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Alik Ismail-Zadeh is Chief Scientist of the Russian Academy of Sciences at the Institute of Earthquake Prediction Theory and Mathematical Geophysics in Moscow, Russia; project Director at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Karlsruhe, Germany, and holder of a visiting professorship at the Institut de Physique du Globe in Paris, France. He graduated from the Baku State University in Azerbaijan (mathematics, 1982) and the Lomonossov Moscow State University in Russia (mathematical physics, 1983) before being awarded the Ph.D. in 1990 and the Doctor of Science degree in 1997, both in geophysics, from the Russian Academy of Sciences. He is the Secretary-General of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), Chair of the Natural Hazards Focus Group of the American Geophysical Union, and the immediate Past President of the IUGG Union Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability. His research interests covers several areas of geophysics, geology and applied mathematics with a focus on the dynamics of the lithosphere and upper mantle and their surface manifestations, including seismicity, seismic hazard and risk, through multidisciplinary synthesis and theoretical and numerical analysis.