

Statement of Condolence and Solidarity from the International Geographical Union

The International Geographical Union (IGU) extends its deepest condolences to the people of Venezuela following the devastating earthquake that has brought such profound loss and suffering.

At this difficult time, our thoughts are with all those who have lost loved ones, those who have been injured or displaced, and the many families who continue to await news of relatives and friends. We also pay tribute to the courage and dedication of the emergency services, rescue teams, healthcare professionals, volunteers, and all those working tirelessly under extremely challenging conditions to search for survivors, recover the missing, and provide relief to affected communities.

As an international community committed to advancing geographical knowledge and fostering cooperation across nations, the IGU recognises the immense human, social, and environmental consequences of natural disasters which are embedded in complex interactions between natural processes and anthropogenic factors, particularly in the context of the Anthropocene. We stand in solidarity with the people of Venezuela as they confront the immediate challenges of rescue and recovery and begin the longer process of rebuilding communities, restoring livelihoods, and strengthening resilience for the future.

On behalf of the global geographical community, we express our heartfelt sympathy and unwavering support to the people of Venezuela during this time of tragedy. We hope that those affected will find strength in the compassion and assistance of the international community, and we honour the resilience and determination that will guide the nation's recovery.

The IGU also reaffirms its commitment to advancing international scientific cooperation in the study of natural hazards, disaster risk reduction, environmental resilience, and sustainable development. Through research, education, and global collaboration, geographers contribute to a deeper understanding of the processes that shape our world and to the development of knowledge that can help societies better prepare for, respond to, and recover from future disasters.

International Geographical Union (IGU)

International Geographical Union Executive Committee, 2024-26

Nathalie Lemarchand, France, *President*
Rubén Lois Gonzales, Spain, *First Vice-President*
Phil McManus, Australia, *Vice-President & Treasurer*
Holly Barcus, USA, *Vice-President*
Bojie Fu, China-Beijing, *Vice-President*
Anindita Datta, India, *Vice-President*

Barbaros Gönençgil, Türkiye, *Secretary- General*
Michael E Meadows, South Africa, *Past President*
Bernardo Mançano Fernandes, Brasil, *Vice-President*
Maria Paradiso, Italy, *Vice-President*
Marek Wieckowski, Poland, *Vice-President*
Pankaj Kumar, India, *Asst. Secretary-General*