

# **FIG President Professor Dr.-Ing. Holger Magel at GLTN Round Table on Gendering Land Tools**

**on 21 June 2006, WUF III in Vancouver**

## **Statement**

1. As I have already said yesterday at the launching of GLTN, FIG as the global umbrella organisation of all surveyors and (urban and rural) land experts appreciates GLTN Initiative very much and will be one of the partners! We even feel directly and deeply addressed to contribute to this important approach realising the MDG, especially the pro poor goals. We are happy to be a partner of GLTN-Community!
2. After a first review, FIG will likely agree with the drafted mechanism for Gendering Land Tools and is convinced being able to deliver a lot of tools by FIG Community such as gendering spatial information, land use (planning), registration, administration, management and dispute resolution. Our ten commissions are willing to contribute to promote more effective, efficient and equitable land governance models that are driven by gendered land tools.
3. Gender aspects and issues is nothing new for FIG Community. Let me inform you about our publication “Women’s Access to Land – FIG Guidelines. Principles for Equitable Gender Inclusion in Land Administration: Background Report and Guidelines”, which was commissioned by FIG through the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and Swede Survey AB. The work is based on research conducted at the University of New Brunswick!! In close cooperation with FIG Commission 7 taskforce “Women’s Access to Land”, the reports contain a lot of proposals and procedures of e.g. monitoring and evaluating the land situation of women and especially the major causes of poverty and hunger among rural women and their families.
4. It may be interesting for you to hear what is said in this publication about the surveying community which I am representing today: “The surveying community should not underestimate its role in allocating, adjudicating, protecting and changing the way in which people hold rights to land. Today, therefore surveyors have a role in land reform and promoting security of tenure....”
5. As it is very important that the suggested strategies for improving women’s access to land work not only in practice but are also well-known to politicians, decision makers and project teams, FIG is willing to strengthen its efforts in making Gender Issues in Land Tools much more popular! We are present in 100 countries. FIG is not resistant to gendering land tools – we are even pioneers!
6. Beside of making it more popular, Gendering Land Tool Development needs hard efforts in **research work and sharing experiences** (“best practices”) based on innovative methodologies of social tenure, planning and participation approaches and modern GIS.

## **Conclusion**

Gendering land tools is no “terra incognita” for FIG Community. FIG has rich potential on this field. As reliable partner of UN Habitat, FIG is willing to support this very important initiative both in urban and especially rural areas. Do you remember the Kenyan girls at the opening ceremony (and this was really a gendered cry and plea):

*“Father, give me a piece of land.  
I will work with my own hand  
and sustain myself.  
I will not go to the city,  
my earnings is in the rural home...”*

We strongly should support people remaining in the rural area thus at least partly avoiding the increasing urbanization of poverty! We strongly should support also people in the urban and slum areas who have not yet realised their hope and vision of a better life in the cities!