

Unlocking the Power of Geospatial Data for Sustainable Development by the Surveying Community

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SUMMARY

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a comprehensive plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership, serves as a blueprint for a sustainable world (UN General Assembly, 2015). Fundamentally, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets guide the agenda, with urgency emphasized due to pressing issues such as pressure on land and sea, threats of calamities, extreme poverty, inequality, mistreatment of women, warfare, terrorism, and the ongoing refugee crisis.

Recognizing the crucial role of professionals in the Land and Built environment in achieving the 2030 Agenda, the FIG General Assembly established the Joint FIG and the Sustainable Development Goals Task Force (FIG SDGs TF). The Task Force's primary objective is to integrate the SDGs into FIG and its member associations by 2026. Actively engaged in raising awareness within the FIG community, the Task Force aims to inform and inspire the FIG community to diligently contribute to measuring the targets and indicators outlined in the SDGs, viewing this commitment as a way of serving society for the benefit of both people and the planet.

With this paper the Task Force describes how the FIG community and surveyors globally can contribute to bridge the critical data gap by raising awareness and a surge of implementation. The recent Sustainable Development Goals Report from 2024 will be used to identify priorities for FIG to unlock the power of geospatial data for sustainable development by the surveying community.

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