

Since our FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting in Korea (August 2019), many things have been happening in our Commission. Key in this is the increased interest by many international bodies to actively participate in our activities as well as getting our members to provide their valuable advice on important policy and guidelines currently in production.

In line with this, and focusing our work plan for the period 2019-2023, I would like to bring to the attention of everyone two key opportunities to participate actively in international initiatives currently under development:



Commission 7



UNECE

Working Party on Land Administration

In cooperation with the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) from UNECE, we created a [Taskforce to develop principles for involving the private sector in land administration services](#). WPLA did a very valuable publication in 2005, and The World Bank has also produced important tools in the area. We are looking for volunteers to study these documents and participate in the development of a guiding document for national and sub-national jurisdictions. The publication is expected to help developed and developing countries ensuring SDGs are considered when the private sector participates in the provision of services of the land administration system. **To learn more, please visit this link: <http://bit.do/landPPP>**

Working group: Urban Challenges (Commission 7, 8 and 9)

In cooperation with Commission 8 (Planning) and 9 (land valuation), we have formed a multi-commission [working group called: Urban Challenges](#). This group is a direct response to an increased need by international organizations, including FAO and UN-Habitat, to get FIG to provide technical advice needed in the urban space. Currently UN-Habitat has asked us to our input in their policies for better integration between rural and urban developments. If you are interested in urban challenges, **please consider joining this working group by going to this link: <http://bit.do/urbanchallenges>**

Please remember that the effectiveness of our Commission depends on those volunteers that work in these activities, so your support is very appreciated.



On another topic, two weeks ago I was in Colombia and I got to participate in their annual surveying conference. It was great to meet with key government, private and donors around the work they are doing to improve land administration in a country that has suffered for over 50 years of significant internal land conflict. I am sure Colombia will be high on the agenda of many of our delegates as the mobilization of resources is likely to keep many land experts busy in supporting Colombia.

During my visit, I had the strong sensation that the land conflict has intensified in the last year after a part of the guerrilla fighters decided to return to the armed confrontation. My fears were confirmed this week by very violent events in the south of the country where 10 people were killed, [including 5 surveyors that were surveying indigenous community areas](#).

My thoughts are with the families of these colleagues that lost their lives trying to improve land tenure. This event is a reminder to all of us that the work we do not just underpins economic development but is a key element of social stability, something currently lacking in many parts of the world.

We are exploring with other partners having a parallel event in 2020 to raise awareness of the need to improve land tenure rights as a key tool to reduce social, environmental and economic conflicts across the world. Please let me know if you have any ideas around this topic.

Daniel Paez
Chair FIG Commission 7