



Sixth Expert Meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management *“From Frameworks to Practice: Bridging the Gap in Land Administration and Management”*

18th Floor Conference Facility: ABSA Building, 2 Riebeeck Street, Foreshore

Cape Town, South Africa

29 – 30 May 2026

Concept Note

Objectives

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) calls for ensuring “that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources”. Secure, transparent, and equitable land tenure systems underpin and enable individuals and communities to invest, access credit, and build wealth. Effective land administration is fundamental to human rights, peaceful communities, economic prosperity, and sustainable development. Effective land administration embodies the principle to “leave no one behind” by ensuring that all people’s land rights and responsibilities are recognized. Through land ownership, use, and value, land administration supports efficient land markets, reduces conflicts, strengthens governance, and provides a critical foundation for planning resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable societies.

At its twelfth session, in August 2022, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) reaffirmed that effective land administration must be “fit-for-purpose, appropriate and adequate, interoperable, sustainable, flexible and inclusive”, with capacity to document and monitor the full range of people-to-land relationships. The Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (EG-LAM) aims to advance the use of geospatial tools to improve legal certainty of land rights, and the implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), adopted by the Committee in 2020, which guides countries to develop and modernize land administration systems. FELA is explicitly designed to provide a pathway-based approach for country-level action, helping governments strengthen institutions and processes for recording people–land relationships and promote the coordination across agencies, capacity development, and the use of geospatial data and technologies. FELA directly supports the SDGs particularly to ensure that all men and women have secure tenure rights to land (*SDG 1*), and equal access to ownership and control over land (*SDG 5*), affordable land services, responsive governance, inclusive tenure, and data interoperability, contributing to economic growth (*SDG 8*), reduced inequalities (*SDG 10*), sustainable cities (*SDG 11*), and climate action (*SDG 13*).

The Expert Group collaborates closely with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), representing surveyors worldwide, bringing together national member associations across the full range of surveying, geomatics, geodesy and geo-information professions. FIG Commission 7 focuses specifically on cadastre, land administration and land management, with an emphasis on inclusive and sustainable systems that support equitable access, tenure security and long-term development. The Sixth Expert Meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management titled “From Frameworks to Practice: Bridging the Gap in Land Administration Management”, to be held from 29-30 May 2026 in Cape Town, South Africa, is organized back-to-



back with the FIG Congress 2026 (25–28 May). The [FIG Congress](#), titled “The Future We Want – The Sustainable Development Goals and Beyond”, focuses on leveraging land governance and geospatial technology for 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. It will serve as a catalyst for ideas and strategic action, ensuring a thriving and sustainable future for generations to come.

The co-location of the events provides an opportunity to deepen collaboration between the UN-GGIM and FIG and further strengthen the engagement on land administration in Africa. In Africa, strengthening land administration is particularly vital given rapid urbanization, customary tenure systems, the exponential growth of population, and the need to unlock land-based investment while safeguarding rights and reducing inequalities.

The objectives of the Expert Group meeting are to:

- a) advance policy and technical discussions on effective, inclusive and interoperable land administration and management in support of sustainable development, tenure security and good governance;
- b) identify practical approaches for translating the FELA into country-level action, including fit-for-purpose methods, standards, digital transformation, innovation and validation mechanisms;
- c) consider the legal, institutional, geospatial and geodetic foundations needed to support the effective implementation and modernization of land administration systems, while sharing regional and national experiences and lessons learned;
- d) help shape the future work of the Expert Group for 2026–2028, including its strategic priorities, technical guidance, capacity development, knowledge-sharing and collaboration with key partners, with stronger engagement of African countries in its activities.

Outcomes

The meeting is expected to:

- a) strengthen shared understanding of the key policy, institutional and technical issues involved in advancing effective land administration and management;
- b) identify priority areas for further technical guidance, tools and practical support to advance the implementation of FELA in different country contexts;
- c) deepen collaboration and exchange of knowledge among members, partners and participating experts, including on good practices, innovation and implementation approaches;
- d) inform the future work of the Expert Group, including its 2026–2028 workplan, partnerships and priorities for technical guidance, capacity development and knowledge-sharing, including stronger engagement with African countries.

Provisional agenda

Date	Session / Item	Details
FRIDAY, 29 May:	Expert Group on Land Administration meeting	



8:30 – 10:00	Agenda item #1 – Welcome and opening, agenda and organization of the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks by the co-Chairs of EG-LAM and the Secretariat • Remarks from the local host and FIG Congress organizers • Agenda and organization of the meeting
	Agenda item #2 – Agenda, organization of the meeting and setting the scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the scene • Adoption of the agenda and programme of work • Objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting • Documentation and administrative matters
Break & Group photo		
10:30-12:00	Agenda item #3 – Strategic context for effective land administration and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of mandates and responsibilities of EG-LAM • Recent decisions and priorities of UN-GGIM on Land Administration • Overview of the Framework for Effective Land Administration • Global and regional developments relevant to land administration
	Agenda item #4 - Current status of land administration and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspectives from key stakeholders and partners on FELA • Technical requirements: policies, standards and updates to the FELA • Emerging priorities, opportunities and challenges
Lunch Break		
13:30 - 15:00	Agenda Item #5 - Workplan of the Expert Group: activities, awareness and methods (Interactive Session)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable leadership • Presentation of the draft workplan • Priorities and key thematic areas of work for 2026–2028 • Global and regional partners for advancing FELA • Discussions of proposed outputs, timelines and responsibilities
Break		
15:30 – 17:30	Agenda item #6 – Frameworks, guidance and technical standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current perspectives on updates and re-publication of FELA • Inventory of existing guidance, tools, reference frames and methods • Complementarity and requirements for guidance
	Agenda item #7 – Operationalizing FELA: beyond guidance, considering an enabling environment (part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalizing FELA • Considering UN-IGIF and FELA • Requirements for operationalizing the FELA • Perspectives from UN-IGIF strategic pathways
SATURDAY, 30 May: Expert Group on Land Administration meeting		
8:30 – 10:00	Agenda item #6 - Modernizing land administration and management: Country Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and regional experiences, good practices and lessons learned on the implementation of FELA and modernization of land administration and management
Break		
10:30-12:00	Agenda Item #7 - Operationalizing FELA: beyond guidance, considering an enabling environment (part 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical requirements for implementing FELA: guidance, tools and standards • Summary of national experiences: good practices and requirements from countries • Requirements for additional guidance, methods and supporting tools beyond FELA • Operationalizing FELA: Knowledge, innovation, financial, standards: requirements and needs' assessment • Operationalizing FELA: A hub?
Lunch Break		
13:30 - 16:00	Agenda Item #9 - Summary, outcomes, next steps and closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of discussions and finalizing the workplan • Agreements on required guidance and technical methods • Operationalizing FELA: priorities and actions (Hub) • Closing remarks by the Secretariat and co-Chairs

Organizers

This Global Expert Meeting is organized by the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), serving as the



Secretariat of the United Nations Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (EG-LAM), and the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development of South Africa, in collaboration with FIG.

Language

This expert consultation and meeting will be conducted in English.

Participation

Participants are expected to include members of the EG-LAM expert representatives nominated by Member States from all regions, representatives of UN-GGIM regional committees, as well as invited experts from FIG, relevant international organizations and partner institutions.

Observers from relevant organizations and expert groups may be invited to contribute their expertise to the discussions.

Meeting Venue

The meeting will be held on the 18th Floor Conference Facility: ABSA Building, 2 Riebeeck Street, Foreshore, Cape Town, in association with FIG Congress 2026. Detailed logistical information will be provided separately to confirmed participants.

Dates

The dates for this event are 29 - 30 May 2026 (a two-day meeting).

Logistical Information

Local logistical information and practical arrangements, including recommended accommodation, transportation and access to the meeting venue, will be provided separately to participants once finalized by the organizers.

Health and Safety

Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements for visas, travel, accommodation, medical and health insurance, and any other personal requirements deemed necessary for travel to and stay in Cape Town, South Africa.

The organizers and the United Nations assume no responsibility for any illness, injury, loss or damage incurred during participants' travel to and participation in the meeting. Any prevailing local public health and safety measures applicable at the time of the meeting will be communicated to participants and should be observed accordingly.

Points of Contact

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