

Online Workshop

Formalizing the Informal to Protect Residents in Informal Settlements

Wednesday, 17 June 2020, 14:30-17:00 CEST, WebEx

Opening remarks

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Rudolf Staiger
President of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)

Dear Participants,

Good evening to the Asia Pacific region, good morning to South and North America and last but not least good afternoon to Africa and Europe.

My name is Rudolf Staiger and it is my pleasure to speak to you as President of the International Federation of Surveyors FIG.

The International Federation of Surveyors was founded 1878 in Paris (France). As a non-profit-NGO, we are proud to represent today more than 100 national professional organisations in the field of surveying and geoinformation. FIG has a long cooperation with several UN bodies and the World Bank in this field. Since decades FIG is publishing in the domain of Land Administration.

FIG values the accomplishments of UNECE WPLA in the field of Land Administration and Management and has established a long cooperation with UNECE and especially with the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Working Party on Land Administration

FIG has co-organized several joint workshops and has initiated a joint research on the topic of informal development since 2007 which led to two publications, namely - the "Self-made cities" and "Formalizing the Informal".

This new publication, that we launch today, "Guidelines for the Formalization of Informal Constructions" is the outcome of the research accomplished over the last years. The value of this publication is that it is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and it helps for the achievement of several SDGs. In particular with:

SDG 1: for poverty reduction

SDG 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable "

SDG 10: to Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 16: to Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable.

FIG congratulates UNECE and WPLA experts, as well as all authors and co-authors. FIG would also thank all reviewers from FAO, UNHABITAT, and all contributors from UNECE and the various countries; who have strongly supported the implementation of the Guidelines.

FIG is very much looking forward to a common and prosperous future.

I would like to thank all authors for their efforts but especially Chryssy Potsiou our honorary FIG President and Steven Nystöm former Chair of FIG Commission 9 for their work.

Let me finish. We are living in strange times!
On one hand everybody has to protect first of all himself and his family, but on the other hand we cannot stay retreated in our shells on a permanent base...therefor I think it was an excellent idea to organize and held this workshop in a virtual online-mode.

I wish you all a successful and inspiring workshop with good talks and brilliant new ideas and approaches. Stay safe and have a good time.

Hope to see you next year in the Netherlands for the next FIG working week

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Rudolf Staiger

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