



Maryam Golnaraghi

Director, Extreme Events and Climate Risk

Dr. Maryam Golnaraghi is the Director of Extreme Events and Climate Risk at The Geneva Association, the leading international insurance think tank whose Members are the CEOs of the world's leading insurance and reinsurance companies.

With over 20 years in international executive and senior advisory positions, Maryam has been working with governments, the industry, international agencies and the scientific community to develop proactive strategies, policies, public-private partnerships and innovative solutions for (i) building socio-economic resilience to extreme events and climate risks; and, (ii) developing sound pathways for transitioning to low carbon economy. In this capacity, she has been working directly with C-level executives and leading experts in a number of industries (finance and insurance, energy, agriculture) as well as top officials and experts in government ministries, international organizations (e.g., OECD, The World Bank Group, the UN and international donors) as well as international regulatory and policy-making bodies.

From 2004 to 2014 Maryam was the Chief of the international program on Disaster Risk Reduction at the World Meteorological Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations. In this role she headed up and developed all aspects of the program to leverage advancements in weather, water and climate research, earth observations and operational forecasting services to support risk assessment, early warning and emergency preparedness and insurance. Building on good practices and leveraging strategic public-private partnerships, she initiated and managed national capacity development projects in over 40 countries around the world. She was actively involved in drafting of the UN international framework agreements in disaster risk reduction and climate change with hands-on experience in translating these into national priorities, policies and programs. Following the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, Maryam served as an advisor to Former U.S. President Clinton, in his capacity as the UN Special Envoy on Tsunami. She negotiated international agreements and coordinated activities that have led to dissemination of tsunami alerts, under five minutes to all countries.

From 1997 to 2004, as the CEO and President of Climate Risk Solutions, Inc., a research and advisory firm, she provided innovative climate risk assessment and risk management solutions to companies in energy, agriculture, and insurance, leveraging cooperation with academia, leading centers of excellence and risk modeling firms in the USA.

Maryam serves in a number of international, national and industry advisory boards. She has authored numerous internationally referenced reports and papers, including a book (Springer Verlag, 2012). She holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University, an MS in Applied Physics and a PhD in Physical Oceanography from Harvard University, after which she joined the Harvard Business School as a senior research associate in the area of technology and operations management.