FIG CONGRESS 2026 – Call for papers

INVITATION

The Call for Papers is announced both for **peer-reviewed papers** and **non-peer reviewed papers**.

It is our pleasure to invite you to the largest and most prestigious conference of surveying and geospatial professionals in 2026, held in Cape Town, South Africa. We expect around 1,200-1,500 surveying, geospatial, construction management, spatial planning, and valuation experts from Africa and all over the world. The Congress is held jointly with the national association, the South African Geomatics Institute (SAGI). As the premier global survey event of the year, FIG Congress 2026 is supported and endorsed by the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development (DLRRD) and the South African Geomatics Council and will register CPD points for participants.

The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) is a United Nations and World Bank recognised non-governmental international professional organisation and is a member of the International Science Council (ISC). FIG was founded in 1878 and represents national associations of surveying, cadastre, valuation, national mapping professionals, geospatial experts and quantity surveyors working in both the public and private sectors, in the scientific, research and academic community, as well as from technology innovators and industry from more than 120 countries around the world. As a participant at the FIG Congress 2026, you will join colleagues from academia, government, commercial and professional practice to network, learn and contribute together.

Our member organizations measure, position, map, locate, appraise and value, estimate and cost, plan, construct, develop and manage the land, the seas and any man-made structures with a vision to extend the usefulness of surveying for the benefit of society, environment and economy.

Each year, FIG convenes a conference in cooperation with a national member association, elected by the FIG General Assembly. Every four years the larger Congress is held with elections for the new term including a new President. FIG Congress 2026 will be held from 24-29 May 2026 in Cape Town, South Africa.

FIG conferences are distinct in drawing together surveying experts – interpreted in the broadest sense as persons and organisations involved with, or interested in:

- Geomatics and geographic information science (GISc)
- Surveying (land, mining, engineering, construction, hydrographic, photogrammetric, aerial, RPAS and space-based)
- GNSS, navigation, positioning and timing technologies and applications
- Remote sensing and photogrammetry
- Mapping and cartography
- Land administration, cadastral and land tenure management
- Location-based services and business applications
- Geospatial data and databases, data analysis and maintenance
- Software, hardware, tools and equipment for the GISc, surveying and geomatics industries

- Property Valuation, Real Estate Market Observation and Transparency with Geodata
- Quantity / construction economics and management

The SDGs will be central to all sessions, highlighting how surveyors work with and find solutions towards these goals and beyond. Surveyors must be heard as the next global development agenda for post-2030 is prepared in the next few years.

The FIG Congress 2026 gives passionate professionals the opportunity to:

- Learn and share globally – with participation from around 80-90 countries
- Network across silos, cultures, generations, sectors and professional roles – with sessions and representation from the broad range of experts
- Make an impact on careers, organizations and communities
- Enjoy undisturbed on-site time to focus, concentrate, and collaborate

The Theme

"The Future We Want - The SDG's and Beyond"

FIG Congress 2026 presents a pivotal moment for geospatial professionals to accelerate action, foster innovation, and shape the next era of global sustainable development. This Congress will bring together thought-leaders, policymakers, and experts to explore how land governance, geospatial intelligence, and technological advancements can drive sustainability, resilience, and equitable growth beyond 2030. In the face of accelerating climate change, the Congress will highlight how geospatial solutions are essential for climate monitoring, disaster risk reduction, and informed decision-making at all levels. FIG Congress 2026 will catalyse for bold ideas and strategic action, ensuring a thriving and sustainable future for generations to come.

Specific topics of FIG Congress 2026

At the congress there will be a number of parallel streams and breakaway sessions covering topics such as:

- **Geospatial Innovation** for a Changing World
- **Resilient Land, Water and Natural Resource Administration and Management** for a Sustainable Future
- **Future-Proofing the Profession**: Knowledge, Skills, Standards, and Ethics to serve our changing society
- **Sustainable Settlements** and the Green Economy
- **Contributions to our world beyond the SDGs**: Integrating Policy, Technology, and People

Climate change will be a cross-cutting theme throughout the programme, highlighting how geospatial science and land management are instrumental in climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience planning.

The following topics will be central to the programme and are reflected by the current FIG task forces:

- **Surveyors and the SDGs** - Serving society for the benefit of people and planet; tackling the global challenges with a specific focus on The Future Beyond 2030
- **Climate Compass** to re-direct the surveying profession as a whole to a more climate-sensitive outlook
- **Evolutionary Diversity and Inclusion** – how to foster a new generation of surveyors as well as youth, gender and capacity development

Each task force works closely together with the FIG Commissions and their topics and agenda are embedded in Commission work plans and in the Congress sessions.

COMMISSION-SPECIFIC TOPICS

Professional Standards and Practice – FIG Commission 1

Ethics, Equity, Sustainability: Surveying for a Just Future

Geospatial Data infrastructure; Policy, Standards and Practices

- The Aging Profession/Renewal of the profession (and also the profession itself) – make the profession younger.
- Diversity/inclusion within surveying, and also in the provision of surveying services to the community
- Ethics of protecting our planet and the role of surveyors regarding the collection of data, analysis and dissemination of information to decision-makers and stakeholders
- Defining and assessing what the big global carbon, biodiversity and land policy issues are that are relevant for surveyors
- Gaps and opportunities for the development of the future of the surveying profession, including technical opportunities.

Professional Education – FIG Commission 2

Surveying the Future: Innovative Education for an Inclusive Profession

Frontiers in Education and Training: Keeping pace with the radically changing technological landscape through targeted professional educational interventions.

- Innovations in surveying education
- Developing and strengthening academic networks, inclusive education

- Blended learning: good practices and lessons learned.
- Alternative teaching methodologies, activate students in the classroom
- Young surveyors in education, learning styles and methods
- Surveying Education and Environment in relation to the SDG's
- Jointly with other Commissions:
    - Land administration education (C2+C7)
    - Trends in education for precision and measurements (C2+C5)

Spatial Information Management – FIG Commission 3

Spatial Information for Equal, Liveable, and Affordable Communities

Spatial Information Management – Addressing global challenges and leveraging modern technological advancements

- GeoAI and SIM for Sustainable Development and Climate Action
    - Exploring the role of GeoAI and SIM in advancing the UN SDGs, particularly focusing on sustainable cities (SDG 11) and climate action (SDG 13).
    - Case studies showcasing GeoAI applications in monitoring and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

- Innovations in Spatial Data Infrastructure and Management for Global Challenges
    - Developing and implementing spatial data infrastructures that support sustainable resource management and resilience against climate change.
    - Integration of emerging technologies, such as blockchain and IoT, in spatial data management to enhance transparency and efficiency.

- Community Empowerment through Participatory Mapping and Crowdsourcing
    - Strategies for leveraging participatory mapping and crowdsourced geospatial data to empower communities and support equitable urban development.
    - Assessing the impact of community engagement in geospatial projects on local governance and policy-making.

- Big Data Analytics for Disaster Prediction and Prevention
    - Utilizing big data, machine learning and generative AI to predict and prevent natural disasters, with a focus on improving response and recovery efforts.
    - Best practices for integrating big data analytics into existing geospatial frameworks to enhance disaster resilience.
    - The role of the blue surveyor as an originator in marine related disaster resilience.

- Spatial Information Management for Sustainable Land Use and Planning
    - Innovations in spatial information management to support sustainable land use planning and address urban challenges in developing regions.
    - Examining the role of spatial data in balancing urban growth with environmental conservation.

- Integrating Earth Systems Science with Geospatial Technologies
    - Linking earth systems science approaches to global and national mapping efforts to strengthen climate action and environmental sustainability.
    - Applications of geospatial technologies in understanding and managing complex earth systems interactions.

- Ethics and Standards in Geospatial Data Use
    - Addressing ethical considerations and developing standards for the use and dissemination of spatial data in the context of global challenges.
    - Ensuring data privacy and security in the collection and analysis of geospatial information.

- Digital Transformation and Innovation in Geospatial Practices
    - The impact of digital transformation on geospatial practices and the role of innovation in driving sustainable development.
    - Exploring new methodologies and tools for geospatial analysis in the digital age.

Hydrography – FIG Commission 4

Blue Solutions for a Better Future

Safeguarding the Blue Economy in the face of changing climate and environmental degradation

- Strengthening water governance, administration, management and data to ensure sustainability
- The surveying and Fit for Purpose land administration of wetlands, rivers, lakes, peatlands
- The surveying and Fit for Purpose land administration of coastal erosion and sea level rise
- Conquering new frontiers of Hydrography
- Hydrographic applications in blooming the blue economy
- Hydrographic datums and reference framework
- Hydrographic education and continual professional development
- Marine environment protection and marine space administration
- Understanding and planning prevention and mitigation strategies for the impact of hurricanes and cyclones

- Assessment of the plastic pollution in the water bodies
- Hydrospatial domain and marine administration
- Hydrographic standards and guidelines
- Sustainable oceans and hydrography

Positioning and Measurement – FIG Commission 5

Positioning and Measurement Technologies: Answering the Question of Where

Building Capacity and Competence Together in the Science and Application of Where

- Multi-Purpose Positioning Infrastructure for Sustainable Development - Greater than the Sum of their Parts
- Reference Frames and Dynamic Datums to Support a Changing Planet
- Innovative Applications of Cost-Effective Positioning in Mitigating the Impact of Disasters & Climate
- Resilient PNT for Sustainable Infrastructure and Societal Resilience: What, Why, How, Who and When?
- An Analogue Earth in Digital Models: Capturing the World Around Us
- Education, Training and Capacity Building: empowering Communities Globally for the SDGs

Engineering Surveys – FIG Commission 6

From Site to Insight: Harnessing Data Through Advanced Engineering Surveying

Structural Digital Twinning frameworks, applications and technologies in Engineering Surveying

- New sensing technologies in surveying: Image assisted and scanning total stations, IoT Sensors, Laser scanners; Radar/SAR; Unmanned aerial or underwater vehicles (UAV & UUV) etc.
- Applications of augmented (AR), virtual reality (VR), and extended reality (XR) in Engineering Geodesy
- Deformation monitoring and analysis of engineering structures and environment; Mines and other geo-resources (including energy); Landslides and other geohazards and other disasters also for disaster management
- Dynamic monitoring of civil engineering structures: bridges, high-rise buildings, towers, wind turbines etc.
- The use of geospatial technologies, tools, and innovations such as UAV photogrammetry, LiDAR, and InSAR as well as GIS to provide real-time information to stakeholders and investors to assess the benefits and risks of sustainable natural resource management
- Calibration and testing and of geodetic sensors

Cadastre and Land Management – FIG Commission 7

Beyond Boundaries, Beyond Barriers: Collaborating for a Sustainable Future

Sustainable land administration for inclusive development

- Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 16), and assessing connection to carbon emission, biodiversity and land policy issues
- Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration (FFPLA), specifically for increasing security of tenure for land restoration (SDG 1, 5), carbon offsets (e.g. preventing deforestation), and protecting biodiversity (SDG 14)
- 3D/4D Land administration – including technical aspects on data capture, boundary issues, services, and functionality
- Land Administration Domain Model (LADM), BIM and Standards – including marine cadastres
- AI and remote sensing applications in land administration
- Women and vulnerable groups access to land (SDG 5), and participation in land administration systems (linked to other FIG initiatives)
- Integrated land management including interoperability issues between land tenure and land use planning, and integration into NSDIs (SDG 2, 15)
- Digital transformation of cadastre and land registries, including issues of data quality, cybersecurity, and openness
- Capacity building, training, and awareness raising for cadastres and land management
- Legal, policy, financing, and institutional issues in land administration, with a specific focus on country-level comparisons

Spatial Planning and Development – FIG Commission 8

From Local Action to Global Impact - Connecting Professionals to Advance Spatial Governance

Leveraging land and marine spatial planning for greater resilience

- The surveying of wetlands, rivers, lakes, peatlands
- Addressing coastal erosion, land degradation and restoration through spatial planning (linked to other commissions)
- Geo-spatial intelligence and spatial governance in climate crisis prevention
- Linking cadastral, planning, and valuation systems towards climate goals.

- Participation and bottom-up implementation of spatial and land use planning objectives
- Digital transformation and spatial intelligence – including digital twins, smart solutions, digitising change intervention processes of spatial decisions
- Land management tools for spatial governance - evaluation of land management tools such as expropriation/compulsory purchase, land banking, land consolidation, land readjustment, pre-emption rights and others
- Land value change and spatial interventions including for climate actions

Valuation and the Management of Real Estate – FIG Commission 9

Empowering geodata for real estate transparency, fair taxation, smart climate action and inclusive management

Financing Local Government services through mass appraisal and land-based taxation

- Measurement and definition of transparency in the real estate market (SDGs 1,7,8,9)
- Building trust in smart and inclusive property taxation: from predictive models to participatory valuation systems (SDGs 10, 13)
- Artificial Intelligence and Automated Valuation Modelling – how to describe the model's performance and the accuracy of the outcomes (SDGs 10, 11, 16)?
- How to make real estate market data becoming Geodata (SDGs 10,11,13,16)?
- What do experts know about real estate price effects of climate actions (SDG 7, 10, 13)?
- Use cases for real estate price registers; standards, categories of property and concepts of databases (SDGs 1,7,10,13)
- For better public transparency and science: access to real estate market data for experts, governments and the public (SDGs 1,7,10,16)
- How can data-driven and people-centred land systems empower local decision-making through transparent governance, digital infrastructures, and equitable transformation of land-related services (SDGs 1,5,9,13)?

Construction Economics and Management – FIG Commission 10

The Future of Construction: Digitally and Sustainably

Digitalization as the Future Vision of the Construction Industry

- Integrating sustainability into cost management practices to promote environmentally responsible and economically viable projects
- Constructing Sustainable Cities
- Digital Integration in Construction
- Intelligent Solutions in the Built Environment
- Using Real-Time Data for Digital Transformation Strategies in the Construction Industry
- Digital Construction Management
- Smart Technologies in Construction
- Green Construction Technologies
- Adopting innovative approaches to cost estimation, control, and management using digital solution
- Integrating Environmental and Sustainable Infrastructure

FIG Permanent Institutions

The **Permanent Institution of History for Surveying and Measurement IIHS&M** invites contributions on the history of surveying and measurement, and the techniques and instrumentation involved. During the conference days there will be 2-3 designated history sessions, and you are encouraged to submit an abstract in the field of history of surveying.

FIG Networks

FIG Young Surveyors Network would like to see contributions from young surveyors in all 10 Commissions. Papers are also invited on the areas of the **FIG Networks**:

- FIG Standards Network
- Regional Capacity Development Network
    - Africa
    - Asia/Pacific - would like to receive status papers on geospatial and survey infrastructures concerning capacity and capability development. These may include the challenges, how they were collaboratively resolved and their impact on meeting country / regional objectives, as well as the SDGs.
    - Americas

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

This **Call for Papers** is announced both for **peer review papers** and **non-peer review papers**. The submission of abstracts will be in English.

Submit your abstract here

PRIZES

The Survey Review Biennial Prize 2026

The Survey Review Biennial Prize is sponsored by Survey Review, a learned journal covering the fields of positioning and measurement, engineering survey, cadastre and land management, and spatial information management.

The Survey Review prize will, again this year, be offered to the author and presenter of an outstanding selected peer-review paper. Papers submitted by young surveyors will be prioritized. (under the age of 35 or within 10 years of qualifying). In the abstract submission form you can tick a box indicating that you want your paper to be taken into consideration for the Prize.

The paper will be clearly marked in the proceedings as the Survey Review prize paper and will be presented onsite in a suitably high profile session. Survey Review Ltd will fund the prize of € 2,000. Payment will be made to the individual once the paper has been presented. If the paper is jointly authored and presented, the prize value remains € 2,000 and can be paid to one of the individuals, or shared between them at their choice.

The abstract of the paper will be in included in the FIG proceedings, but the full text of the paper will appear on the SR publisher's website, to which the FIG proceedings will link. There will be permanent free access to the paper on the Survey Review publisher's website. FIG will also use the paper as a FIG Article of the Month in the FIG newsletter.

More information on **Survey Review**

BECOME AN AUTHOR

If you would like to have your paper included in the proceedings, start by submitting an abstract. You will need the following: title, abstract, keywords and biographical information.

1. SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT
Guide to submit an abstract
Submit your abstract here

2. GET ACCEPTED
See important deadlines here

After we receive your abstract, it moves to the evaluation step. We welcome the submission of abstracts for non-peer review papers until 1 November 2025. Abstracts will be reviewed by 1 December. Deadline for the submission of full paper and abstract for peer review papers is 15 September 2025.

Once your abstract is accepted, you must register to ensure that your pabstract will be included in the programme and proceedings. Deadline for all authors to register for the Congress is 30 January 2026.

3. REGISTER FOR THE CONGRESS
Register here

4. SUBMIT FULL PAPER (AND VIDEO PRESENTATION)
Paper Guidelines
Guide to prepare a video presentation

When an abstract for non-peer-review papers is accepted, you should submit your max. 15 pages paper to fig@fig.net by 15 January 2026 (we appreciate to receive full papers, but it is not mandatory).

Your abstract and paper will be included in a session as inspirational and preparation material and will be available before the Working Week starts. There may be a possibility for posters.

5. PUBLICATION OF PROGRAMME

6. ATTENDING THE FIG CONGRESS

Enjoy the Congress and connect with fellow participants. A selection of authors from the open call will be invited as presenter/panelist in sessions

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

We invite you to submit an abstract for the FIG Congress

- an abstract *and full paper* for **peer review** by: **15 September 2025**
- an abstract for **regular/non-peer-review** by: **1 November 2025**

We encourage you to consider the overall theme of FIG Congress 2026: **The Future We Want – the SDG's and Beyond** and the main topics when submitting your abstract and paper. Many topics are multi-disciplinary and are relevant in both developing and developed world contexts. We encourage submissions of cross-disciplinary nature cutting across many disciplines/subject-areas.

Abstracts will be reviewed and if your abstract is accepted, you will be asked to submit a full paper. If you want to add a video presentation you are welcome. All abstracts, papers, presentation handouts and videos will be included in the final proceedings for this conference.

The conference sessions will be thoughtfully curated to align with the topic, incorporating various formats such as presentation sessions, discussion panels, interview sessions, open discussion sessions, or a blend of different types. A chosen group of authors selected from the open Call for Papers will have the opportunity to actively present in these sessions. The rest will be included with paper in the sessions and are encouraged to participate actively in the discussions. There might be an option for posters.

How to submit

We invite you to submit an abstract for the FIG Working Week.

Before you begin - To submit your abstract you will need to have the following items ready:

- Your 250-500 words abstract describing the objectives, results, conclusions and significance of your work. Please feel free to submit an abstract on any topics identified for the FIG Congress 2026.
- The names and email addresses of all contributing authors.
- The full title of the paper as you would like it to appear in the programme book / proceedings.
- Your choice of maximum three (3) commissions/special themes **in prioritized order**, which best corresponds to the subject of your paper.
- Keywords for your paper.
- Whether you want to submit your paper as a peer review paper or non-peer review paper.
- Choice of author(s) as the presenter(s) at the Congress.

Submitting your abstract

- Begin by filling in the abstract submission form - https://fig.net/fig2026/submission.htm ensuring that you fill in all mandatory fields. Please note that submission of an abstract is NOT equivalent to registering for the FIG Congress.

- Please note that when you submit your abstract the number of abstracts is limited to a maximum of two per author; **one** as first author and **one** as co-author. Further, an author can only present **one paper**.
- An email from the conference organisers will serve as confirmation of a successful abstract submission. Your contribution ID will be contained in the confirmation email.
- Please note that abstracts must be submitted for **non-peer review papers by 1 November 2025** and submission of **full paper and abstract for peer review papers is 15 September 2025.**

SUBMISSION OF FULL PAPERS

Peer review papers

If you wish to present a peer review paper at the FIG Congress 2026, submit your **full paper** by **15 September 2025**, (for regular/non-peer review paper the deadline is **1 November 2025**). When preparing the paper, please follow the guidelines prepared for papers (**paper guidelines** and the specific **paper template** for FIG Congress 2026 that are available on the conference web site: www.net/fig2026/presenter_practicalities.htm). Please include at the end of your paper all your contact details, including your name, address, phone number and email address. *These papers will go through the extensive double-blinded academic peer review process.*

Full **peer review papers** shall be submitted in **electronic format** to International Federation of Surveyors by email to **fig@fig.net**.

Full regular/non-peer review

Receipt of your abstract and paper will be acknowledged electronically according to the time schedules.

We encourage all authors of regular/non-peer review abstracts to submit a full paper which will be included in the proceedings. Deadline for the submission of full paper is **1 November 2025.**

Please submit the full paper through the FIG abstract system, https://fig.net/fig2026/submission.htm

When submitting a paper and video, the author(s) agree that FIG has the right to publish the paper and video in the conference proceedings (at the conference and on the FIG web site), in the FIG Surveyors Reference Library, and in the FIG online journal (if selected for this purpose) without any further agreement or compensation. The copyright of the paper remains by the author(s).

PEER REVIEW PAPER PROCESS

This review process is “double-blind”. At least two independent anonymous experts will review your anonymized paper twice. After submitting your abstract, you will receive a confirmation email. Please submit the full paper by **15 September 2025**, otherwise your paper will be dropped from the peer review process, and your abstract will be handled as a regular paper instead.

In the conference programme, a paper that has been accepted by the peer review process will be marked "This is a peer reviewed paper". Papers that are not accepted by the peer review process can be offered to the conference as non-peer reviewed papers. Accepted peer review papers will be published in FIG Peer Review Journal (ISSN No 2412-916X). For the journal, please visit www.fig.net/resources/publications/prj/index.asp

When preparing the paper, it is important to follow the guidelines outlined at https://www.fig.net/fig2026/presenter_practicalities.htm.

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Review team of more than 100 reviewers. For the list of reviewers, please visit:
fig.net/resources/publications/prj/index.asp

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FIG CONGRESS 2026

Deadlines for submitting abstracts, papers and registration are:

NON-PEER REVIEWED PAPERS	PEER REVIEWED PAPERS
1 November 2025	**15 September 2025**
Deadline for authors to submit non peer reviewed abstracts.	Deadline for authors to submit abstract and **full papers** for peer review.
1 December 2025	**1 December 2025**
Confirmation to authors of acceptance of non-peer reviewed abstracts.	First notification to authors of peer reviewed papers. For provisionally accepted papers, authors will be notified of any modifications required by the reviewers. Authors of papers not accepted for peer review will be offered to convert the paper to the non-peer review process.
	5 January 2026
	Deadline for authors to submit revised **full paper** for 2nd round of peer review (depending on proposed corrections from reviewers).
	26 January 2026
	Second notification to authors of final acceptance of peer reviewed papers. Authors of not accepted papers in the second round will be offered to convert the paper to non-peer review paper in the programme.
ALL PAPERS (PEER REVIEWED AND NON PEER REVIEWED)	
15 January 2026	
Deadline for all non-peer review authors to submit Full Papers.	
30 January 2026	
Deadline early bird Deadline for non-peer review authors to register. Deadline for peer review authors to register.	
6 February 2026	
First draft of the technical programme will be published on the web.	
20 April 2026	
Deadline for normal registration.	
24-29 May 2026	
FIG CONGRESS – CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA	