



July 26, 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a key stakeholder in the disaster risk reduction community, we would like to invite you to join the event ***Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Across the Americas: A Regional Summit on the Contribution on Earth Observations in Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 3-8, 2017.***

As you know, the Americas are particularly exposed and vulnerable to major hazards and intensive risk. Effective action and building resilience for disaster risk reduction (DRR) requires collaboration within a regional context therefore, this goal of this meeting is to foster the dialogue among disaster managers, researchers and responders from North, South and Central America. Colleagues from around the world will also be engaged to strengthen our collective ability, to meet the challenges of disaster risk reduction in the Americas, and to explore the use of Earth Observation (EO) in that effort.

The agenda will build on the momentum and targets of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Dialogue and planning will advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and optimize contributions from the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). Through a series of workshops, trainings, and joint activities, participants will collaborate toward improved end-to-end flow of data and information from providers to practitioners, to decision makers and, most importantly, to those able to take critical action.

The summit culminates in a disaster simulation exercise, which will afford participants from the scientific EO and DRR communities an opportunity to work together to tackle challenges of regional preparedness and planning, disaster mitigation, emergency response, and recovery. Participants will gain meaningful new contacts, an increased understanding of capabilities, and advanced integrated work plans to protect lives, property, economies, trade and security. In order to facilitate an environment of active dialogue among participants, Spanish/English translation will be provided throughout all instances of the event.

We hope you will accept this opportunity to join us at the Summit. Your participation will contribute to the creation of a new Americas-specific network for documenting and exchanging effective practices and open new channels for communication. Through the Summit we will capture tangible and actionable steps to improve outcomes *before the next disaster occurs.*

Please use our website: <https://kubeworks.wixsite.com/argentina-summit> to register. Due to the high degree of stakeholder interest, there are a limited number of spaces available. Also available on the website is hotel information, an agenda and logistical information. If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact us at DRRAmericas@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Barbara Ryan, GEO Director

David Green, NASA

Ana Medico, CONAE

On behalf of the Group on Earth Observations and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites