

Bridging Generations, Geospatial and Technologies in Land, Mapping and Spatial Data for the Future We Want
(A Diversity and Inclusion Perspective under the FIG Evolutionary Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion)

Stephen Djaba and Priscilla Atta Djaba (Ghana)

Key words: Access to land; Bridge surveying; Cadastre; Capacity building; CPD; Curricula; Education; e-Governance; Geoinformation/GI; GSDI; Implementation of plans; Land management; Laser scanning; Low cost technology; Photogrammetry; Professional practice; Remote sensing; Spatial planning; Standards; Urban renewal; Young surveyor; KeyDiversity | Inclusion | Geospatial Future | Intergenerational Leadership | Spatial Data Infrastructure | Digital Transformation | Mentorship | Gender Equity | FIG Task Force | Sustainable Development Goals

SUMMARY

FIG Congress 2026 – South Africa

Main Theme: The Future We Want – The SDGs and Beyond

Bridging Generations, Geospatial and Technologies in Land, Mapping and Spatial Data for the Future We Want

(A Diversity and Inclusion Perspective under the FIG Evolutionary Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion)

Author:

Surv. Stephen Djaba

Chair, FIG Task Force on Evolutionary Diversity & Inclusion,

Vice President, Licensed Surveyors Association of Ghana (LiSAG)

Email: stephen@ghana.com

Country: Ghana

Abstract

The geospatial profession stands at a transformative crossroads — where generations, technologies, Bridging Generations, Geospatial and Technologies in Land, Mapping and Spatial Data for the Future We Want (A Diversity and Inclusion Perspective under the FIG Evolutionary Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion) (14035)

Stephen Djaba and Priscilla Atta Djaba (Ghana)

FIG Congress 2026

The Future We Want - The SDGs and Beyond

Cape Town, South Africa, 24–29 May 2026

and cultures converge to define the future we want. As emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Remote Sensing, UAVs, Digital Twins, and Cloud Mapping revolutionize spatial data ecosystems, a parallel revolution in human capital and inclusion is required to ensure that the geospatial future remains equitable, representative, and sustainable.

This paper explores how bridging generational diversity—from pioneering surveyors to tech-driven youth—can create a more resilient and innovative geospatial community. It emphasizes the vital need to integrate diverse perspectives across gender, geography, and generational lines to shape inclusive policies, educational pathways, and institutional cultures within land administration, mapping, and spatial data infrastructures (SDIs).

Drawing on the experiences of the FIG Diversity & Inclusion Task Force and case studies from Africa and beyond, the paper presents models of mentorship, intergenerational collaboration, and technology adoption that promote access, visibility, and empowerment for under-represented groups. It highlights initiatives that connect traditional surveying heritage with modern geospatial innovation—ensuring that no generation or region is left behind in the digital transformation of the geospatial profession.

Ultimately, the paper argues that a truly inclusive geospatial future demands more than technological progress: it requires bridging the human divide, fostering knowledge transfer, and cultivating a culture where diversity is not just represented but empowered to lead. This vision aligns directly with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Keywords

Diversity | Inclusion | Geospatial Future | Intergenerational Leadership | Spatial Data Infrastructure | Digital Transformation | Mentorship | Gender Equity | FIG Task Force | Sustainable Development Goals

Bridging Generations, Geospatial and Technologies in Land, Mapping and Spatial Data for the Future We Want
(A Diversity and Inclusion Perspective under the FIG Evolutionary Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion)
(14035)

Stephen Djaba and Priscilla Atta Djaba (Ghana)

FIG Congress 2026

The Future We Want - The SDGs and Beyond

Cape Town, South Africa, 24–29 May 2026