



**Report to the 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week 2025, Brisbane, Australia**

**FIG Americas Regional Capacity Development Network**

**Report of Activities 2024-2025**

**1. General**

The Americas region is still nascent but growing following development of Regional Networks for Africa and the Asia/Pacific regions. The FIG Council approved the formation of an Americas Network in August 2023 following the discussion and vote for formation during the FIG Working Week of 2023 in Orlando, U.S.A.

FIG membership is less robust throughout the Americas region and a significant effort was made in developing relationships with existing regional Intergovernmental and Nongovernmental organizations (IGO's and NGO's). Additional focus was in outreach to professional societies in the region that may not have been aware of the opportunities presented by FIG membership. Concurrent with this outreach effort, plans have begun to more fully integrate regional professional societies into increased presence and activities by the FIG Americas Regional Network.

This report will cover contacts formed with regional IGOs/NGOs, engagement with as yet unaffiliated professional societies and capacity development largely focused within subregions in the Americas. Accounting for linguistic and cultural differences, the region is split between North America, the Caribbean and Latin America - the latter spanning most of South and Central America.

The North America subregion includes the US and Canada, both of which are active within FIG. Primarily, this subregion provides opportunities for training and capacity building in the other two. The Latin America subregion includes Mexico and the Dominican Republic, while the Caribbean subregion includes Belize and Guyana. While there is a focus on each of the subregions internally in support of common issues, broader efforts are accomplished between the subregional groupings for all of the Americas also including the Africa and Asia-Pacific Regional Networks.

**2. Events**

The Americas Network supported the programme of work of the Africa Regional Network during the FIG WW in Accra, Ghana including support and engagement in coordinating with UN and World Bank contacts for the sessions.

During the [UN 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States](#), 27-30 May 2024 in Antigua and Barbuda, FIG Americas Network engaged with Caribbean Nations to bring awareness for the benefits of collaboration. The focus of the conference was on the SIDS governments; however, it was highlighted that a robust connection is needed between the governments whole provide laws overseeing surveying and those from professional land surveying groups that must implement it.

Support for FIG Leadership during the 14th session of the UN committee of experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in New York City, U.S.A. 5 to 9 August 2024. Participation in multiple side events representing FIG interests including the Americas and Africa Regional Committee meetings.



14 Session UN-GGIM in NYC



UN Science meeting

Representing FIG during the [UN Science Summit](#) on 27 September 2024 in New York City, U.S.A. The first session focused on development of the global geodetic infrastructure, while the second more closely examined needs in the Africa region. The FIG perspective focused on outreach to professional societies in collaboration with government focused activities.

Support and presentations made at the [UN-GGIM 7th High Level Forum](#) from 8 - 10 October 2024 in Mexico City, Mexico. Hosted by Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), the theme focused "Accelerating Implementation: Achieving Resilience" with several prominent speakers from the Americas. Updates were provided to ensure that a focus was also maintained on implementation by the private sector.

Additionally, FIG was represented during the [11 Session of UN-GGIM:Américas](#), México City, Mexico. This event was supported virtually on 27-28 September 2024 and in-person on 7 October 2024. This event provided opportunities for outreach to the governments of Americas Nations and an opportunity to highlight the benefits of FIG regional participation in support of professional organizations.

**Commented [1]:** Rosario - do you have some pictures we could include?



Finally, planning has begun for a FIG Regional Meeting in Montevideo Uruguay in 2026. Initial discussions have begun with the Geodetic Reference Frame for the Americas (SIRGAS) to provide some technical training as well as gain engagement from the UN-GGIM-Americas leadership. UN-OOSA has indicated an interest in financially supporting the event to develop further capability and capacity in the Americas. The Americas Network will seek additional funding from grants provided by the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH/IPGH) for this event as well. Efforts will be made to also include AmeriGEO and all interested national professional surveying societies including groups that may not yet be members of FIG. Funding from UN-OOSA, PAIGH and FIG Network funds will be used to support participation.

### 3. Communication and publications

As noted above efforts have begun to reach out to multiple regional IGO's and NGO's. These include the Association of Panamerican Professionals of Agrimensure and Topography (APPAT), as well as significant linkages with SIRGAS, UN-GGIM-Americas and the UN GGCE.

Surveys were conducted after the FIG WW in 2023 in an effort to find existing professional surveying groups primarily in South America. A series of questionnaires polled surveying professionals in an effort to locate existing professional organizations and encourage their participation in regional activities and FIG more broadly. These efforts continue to develop in Latin America countries. They are more robust in Caribbean Nations that had a previous history of professional certification requirements; however, broader efforts are underway to highlight the benefits of regional and global participation in FIG activities.

### 4. Other highlights

The UN GGCE is holding a series of workshops focused on building capacity and capability within broader disciplines including the surveying professions. FIG Americas Regional Network is engaging to ensure representation from throughout the region, though the workshop will focus on the government sector employees. Part of the workshop will focus on professional training, education, certification, continuing education and the benefit of engagement with their respective private sectors. Finally, FIG Americas Regional Activities have collaborated broadly with efforts of the SDG Task Force and Commission 2's education efforts.

**Commented [2]:** UN-GGIM-AP will also be held in Fiji next year and they plan to hold a concurrent SIDS event. So it may be worth mentioning in the planning. It would be great to get participation from Caribbean SIDS.

### 5. Membership

- North America - Dr. Daniel Roman (Chair)
  - U.S.A. (FIG Member)
  - Canada (FIG Member)
- Caribbean - Ms. Simone Lloyd
  - Bahamas (FIG Member)



- Belize
- Guyana
- Jamaica (FIG Member)
- Trinidad and Tobago (FIG Member)
- Latin America - Dra. Rosario Casanova (Co-Chair)
  - Argentina (FIG Member)
  - Chile
  - Uruguay (FIG Member)
- Territories and Protectorates
  - France (FIG Member)
    - Guiana
  - The Netherlands (FIG Member)
    - Aruba
    - Curaçao
    - Sint Maarten
    - Caribbean Netherlands
      - Bonaire
      - Saba
      - Sint Eustatius
  - British Overseas Territories (FIG Member)
    - Anguilla
    - Bermuda
    - British Virgin Islands
    - Cayman Islands
    - Montserrat
    - Turks and Caicos Islands
- Still awaiting feed back from 24 others

6.

7. **submitted 24 February 2025**

8. **Daniel Roman, Chair**



9.

**10. 6. Awaiting Dialog on**

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Barbados
3. Bolivia
4. Brazil
5. Chile
6. Columbia
7. Costa Rica
8. Cuba
9. Dominica
10. Ecuador
11. El Salvador
12. Grenada
13. Guatemala
14. Honduras
15. Mexico
16. Nicaragua
17. Panama
18. Paraguay
19. Peru
20. Saint Kitts and Nevis
21. Saint Lucia
22. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
23. Suriname
24. Venezuela

**Commented [3]:** I plan to leave these off. It's just for us to note there are a lot of groups we still need to reach.  
If you have contact with any of them, please transfer them to the lists above.