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Energy and Climate  
Partnership of the Americas



**NIST** National Institute of  
Standards and Technology  
U.S. Department of Commerce

## ECPA Ministerial Dialogue Series Building Urban Resilience

General Secretariat of the Organization of American States  
1889 F Street N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006 • Ruben Dario Conference Room (8<sup>th</sup> Floor)

### Background

In preparation for the IV Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) Ministerial to convene in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on February 27-28, 2020, the OAS is convening a series of Ministerial dialogues. The purpose of these events is to seek the input and advice of Permanent Missions, international development agencies, private sector, multilateral organizations, and the diplomatic corps as the delegations of the 34 OAS member States prepare to convene in Montego Bay. This Ministerial dialogue will provide a space to discuss the economic, social and environmental challenges of building resilient cities based on the region's best practices and lessons learned.

Latin America and the Caribbean is the world's most urbanized region, where about 80 percent of the population lives in cities. By 2050, UN-Habitat predicts that the cities in the Americas will include 90 percent of the region's population. As urbanization expands, cities are faced with a broad range of increasingly complex challenges that are the result of extreme events such as fires, droughts, hurricanes and floods. Strengthening the capacity of cities to respond to these threats can improve their ability to prepare for and anticipate hazards, adapt to changing conditions, withstand adverse phenomena and rapidly recover from disruptions. This dialogue will provide a space to discuss the challenges of building resilient cities.

### Agenda

09:30am	<b>Participant registration</b>
10:00am	<b><i>Welcome and Introduction</i></b>  <b>Juan Cruz Monticelli</b> Chief of Section, Sustainable Energy, Department of Sustainable Development at the OAS
10:15am	<b><i>Keynote speaker</i></b>  <b>Dr. Howard H. Harary</b> <a href="#">Director, Engineering Laboratory (NIST)</a>
10:40am	<b><i>Panel Discussion: Building Urban Resilience</i></b>  <b>Dr. Therese P. McAllister</b> , <a href="#">Community Resilience Group Leader and Program Manager - NIST</a> <b>Dr. Judith Mitrani</b> , <a href="#">Director of Disaster and Failure Studies -NIST</a> <b>Dr. Felipe Machado</b> , <a href="#">Director, Chilean Institute for Disaster Resilience, Itrend -Chile</a> <b>Eng. María G. Benítez</b> , <a href="#">Deputy Director, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, UNGRD, Col</a> <b>Eng. Gilliard Terrence</b> , <a href="#">Chief Energy Science and Technology Officer, Department of Infrastructure, Ports and Energy, Saint Lucia</a>  <b>Moderator</b>  <b>Dr. Arnoldo Matus Kramer</b> , Co-Founder and Partner, Ithaca Environmental and Former CRO <i>100 Resilient Cities (100RC)</i> Mexico City
12:30pm	<b><i>Conclusions</i></b>
<a href="http://www.ecpamericas.org">www.ecpamericas.org</a>	