

# FIG publication on International Boundary Making

Haim Srebro (Israel)

**Key words:** History; Land management; Photogrammetry; Positioning; Reference frames; Standards; International boundaries; boundary delimitation; boundary demarcation; boundary documentation; boundary maintenance

## SUMMARY

Stability of international boundaries is of utmost importance in peace keeping throughout the world. Surveyors play a central role in the boundary making process. International boundaries of a state define the territorial limits of its sovereignty and the area where its laws are applicable. 193 UN member states have more than seven hundred international boundaries on land and in the sea. The lack of clarity in defining international boundaries between states has been one of the main reasons for territorial disputes and ensuing wars. Lord Curzon stated more than one hundred years ago: 'Frontiers are indeed the razor's edge on which hang suspended the modern issue of war and peace' (Curzon, 1907). This FIG Publication elaborates on the process of boundary making, focusing on land boundaries between states and regarding the role of the surveyor in the process. Its purpose is to propose a comprehensive methodology for establishing a boundary making process between two states that wish to constructively and fairly settle their international boundary together. It begins with preparations for an agreement and continues with boundary delimitation, boundary demarcation, boundary documentation, and boundary maintenance. The methodological part includes a model for initiating a boundary making process, an order of precedence of boundary definitions, and a model for the boundary chapter in a peace agreement. Part two includes practical cases. Many lessons can be learned from these diverse cases regarding disputes and regarding the models and mechanisms used for dealing with the issues. This FIG Publication may serve statesmen, international legal advisers and surveyors. This FIG Publication has been initiated and edited by Dr Haim Srebro, who has developed the methodology of a process driven boundary making model following forty years of practical experience. The practical part of the publication has been prepared by senior practical professionals, with expertise in boundary delimitation and demarcation. Three of them served as Director Generals of national surveying and mapping organizations (William Robertson in New Zealand, Dr. Haim Srebro in Israel, and Buddhi Shrestha in Nepal), and one served as the Head of the UN Cartographic Section (Miklos Pinther). This FIG Publication has been prepared under the framework of FIG Commission 1. It is intended to promote the sharing of methodological knowledge and experience regarding international boundary making and to promote Peace throughout the world.