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Alik Ismail-Zadeh is a mathematical geophysicist, Senior Scientist at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Karlsruhe, Germany, and Chief Scientist / Research Professor of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) Institute of Earthquake Prediction Theory and Mathematical Geophysics in Moscow, Russia. Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, Ismail-Zadeh received his BSc in Mathematics from the Baku State University, MSc in Mathematical Physics from the Lomonosov Moscow State University before being awarded PhD and DSc. (Habilitation), both in Geophysics from the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, Russia. He has been a visiting scholar, lecturer/professor at several universities/academic centers, including the University of Cambridge (UK), the University of California at Los Angeles (USA), the University of Tokyo (Japan), Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (France), the University of Uppsala and the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm (Sweden), the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing (China), and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste (Italy). Research interests of Ismail-Zadeh are broad covering geodynamics, seismology, sedimentary geology and tectonics, geohazards, risk analysis, science diplomacy and history. His research methods are also broad covering multi- and interdisciplinary synthesis, theoretical analysis, and numerical experiments. He is a principal author and co-author of over 120 peer-reviewed papers and several books.

Ismail-Zadeh has been IUGG Secretary-General 2007-2019, and elected Secretary of the International Science Council 2018-2021. He is Founding Member of Euroscience, and served on its Governing Board; Founding co-Chair of the IUGG GeoRisk Commission; Founding President of the Natural Hazards Section of the American Geophysical Union (AGU); Chair of the Committee on Sergei Soloviev Medal on Natural Hazards of the European Geosciences Union (EGU); Chair of the Steering Committee of GeoUnions grouped under the International Science Council; and Council Member of the UNESCO International Geoscience Program. Also, he served the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) in various capacities. Ismail-Zadeh has been editor or member of several editorial/advisory boards of several international journals and book series. Currently, he is a Member of the Scientific Council of the East African Institute for Fundamental Research (EAIFR), University of Rwanda, Kigali, Rwanda, and a Member of the RAS Scientific Council on Applied System Analysis. Alik Ismail-Zadeh is a Member of Academia Europaea, Honorary Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, and received several awards including Axford Distinguished Lecture Award of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS), AGU International Award, and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellowship Award.

