

25 February 2022

Ms. Louise Friis-Hansen
Director
International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)
Kalvebod Brygge 31-33
DK-1780 Copenhagen V

Dear Ms Friis-Hanson

Letter of Support for Professor Abbas Rajabifard nomination as FIG President

The Australian surveying and spatial sector has a strong and demonstrated history of involvement in FIG. We have provided a number of past, current and incoming Commission Chairs, many active Commission Members and Working Group members as well as previously hosting two highly successful FIG Congresses (1994, Melbourne and 2000, Sydney). We are of course very excited to be hosting the FIG 2025 Working week in Brisbane.

SSSI has on one previous occasion been successful in its nomination of an Australian for FIG President, Earl James who was FIG President from 1992-1995. Earl is certainly looked upon fondly for his time in the role and has a long list of achievements, one of the most notable being The Definition of a Surveyor which was adopted by FIG after twenty or so years of heated controversy within FIG, and still remains in place today. The definition was subsequently adopted by the United Nations, thus giving surveying a separate identity rather than being categorised as a sub-set of cartography as it had been for the previous fifty years.

SSSI is very pleased to nominate Professor Abbas Rajabifard for the position of FIG President for the coming period 2023-26. We truly believe he is someone that is very well suited to the times, being widely connected internationally, with senior links into the most important of the world's institutions including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations. He will leverage these connections to ensure FIG is known and engaged with, whenever major issues are being faced and decisions are required that will benefit from Geospatial input, which is probably around 75% of significant issues being faced by the world's nations today.

Professor Rajabifard is someone that can lead strategic reform of the world's peak professional body for surveyors, while at the same time strengthen the ability of surveyors to successfully make the transition to Surveying 4.0 and ensure that FIG not only remains relevant now, but is increasingly so into the future.

SSSI Australia will provide the support Professor Rajabifard needs (admin, financial, and institutional) to carry out the role as President 2023-2026.

SSSI Australia believes we are nominating an exceptional candidate for the 2023-26 term. His passion and connections within FIG, along with his strong international connections outside of FIG make him a unique, capable and worthy candidate for the crucial role of FIG President, and we hereby strongly endorse his application.

Yours sincerely



Tony Wheeler

Chief Executive Officer, SSSI