

DECLARATION OF PANAMA

The Member States' Representatives of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and associated agencies met in the City of Panama, Panama, on July 19th and 20th, so as to attend the Eighth Meeting of IAI Conference of the Parties. In said Meeting, presided by Engineer Ricardo Anguizola (Panama), the IAI work during its first decade of existence was examined, and the support to the development of the Institute at long term was reaffirmed.

The Conference revised IAI activities in light of its purposes and observed that it has been developing research agencies' regional networks that reflect the view of the region's scientific community, as well as the will of the Member States. Said networks are increasing the international scientific and socio-economic research on the reach, causes and consequences of the global change in America, with the purpose of significantly enlarging the knowledge horizons and acting as an effective interface between the process of decision making and science.

The Conference highlighted that IAI is fostering the regional cooperation for the interdisciplinary research on those aspects of the global change related to the sciences of the Earth, sea, atmosphere and environment, as well as the social sciences, especially emphasizing its effects on the ecosystems and the biological diversity in its socio-economic impacts and in technology, and the economic aspects that have as purpose to mitigate the global changes and adapt itself to said changes.

The Conference also highlighted that IAI sponsors, in a regional sphere of action, those researches that no state or institution may carry out severally, and concentrates its efforts on scientific themes that have a regional importance, which has been serving as a mark for choosing projects based on their scientific merits.

Furthermore, *the Conference noted* that IAI has been contributing with the improvement of the scientific and technical capacities of the States in the region through their aids and scholarship programs, and also through a series of activities for strengthening the scientific and technical capacities, which were recognized by their excellence both in the region and in other locations.

The Conference reaffirmed IAI as the key regional mechanism for providing wide cooperation initiatives on scientific and educational aspects of the global change, and observed with satisfaction that it is reaffirming itself as the leading intergovernmental organization for the coordination, support and management of the cooperative research that contributes with the project and implementation of regional strategies for evaluation, mitigation and adaptation, which tend to reduce vulnerability and increase the recovery capacity in the region.

The Conference emphasized that the scientific agenda shall be the governing force in the continuous development of IAI research programs and networks, and also pointed out the importance of the revision system per peers of their projects based on merit and their continuous evaluation, and also the importance of the international collaboration and open and absolute scientific information interchange.

The Conference, considering that the regular contributions of the operational budget are essential for IAI success, agreed upon renewing its engagement with the voluntary contributions, as set forth in the Agreement for the Creation of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, and as agreed upon by the States in each of the Conference of the Parties previous

meetings. The countries were also requested to make a higher effort in the contribution with resources and funds for IAI programs development.

The Conference emphasized the importance of a close interaction with other international agencies and organizations that makes a wide cooperation platform possible, for IAI continuous development.

The Conference agreed to make a new effort so as to encourage all the non-signatory states of the Americas to become Parties in the Agreement, having hence a full participation in it.

The Conference expressed its gratefulness to the Government of Panama for its hospitality as host for the meeting and also *thanked* the President of the Conference for his correct direction of the matters addressed in said Conference.

For Argentine Republic

For Federal Republic of Brazil

For Canada

For Republic of Chile

For Republic of Colombia

For Republic of Costa Rica

For Republic of Cuba

For Dominican Republic

For Republic of Ecuador

For Republic of Guatemala

For Jamaica

For The United Mexican States

For Republic of Panama

For Republic of Paraguay

For Republic of Peru

For United States of America

For Oriental Republic of Uruguay

For Republic of Venezuela