

## **STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL**

The International Geographical Union expresses its profound sympathy and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the catastrophic flooding now affecting the country. We extend our deepest condolences to those who have lost family members, friends, homes and livelihoods, and our thoughts are with the communities facing displacement, uncertainty and the continuing threat of further destruction.

We are especially conscious of our colleagues in Nepal, including members of the Nepal Geographical Society and the wider geographical community, many of whom will have been affected directly or indirectly by this unfolding tragedy. The IGU stands with them, their students, their institutions and all those engaged in relief, recovery and the longer process of rebuilding.

This disaster is another stark reminder of the growing risks associated with extreme environmental events. In the context of ongoing climate change, many such events are increasing in magnitude, frequency or unpredictability, while their consequences are amplified by patterns of settlement, infrastructure, inequality and vulnerability. Mountain environments such as the Himalaya are particularly exposed to interacting hazards involving glaciers, unstable slopes, intense rainfall and rapidly changing river systems.

Geographers have a vital role to play in understanding these events and helping societies respond. Through research on climate, geomorphology, hydrology, hazards, planning, population, vulnerability and governance, our discipline can illuminate both the physical mechanisms underlying disasters and the profoundly uneven ways in which their impacts are experienced. Geographical knowledge is equally essential to developing effective early-warning systems, strengthening community resilience, guiding reconstruction and supporting adaptation to a changing climate.

The International Geographical Union reaffirms its commitment to supporting geographical research, education and international cooperation directed towards reducing disaster risk and building safer and more resilient communities. At this difficult time, we offer our sympathy, friendship and support to our colleagues and to all the people of Nepal.

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