul van der Molen the 2nd CODI meeting in Addis Ababa in September 2001. Commission 3 has also been active in building up the UN-HABITAT Best Practice Database and its representative Robin McLaren was invited to attend the Steering Committee meeting of the Habitat Best Practice Database in Brazil in November 2001.

FIG has further been active in the Habitat Professionals Forum by organising three parallel events during Istanbul+5 in New York in June 2001. FIG had a leading role in the roundtable about the security of tenure. FIG has further been invited to attend the first Urban Forum as a member of the Advisory Board in May 2002.

Activities undertaken or facilitated by the Director, FIG/UN Liaison

While many of my activities with UN agencies and the World Bank listed below have been undertaken in my own right, many of them have occurred as a result of my position as Director of FIG/UN Liaison. Where my interaction has occurred as a result of personal or other professional interaction, I have taken all opportunities of promoting the role of the FIG throughout UN agencies.

1. Over the last year I had regular email discussions on United Nations matters with the President of the FIG, members of the FIG Council and particularly the Director of the FIG Office Mr. Markku Villikka. This role allows the FIG to have a sounding board and in a sense a small sub-committee of people who can consider FIG/UN initiatives.
2. I chaired the Land Administration component of the 2001 World Bank International Conference on Land Policy.
3. I taught a module on Land Administration for the World Bank Institute in 2001.
4. I organized an International Symposium on Spatial Data Infrastructures in November 2001 with involvement of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) initiative, the EUROGI, PCGIAP and PC-IDEA.

5. I have been involved for well over a year in assisting in having a senior World Bank officer making a keynote presentation at this FIG Congress in Washington DC.
6. Presentation (by Don Grant) to CONSAS 2001, Cape Town, South Africa, of the FIG-UN Bathurst Declaration on Land Administration for Sustainable Development in March 2001.
7. I chaired Working Group 3 (Cadastre) Workshop, UN sponsored Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific Workshop, Penang, Malaysia in September 2001.
8. Presentation to UNCHS Seminar on Securing Land for the Urban Poor, Fukuoka, Japan in October 2001.
9. Presentation to World Land Registration Congress, Brisbane, Australia in November 2001.
10. I was appointed in late 2001 as the Chair of Working Group 3 (Cadastre) and a member of the Executive of the United Nations sponsored Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP). I attended my first meeting as Chair and member of the Executive in Darsalaam, Brunei, in April 2002. I have been involved with the PCGIAP for several years now and acted as a delegate for Commission 7 to the PCGIAP. As a result the PCGIAP and Commission 7 are very much aware of each other's activities and work closely together. For the next three years, the aims of Working Group 3 (Cadastre) are to develop a benchmarking template for cadastral and land administration systems in the Asia-Pacific region and to organize a workshop to benchmark systems in the region. This initiative is being undertaken in close cooperation with a similar initiative in Commission 7. The other key activity of the Working Group is to explore and promote the concept of marine cadastre.

Planned Activities (May-December 2002)

1. Ongoing liaison with United Nations agencies.
2. Ongoing liaison with the FIG President, the FIG Council and the FIG Office.
3. Attendance (by Markku Villikka) to the First Urban Forum organised by the UN-HABITAT 29 April – 3 May 2002
4. Attendance at World Bank Regional Workshop on Land Issues -Asia Region, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 28-30 May 2002
5. Attendance (by Don Grant) at Habitat Professionals Forum, International Association of Architects World Congress, Berlin, Germany, 22-26 July 2002
6. Supporting co-organisers John Parker and Stig Enemark, in the proposed UN-FIG PC-IDEA SDI Inter-regional Workshop, Aguascalientes, Mexico, 10-12 September 2002

Ian P. Williamson
 Director, FIG/UN Liaison

26 February 2002