

**Task Force on the Future Governance of FIG**  
**43rd General Assembly, Amsterdam, Netherlands**  
**10th – 14th May 2020**

## **1. Overview and purpose**

This is the Chair's report on the activities of the FIG Governance Task Force over the period 2019 and also it sets out the overall direction.

Launched in Hanoi 2019, the activities of the Task Force (TF) extends over a period of two years with a final report delivered to Council in January 2021, and the Council's next steps will be proposed to the FIG General assembly during the 2021 General Assembly (Accra, Ghana). The TF members are listed at footnote 1.

The key purpose of the TF is to review if the FIG governance framework is effective and dynamic, so as to meet the future needs and expectations of members i.e. **Is it fit for the future**. It is desirable to distinguish between Strategy and Governance (See footnote 2.) and in this context the TF operates as defined in the position statement found at [\[PS Link\]](#) that builds upon the terms of reference found at ([TOR's LINK](#))

We are tasked to fully consult with our members in order to inform our advice to Council that will set out the basis of a governance structure that is fit for the future needs of FIG members and stakeholders in the immediate term.

The views of FIG members have been drawn from across the breadth of FIG held during consultations at the FIG Hanoi Working Week (May 2019) and subsequent online questionnaire (ending November 2019). The next engagement is during the FIG 2020 Working week (WW) in Amsterdam, and represents the next stage of a work programme

Several face-to-face debates are planned at the WW2020 in Amsterdam and will be key to drafting the conclusions. The activities proposed include:

- Interactive session during the first GA
- Participatory roundtable meeting
- Forum of Member Associations & Regional Bodies
- Reporting back to second GA (Next steps)

All GA and conference participants are invited to attend. In advance of the break-out session you may wish to make some notes of your initial thoughts and reflections on points raised. The Task Force would be happy to receive your written comments either prior or after the debates.

## **2. Background**

A Governance review was undertaken and reported in 2001, a second partial review was undertaken in 2018. With the fast pace of change in our world, the latter review emphasized the need for a review of the framework for governing and managing FIG.

So important is this topic, a further closely aligned initiative also emerged, i.e. the much longer future strategy of FIG to 2028. To be clear, this governance TF is working in the context of change in the immediate term, if required, and will be concluded in 2021. The long term is being considered under the auspices of FIG 2028 initiative (see footnote 2).

## **3. Key activities undertaken**

Consultation and communication has been ongoing since the TF was given the work plan go-ahead by the 42nd General assembly held in Hanoi, Vietnam 2019.

To continue to be able to respond to changing conditions it is vital that the FIG structure enables the organization to respond quickly and effectively, whilst at the same time ensuring that appropriate levels of accountability exist. Our consultation has focused on what we are doing well, what we can do better, challenges or trends affecting influencing the future, and how to resolve such matters

We have aimed to reach the greatest audience as possible, utilising:

- **May 2019** Working week 2019 Hanoi: GA presentation and Roundtable
- **June- December 2019** E news: Articles in FIG Newsletters and dedicated newsletter item
- **September- November 2019** On-line questionnaire: A "SWOT" analysis of the FIG governance framework involving FIG members and the FIG Office
- **January 2020** Assimilating and developing key issues arising from members perspectives and reporting to Council
- **March 2020** Developing a thematic summary of members responses and drafting questions that need to be asked in readiness for the WW (2020).
- **March- April 2020** Web site resource including 'Futures' references. I.e. identifying some of the driving forces of global change and the main issues and trends arising from them

The results of each of the engagement platforms has provided a basis to refine subsequent consultations with our members. The next steps to be taken at the GA in Amsterdam is summarized below.

#### **4. Engagement at FIG Working Week 2020: To Clarifying member's views**

Recalling that FIG Council wishes to understand if changes are required to our governance structure in the short term to enable FIG to continue to provide leadership to the members in the years ahead. To do this Council wishes to listen and gain input from FIG members.

Combining the results of what we've heard from our members, this has enabled a distillation of the issues into key areas. These responses have been clustered into three broad headings: **Governance, Branding our WW Conferences** and **Volunteering**, each with 1-3 Key issues (see Appendix 1). Members are invited to participate and provide their perspectives and views during the four planned activities (see above)

Further, it became apparent that there is not always a full understanding of the current structure of FIG, particularly the relationship with FIG statutes. Accordingly a briefing sheet on Frequently Asked Questions (i.e. FAQ's) will be circulated at the GA.

#### **5. Closing remarks**

In seeking to promote debate about the future of the Federation it should be stressed that no decisions will be made at this stage. It is, however, vital that the debate initiated at the FIG 2019 WW in Hanoi is continued.

If you wish to be kept informed do please ensure you are signed up to the FIG newsletters and/ or, do contact the Chair who will be happy to answer your questions.

**Dr Diane Dumashie FRICS**  
**FIG Vice President**

**Foot note 1: The members of the Task Force:**

Chair: Diane Dumashie, Jakoba Kgopolelo (Botswana), James Kavanagh (UK) Jurg Kaufman (Switzerland) Kate Fairlie (Australia) Kwabena Asiamah (Ghana) Maurice Barbieri (Switzerland) Mikael Lilje (Sweden) Melissa Harrington (USA) Pekka Halme (Finland) Robert Sarib (Australia)

**Foot note 2:**

With the advent of the FIG 2028 initiative the distinguishing terms of reference for each are defined as follows;

**FIG 2028:**

Refers to the visionary processes by which a body assures itself that the long terms interests of its stakeholders are satisfied.

**FIG Task Force 2021:**

The Task Force on Governance refers to the short term process (2 year horizon) by which a body plans, organises, implements and monitors its day to day operations and administrative matters.