

***FIG Christchurch Declaration:  
Responding to Climate Change and Tenure  
Insecurity in Small Island Developing States: The  
Role of Land Professionals***

***NZAID, UN Habitat-GLTN, FAO & FIG Joint Technical Session: SIDS***

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# Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

- distinct and diverse group of 52 countries spread across the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans, and the Caribbean, Mediterranean and South China seas .
- Despite their social, cultural, economic and geographical differences, SIDS identify themselves as a group that shares similar environmental and development issues.

# Recognition of the Diversity of SIDS

- SIDS have huge diversity with regard to
  - Land tenure types
  - Total population
  - Rate of urbanization
  - proportion of population living in areas where elevation below 5m
  - *UN-Habitat (2015): Urbanization and Climate Change in Small Island Developing States*
- We recognise this diversity in our discussions.

# Urbanization level and rate of change

World Urbanization Prospects (UNDESA, 2015)

<i>Region</i>	<i>% urban (2015)</i>	<i>Average % Annual Rate of Change of the Urban Population 2010-2015</i>
Average of all SIDS	54.6	1.44
Caribbean	70.4	1.52
Melanesia	19.3	2.14
Micronesia	66.8	1.09
Polynesia	42.5	0.55
<b>World</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>2.05</b>
High-income countries	80.4	0.76
Least Developed Countries	31.4	3.97
Solomon Islands	22.3	<b>4.25</b>
Vanuatu	26.1	<b>3.42</b>
Sao Tome and Principe	65.1	<b>3.58</b>
Haiti	58.6	<b>3.78</b>
Guinea-Bissau	49.3	<b>4.13</b>

# Population density - Persons /km2 (2011- 2015)

Source: World Bank 2016

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.DNST>

Selected SIDS	Population density (people per km2) World Bank 2016	Global Density ranking - Index Mundi 2016, CIA 2016
Singapore	7,988	3
Bahrain	1,729	8
Maldives*	1,320	9
Barbados	659	16
Mauritius	653	16
Aruba**	575	19
Nauru	452	26
Tuvalu*	415	27
Marshall Islands	392	29
Haiti *	384	33
Comoros *	343	36
Grenada	313	41
Guam**	296	42
American Samoa	274	45
Jamaica	251	46
Kiribati*	128	87
Timor-Lesté*	80	121

# Perception of Corruption Index 2014

Transparency International

Country Rank	Country / Territory
7	Singapore
17	Barbados
24	Bahamas
29	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
31	Puerto Rico
39	Dominica
43	Seychelles
47	Mauritius
50	Samoa
55	Bahrain
63	Cuba
76	Sao Tome and Principe
85	Jamaica
85	Trinidad and Tobago
100	Suriname
115	Dominican Republic
124	Guyana
133	Timor-Leste
142	Comoros
145	Papua New Guinea
161	Guinea-Bissau
161	Haiti

# Unique, complex and severe vulnerabilities and characteristics

- SIDS are unique in regard to
  - Size. Small population & high density. Limited scope of resources & dependent on international trade
  - Isolation, dispersed in nature and physical isolation from markets.
  - Climate change and sea level rise: A large coastal zones and limited land area and vulnerable to effects of climate change, particularly sea level rise and extreme weather events that impact on human settlements and activities.
  - Natural and environmental disasters: Exposed to intense and frequent natural disasters with high levels of economic, social and environmental repercussions.

# SAMOA Pathway

## **Climate change**

31. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and we acknowledge that climate change and sea-level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest threat to their survival and viability.

32. We also reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally. We are deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. In this regard, we emphasize that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.

# World Risk Index 2015

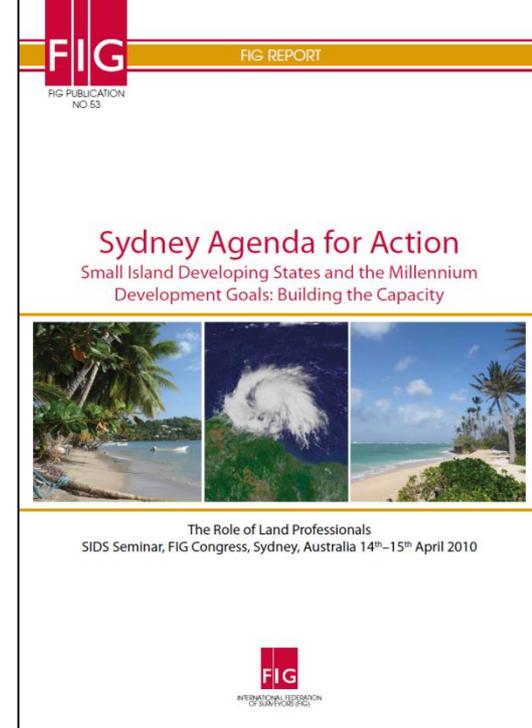
*United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Security*

- Since 1950 PIC disasters have caused 9811 reported deaths and cost PICs around US\$3.2bn in associated damage costs (Source: Bell 2016, EM-DAT 2010).

SIDS	World Risk Index Ranking
Vanuatu*	1
Tonga	2
SolomonIslands*	5
PapuaNewGuinea	9
Timor-Lesté*	11
Mauritius	13
Guinea-Bissau*	15
Fiji	16
Jamaica	20
Haiti *	21
Guyana	22
Dominican Republic	25
Cape Verde *	36
Suriname	49
United Republic of Tanzania	56
TrinidadandTobago	62
Comoros *	63
Belize	85
Cuba	96
Bahamas	122
Seychelles	153
Bahrain	164
Kiribati*	165
Grenada	167
Barbados	168

# Workshop Aims

- Build on the outcomes from the SIDS workshop at FIG 2010 in Sydney, and the 2013 Fiji Symposium.
- Move beyond the challenges and identify ways forward for improved land governance and tenure security in SIDS.
- Identify the role of land professionals in this.



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- All presenters, chairs and discussants.

# Framing Questions – key challenges and vulnerabilities

1. What are the key vulnerabilities and challenges for SIDS countries in contributing to their countries resilience to natural disasters & sea level rise –what are the roles of land sector agencies & land professionals in this regard?
2. What are the key vulnerabilities and challenges for SIDS countries in relation to rapid urbanisation and how can this be addressed by the land sector agencies and land professionals?
3. What are the constraints in improving land governance and administration in SIDS countries?

# Framing Questions – how these challenges can be addressed by land governance

4. How can these land governance and administration constraints be addressed by the land sector agencies and land professionals – including applying the VGGTs and Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration Systems?
5. What capacity building is required for the land professionals to fulfil this role and how can this capacity building be best implemented?
6. What professional and organisational collaboration is needed by associations such as FIG, the PGSC, the SSSI, NZIS, and the RICS in helping land professionals in SIDS countries respond to the vulnerabilities and in fulfilling their roles?

# Plenary Session 1

- Welcome address (*Diane Dumashi, FIG*)
- *FIG Foundation (John Hohol)*
- NZIS (Andrew Stewart)
- Introduction - The context and specific vulnerabilities of SIDS: The importance of land governance (*David Mitchell*)
- Pacific Urban Forum: challenges & lessons for land governance (Luke Kiddle)
- Challenges for improved land governance in SIDS (Faatasi Maloga, Tuvalu)
- The Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure and SIDS (Paul Munro-Faure, FAO)

# Workshop Program Day 1 Key challenges for land governance and tenure security

- **Technical Session 1 – Regional and country perspectives**
- Fiji (Paserio Samisoni)
- Vanuatu: role of National Geodetic Network (Martin Sokomanu)
- Vanuatu: Land policy and land reform (Williams Ganileo)
- Tonga (Viliami Folau)
  
- **Technical Session 2 – Regional and country perspectives**
- Nuie (Hubert Kalauni)
- Samoa (Petania Tuala)
- Tuvalu (Faatasi Maloga)
  
- **3.45 – 5.30 Workshop 1 Key challenges for CCA and Land Governance in SIDS.**
- Break out groups (Questions 1-3)

# Day 2 Responsible land governance and land administration for SIDS

- **Technical Session 3 – Regional and country perspectives**
- Latin American and Caribbean report for Habitat III – lessons for land governance (Charisse Griffiths-Charles)
- Zanzibar (Azzan Rashid)
- Timor-Leste (Bernardo Almeida)
  
- **Technical Session 4: VGGTs for SIDS**
- Addressing key vulnerabilities and challenges through implementing the VGGTs Mr Paul Munro-Faure, FAO
- Panel and floor Discussion
  
- **Technical Session 5: Land tools and secure land rights for all**
- GLTN Land Tools and their application to SIDS Mr Cyprian Selebalo, GLTN
- STDM Piloting in St Lucia and St Vincent Ms Charisse Griffiths-Charles, UWI
- Panel and floor Discussion
  
- **Workshop 2 - Responsible Land governance and administration**
- Break out groups (Questions 4-6)

# NZAID, UN Habitat-GLTN, FAO & FIG Joint Technical Session: SIDS “*Christchurch Declaration*”

- *Welcoming remarks*
- *Presentation: Draft Declaration*
- *Panel Discussion*
- *Questions and comments from the audience*
- *Discussion summary*
- *Closing remarks*

# Declaration Preamble

- We the participants of the FIG Small Island Developing States workshop held in Christchurch from April 30 to May 4, acknowledge the inherent diversity between SIDS countries in governance, rate of urbanisation, population density, exposure to natural hazards, and land tenure arrangements. However SIDS share many common characteristics of small population, their dispersed nature and physical isolation from markets, high levels of exposure to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards, and severe limitations in capacity.
- We recall the 2010 Sydney Agenda for Action and the 2013 Suva Statement on Spatially Responsible Governance established a clear framework for building capacity in land governance in Small Island Developing State (SIDS), and the roles and responsibilities for land professionals and land practitioners. We recall the SAMOA Pathway declared SIDS remains a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. We reaffirm the significance of the Sustainable Development Goals in efforts to reduce poverty, protect human rights, promote gender equality, and protect natural resources.
- We acknowledge the unprecedented global momentum to improve security of land and natural resources tenure and reaffirm the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGTs), and the Global Land Tool Network and their suite of pro-poor and gender-responsive land tools.

# Address climate change, natural disaster and urbanisation challenges and vulnerabilities through:

- Advocating for the adoption in legal and policy frameworks of relevant international instruments, including the Sendai Framework, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Advocating for land policy and legal frameworks informed by the VGGTs that recognise, respect and safeguard all legitimate tenure rights, provide access to justice to resolve land disputes, are pro-poor and gender-responsive, and provide for effective and full consultation and participation for all.
- Mainstreaming disaster risk and vulnerability assessment into all aspects of land administration.

## Address the challenges in land governance and administration through:

- Promoting the adoption by land professionals of a new paradigm of fit-for-purpose land administration in spatial, legal, institutional and policy frameworks. A fit-for-purpose approach to land administration reduces capacity demands on land agencies, and allows for protecting of land rights at scale for all tenures, and for all legitimate land rights.
- Promoting the principles of participation and inclusiveness in land use planning and ensuring that all legitimate tenure rights are respected in the land use planning process.

## Address the challenges in land governance and administration through (cont):

- Promoting the importance in legal and policy frameworks of the development of valuation systems that allow the fair and timely valuation of all types of legitimate tenure rights to support the operation of markets, transactions in tenure rights, compensation for expropriation, and taxation.
- Supporting land professionals in SIDS to translate international, regional and national policies into policy and legal frameworks and their subsequent implementation through knowledge sharing, and supporting their participation in training and education.

## Build capacity in land governance and administration to address these challenges through:

- Establishing a Regional Capacity Development Network (RCDN) of experts for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to provide technical, administrative, and professional services and advice to enable the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) to lead, and engage the PICTs geospatial & surveying community on related activities. We also support the establishment of similar capacity development networks in other SIDS regions.
- Advocating for the international bilateral and multilateral organisations and professional bodies to provide a coordinated approach to supporting education and training in the areas of surveying, land administration, land management and land governance through funding for scholarships, training of staff, exchange opportunities, and the dissemination of international guidelines and conventions. Other support should include providing e-learning and training materials to relevant academic and training institutions. This includes the full suite of e-learning and thematic technical guides for VGGTs, and the extensive online material supporting the GLTN land tools.

## Build capacity in land governance and administration to address these challenges through (cont):

- Advocating for the international bilateral and multilateral organisations and professional bodies to provide ongoing and consistent support for capacity building for all regional, national and local agencies involved in land governance and land administration, as well as academia and civil society. This should include a coordinated approach to knowledge sharing, training, and dissemination of spatial information.

## Enhance professional and organisational collaboration to address these challenges through:

- Calling for strong, genuine and durable partnerships at the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels to support transparent and consultative approaches to revising legal and policy frameworks to reduce duality between colonial and cultural norms and based on principles of responsible land governance. Encourage sub-regional partnerships that improve the capacity of individual SIDS countries through sharing of knowledge and resources, including between smaller and larger SIDS.

## Enhance professional & organisational collaboration to address these challenges through (cont):

- Building on the strong opportunity provided by the small population in SIDS, encourage the international land sector to consider coordination & harmonisation to provide multi-stakeholder & multi-sectorial solutions at national level.
- Encouraging and supporting the development of regional political, policy and technical coordination mechanisms in the land sector that provides a strong point of entry for engagement of international multilateral and bilateral organisations and professional bodies. These regional coordination mechanisms are critical in attracting funding for country level projects, facilitating knowledge sharing between countries, collecting and sharing spatial data, and in supporting capacity development at country level

*We reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women's empowerment, reducing inequalities and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development...*

*While the well-being of small island developing States and their peoples depends first and foremost on national actions, we recognize that there is an urgent need to strengthen cooperation and enable strong, genuine and durable partnerships at the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels to enhance international cooperation and action to address the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States so as to ensure their sustainable development.*

*(SAMOA Pathway)*

**Thankyou**