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SPECIAL SESSION

FOCUS SESSION ON 2026 VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA EARTHQUAKES

 **TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER**  **18:15 - 20:00**  **S01**

This special session brings together emerging findings from two major earthquakes that struck Latin America in 2026: the shallow M7.2–7.5 doublet in northern Venezuela and the intermediate-depth M7.4 earthquake in western Colombia. Drawing on rapid assessments, ground-motion and impact analyses, and virtual and field investigations, the session will explore the characteristics and impacts of both events, bringing together early observations and more detailed analyses to identify lessons for improving earthquake risk models.

CHAIRS



Helen Crowley
GEM Foundation



Ana Acevedo
EAFIT University

ECEE2026 



- 18:15 - 18:20 Introduction to Session
Helen CROWLEY, *GEM Foundation, Italy*
Ana ACEVEDO, *EAFIT University, Colombia*
- 18:20 - 18:30 The USGS National Earthquake Information Center's response to the 2026 Venezuela and Colombia earthquakes
David WALD, *United States Geological Survey*
- 18:50 - 19:00 The 2026 Venezuela and Colombia Earthquakes: Lessons and Reflections for Seismic Hazard and Risk Modeling
Omar-Dario CARDONA, *Ingeniar and National University of Colombia*,
Gabriel BERNAL *Ingeniar and National University of Colombia*
- 18:30 - 18:40 Ground-motion fields of the 2026 Mw 7.4 Chocó (Colombia) earthquake
Andrés HERNÁNDEZ, *EAFIT University, Colombia*
- 18:40 - 18:50 GEM's rapid impact assessments for the Venezuela and Colombia earthquakes and insights from more detailed analyses
Vitor SILVA, *GEM Foundation, Italy*
Julián MONTEJO, *GEM Foundation, Italy*
- 19:00 - 19:10 EERI Learning from Earthquakes Reconnaissance: Preliminary Observations from the M7.2 and M7.5 Venezuela Earthquakes of June 24, 2026
Andre R. BARBOSA, *Oregon State University, USA*
- 19:10 - 19:20 From Virtual to Physical Reconnaissance: Lessons for Aotearoa New Zealand
Samantha KRIEG, *University of Canterbury, NZ*
Catalina MIRANDA, *Massey University, NZ*
- 19:20 - 19:30 Post-Earthquake Building Assessment: From Damage Recognition to Demolition Decisions after the 2026 Colombia Earthquake
Albert ORTIZ, *South Colombian University*
Orlando ARROYO, *Industrial University of Santander, Colombia - (remote)*
- 19:30 - 19:40 Seismic Performance Assessment of 13-Story RC Frame OPPPE Buildings Following the 2026 Venezuela Earthquake
Carlos ARTETA, *University of the North, Colombia - (remote)*
- 19:40 - 19:50 Damage from the field - Pereira, Colombia
Ana ACEVEDO, *EAFIT University, Colombia*
- 19:50 - 20:00 Discussion and questions