**Sissy Nikolaou  
PhD, PE, BC.GE, Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).**

**Earthquake Engineering Group Leader for the Materials and Structural Systems Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).**

Dr. Nikolaou brings more than 25 years of global consulting experience in transportation systems, critical facilities, infrastructure projects and high-rise buildings worldwide. Sissy earned her undergraduate Diploma in Civil-Structural Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). Her graduate studies included Μaster’s and PhD degrees in geotechnical and seismic risk assessments using GIS from the University at Buffalo. For the past decade she is chairing the Seismic committee of the New York City Building Code and has paved the way earthquake engineering is being practiced in the NY-NJ areas since the first Seismic Code became in effect in mid-late 90s. She joined the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in 2020 as Leader of its Earthquake Engineering Group in the Materials and Structural Systems Division. In her consulting projects she emphasizes on advancing innovation related to resilience-based design, and disaster risk reduction. Dr. Nikolaou is driven by a desire to find pioneering solutions that protect populations to help them emerge stronger from disasters caused by extreme events and has led reconnaissance after major extreme around the world. Since the June 2021 partial collapse of the Champlain Towers South condominium in Surfside, FL, she has been playing a leadership role on the federal investigation to the causes of this disaster as part of the National Construction Safety Team.

Her current focus is on the development of decision-support frameworks as a better-than-code approach to the design and retrofit of transportation and other lifeline networks with considerations on life cycle, multi-hazards, and climate impacts. This work is bridging the gap between engineering, climate change, and financial investment prioritization which under her leadership has brought together a diverse group of stakeholders that include other US agencies, but also international development institutions such as the World Bank For her contributions, she has been recognized with numerous awards, two invitations to the White House in meetings related to earthquake resilience, and leadership board positions in professional societies such as the Applied Technology Council (ATC), the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), and the Geo-Institute of the ASCE where she served as its 2023 President.

Dr. Nikolaou was born in Greece, where she earned her undergraduate Diploma in Civil-Structural Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). Her graduate studies included Μaster’s and PhD degrees in geotechnical and seismic risk assessments using GIS from the University at Buffalo. An adopted New Yorker, she worked for more than 2 decades in consulting firms with experience in lifeline systems, critical facilities, and high-rise buildings worldwide. For the past decade she is chairing the Seismic committee of the New York City Building Code and has paved the way earthquake engineering is being practiced in the NY-NJ areas since the first Seismic Code became in effect in mid-late 90s. She has always been driven by a desire to find pioneering solutions that protect populations to help them emerge stronger from disasters caused by extreme events and has led reconnaissance after major extreme events around the globe. In 2020, she joined the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as Leader of its Earthquake Engineering Group. With her colleagues at NIST, they are developing decision-support frameworks as a better-than-code approach to the design and retrofit of infrastructure networks and buildings with considerations on life cycle, multi-hazards, and climate impacts. Since the June 2021 partial collapse of the Champlain Towers South condominium in Surfside, FL, she has been playing a leadership role on the federal investigation to the causes of this disaster as part of the National Construction Safety Team.   For her contributions, she has been recognized with numerous awards, two invitations to the White House in meetings related to earthquake resilience, and leadership board positions in professional societies such as the Applied Technology Council (ATC), the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), and the Geo-Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers where she served as its 2023 President.