



**RES/CON: The Global Resilience Summit 2017**

***Thought Leadership Forum: Role of the Private Sector in Reducing Disaster Risks and Building Resilience***

***Wednesday March 8, 9-11:30am; participation limited to 75 individuals***

***Key Organizational Partners: U.N. Connecting Business Initiative, U.S. Chamber of Commerce,  
Greater New Orleans, Inc., 100 Resilient Cities***

***Forum Sponsor: Walmart Foundation***

**Forum Description and Goals**

This thought-provoking forum encourages panelists and attendees alike to think outside the box with regard to key issues affecting the private sector and government responses after a disaster and in the building of long term resilience. Through an open exchange with private sector, government, civil society and international stakeholders, attendees of the Forum will learn about leading national and international best practices via interactive dialogue with one another. The facilitated discussion will focus on three areas where innovative approaches to private sector engagement have proved to be successful models for strengthening resilience, including: 1) the challenge of information sharing and aggregation of data, 2) how to leverage private sector information to shape a response, and 3) how government and the private sector can collaborate on disaster resilience. The forum will ensure an enlightened dialogue around these key opportunities to make recovery and resilience more informed and thorough.

Specific topics that may be addressed during the session will include:

1. The operation of business emergency operations centers and their coordination with Government, Chambers of Commerce, UN and civil society actors, including the ongoing opportunities that business emergency operations centers provide to strengthen resilience;
2. The integration of the private sector into national disaster risk reduction and disaster management strategies, policies and programs; and
3. The development of local and national action plans / frameworks for private sector engagement in coordination with Government and other actors.

**Participants at this session will:**

- Learn how they can effectively work to strengthen resilience in collaboration with the private sector, United Nations, Governments, Chambers of Commerce and civil society;
- Hear from Connecting Business Member Networks and other private sector organizations and companies about their experiences working to strengthen resilience; and
- Share their experiences and identify opportunities to take collaborative action to strengthen resilience nationally, regionally and globally

***The Forum will be filmed and we may pull panelists/facilitators/participants aside for short interviews.***