

**Report to the 47th General Assembly
FIG Working Week 2024, Accra, Ghana**

FIG Network – Americas Capacity Development Network

Report of Activities 2023-2024

1. General

This is the inaugural report for this Network. It was proposed in 2023 and a number of sessions held during the FIG Working Week in Orlando, Florida confirmed a need for such a network for both the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Latin America countries. The General Assembly approved it during the 46th session and the Council approved it in August. The remainder of 2024 was spent getting organized and reaching out to other regional organizations to establish contact.

Leadership of this Regional Network includes:

- Daniel Roman, Chair
- Rosario Casanova, co-Chair
- Simone Lloyd, Member
- Valrie Grant, Member



2. Subregional Organization

Based on linguistic and cultural groupings, three subregional groups were formed: (1) North America, (2) the Caribbean region and (3) Latin America. Note this last group is quite large. Eventually, it is desirable to split this into separate South America and Central America subregional groups as each has slightly different issues and needs. For now, the three groupings exist.

2.1 North America

Lead: Daniel Roman

Countries include the U.S. and Canada. Mexico affiliates with Latin America/Central America

2.2 Caribbean Region

Lead: Simone Lloyd

Countries include Caribbean SIDS and larger islands such as Cuba and Hispaniola. It also includes Belize and Guyana- both of which affiliate with the Caribbean culturally.

2.3 Latin America

Lead: Rosario Casanaova

Countries include most of Central and South America. This is quite a large region and is planned to be split into two subregions once an appropriate lead is identified.

3. Cooperation

Agreement have been made with the UN-HGGIM: Americas regional committee, Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH), the Sistema de Referencia Geocéntrico para América del Sur (SIRGAS) AKA the Geodetic Reference System for the Americas (GRFA), and the UN GGCE. Most of these groups focus on capacity development and collaboration between governments in the Americas. We are working with them to expand this to the private sector – in particular, professional surveying societies. Additional collaboration and coordination is ongoing with APPAT, which serves a select number of Nations in and around the Caribbean region.

4. Events

During the FIG WW 2023, a daylong SIDS event was held to survey Caribbean Nations on their needs for capacity and capability development. Additionally, a couple of Spanish language sessions were held to similarly survey the needs for Latin American countries. Both groups expressed a desire to establish a Capacity Development Network, which was forwarded to the 46th General Assembly where it was approved.

5. Communication and publications

Two rounds of surveys have been sent out seeking professional surveying organizations. The Caribbean region and North America have origins in British law that have firmly established the need for professional societies and organizations that form the core membership of FIG. Latin America has a different tradition and many of the existing societies are not well linked to each, their national governments or other regional

bodies. Greater effort is required to find such groups and bring them into the broader effort. Additionally, further work is ongoing with the national governments to emphasize the need for professional societies and communication between them and their respective governments in furtherance of UN SDG's.

6. Other highlights

Beyond the initial establishment tasks highlighted above – nothing further to report.

Dr. Daniel R. Roman

Chair, FIG Americas CDN