

**Akwabaa (Welcome) in my first working week 2023.**

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to the FIG foundation, the Young Surveyor Network and everyone else involved in planning an event providing me with the opportunity to participate. Additionally, thanks Ghana for your hospitality.



*Opening Ceremony*

My name is Angie Katherine Melo Wilches. When I was a student of cadastral engineering and geodesy at a public university in Colombia, I used to believe that after graduating I would dedicate myself to working in front of a computer. I influenced my perspective on my job after learning about the realities faced by peasants and their relationship to the land through a study project. I have been working training grassroots surveyors in post-conflict areas in Colombia, as a way to empower communities.



*Indigenous communities and farmers training in different areas in Colombia*

This was my first time attending a FIG event; I had always heard of this organization as being among the most significant globally in the field of land administration, so being able to take part in this event was a dream come true for me.



*YSN Conference*

My trip to Ghana was a long one, about 22 flight hours on top of the nervousness I felt for being in another country in an event that mostly used English as a common language to communicate with everyone, considering that I´m still learning. It was my first time visiting an African country and sincerely, it was a great experience, having the opportunity to share with this marvelous culture and its history of freedom and justice.



*FIG YSN-Leica Social Event*

There are plenty of stories to tell, and so many things I learned, I feel it was a radical change in the way how I understand my profession, due to being able to meet with people from different places, assisting to conferences that allowed me to learn about different topics, I clearly remember the topic of Women land rights and that I was able to share challenges we face in our work field and also about Fit for Purpose which brought a fresh point of view regarding land administration.



*Women's land right session*

It was an enlightening experience with a younger surveyor, it was a comfortable environment to meet people around my age with such successful careers and we were able to share unique experiences. I felt very proud of being able to represent my country and South America on so many occasions.



*YSN Conference*

This event changed my life, and I want to invite all the young people to keep promoting this profession, which has allowed me to contribute so much in so many areas of society. And also, please take advantage of the opportunity to attend such events that will surely provide so much to your life and your career.



*Gala dinner*

*Angie Katherine Melo Wilches  
Colombia*