**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Forty-seventh meeting
Brasilia, Brazil, 4 June 2019**

Report of the 47th meeting of the IAI Executive Council

1. This document has been prepared by the IAI Directorate.

Introduction

2. The Executive Council to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research held its forty-seventh (EC-47) meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, on 4 June 2019.

3. The account of the proceedings and discussions of the meeting are provided in section I of the report.

4. The meeting made 11 recommendations and they are provided in section II of the report.

Section I

I.   Proceedings of the Meeting

Introduction

5. In accordance with *the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article IV, *The Executive Council*, paragraph 3, the 47th meeting of the Executive Council to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research was held in Brasilia, Brazil on 4 June 2019.

6. This meeting was held back-to-back with the 27th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-27, Brasilia, Brazil, 2019) in accordance to Article VI, paragraph 3 of the *Agreement to establish the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* and Decision XXV/19: *Joint SAC, SPAC and EC-CoP meetings.*

7. The meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chair of the EC, Dr. Jean Ometto, on behalf of the EC Chair. Dr. Milagro Mainieri was the Vice-Chair.

8. The following Parties to the Agreement with membership in the Executive Council attended the meeting: Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, United States of America.

9. The list of Parties and observers is provided in the List of participants available on the EC-47 web page[1].

Morning session

Opening of the meeting

Welcome by representative of Brazil

10. The representative of Brazil extended a warm welcome to the participants and highlighted the many important topics under the agenda and to be considered by CoP-27. He stressed that the topics of these meetings were of relevance to Brazil and wished everyone successful deliberations.

Welcome by the Executive Council Vice-Chair

11. The Vice Chair expressed his gratitude towards Brazil for hosting the meeting and is thankful for all Party representatives in attendance and also to the members of the SAC and SPAC. He also thanked participants for their confidence in his chairing of the meeting.

12. He cordially invited the participants to the meeting and invited a round of introductions.

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

13. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the agenda.

14. The Agenda was approved by consensus.

Agenda item 2: EC-SAC-SPAC dialogue on emerging priorities

---

[1] http://www.iai.int/admin/site/sites/default/files/EC%2047%20Final%20List%20of%20Participants_0.pdf

15. The Chair gave the floor to the IAI Executive Director who in turn gave the floor to the Chairs of the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC).

16. The Chair of the SPAC gave an overview of the joint SAC/SPAC meeting which was held on 3 June 2019. She summarized the roles and responsibilities of the SAC and SPAC as described in the IAI Strategic Plan which will be discussed by the Parties at CoP-27.

17. The Chair of the SAC asked the EC to communicate the topics on which they should provide advice during the meeting. He continued by describing the SAC/SPAC's role in the process to draft the IAI Strategic Plan, and briefly described also the contributions by both advisory committees to the Small Grants Human Well Being (SGP-HW) program. He concluded by asking the EC to provide direction for the fourth round of the Collaborative Research Networks (CRN4) program.

18. The EC Chair thanked the SAC and SPAC chair for their presentation and invited the IAI Director to continue discussions.

19. The IAI Director described the four organs of the IAI: the Conference of the Parties, as the decision-making organ, the Executive Council, which is the executive organ, the SAC and SPAC as science and policy advisors, and the IAI Directorate which is the administrative organ. He described how the SAC and the SPAC have been active in supporting and advising the Directorate per Article VII of the *Agreement* and Decision XXI/13 which established the SPAC particularly during the 2018-2019 intersessional period. The IAI Executive Director also highlighted the differences regarding the establishment of the SAC and of the SPAC.

20. The IAI Director described initial and informal discussions elated to CRN4, especially its focus on Parties lacking adequate institutional scientific capacity to participate equitably in CRN programs. He noted in particular the lack of researchers from Central America participating in the SGP-HW program.

21. He continued by stating that one of the objectives of the IAI is to generate meaningful information for Parties to consider in the development of public policy. Moreover, he emphasized that research programs must meet the needs of Parties and be Party-driven.

22. Lastly, the IAI Executive Director updated the EC on the draft IAI Strategic Plan that considers national priorities and, when appropriate, international environmental frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals. He invited the EC to review the draft Strategic Plan and provide feedback to CoP-27

23. Members of the SAC and the SPAC asked the EC to provide direction to the SAC and SPAC on science priorities. They asked the EC to consider approving the draft IAI Strategic Plan and draft Scientific Agenda.

24. The representative from the United States thanked the SAC and the SPAC and the Directorate for their work during the intersessional period. She highlighted the importance

of draft IAI Strategic Plan. She continued by inviting the IAI, as a member of the Belmont Forum, to utilize the Forum to expand funding opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially in the context of work to establish a flexible funding mechanism for the Americas.

25. The Chair asked the IAI Directorate to elaborate on the mechanisms on funding and seeking input from the Parties on priorities. The IAI Executive Director stated that the draft IAI Strategic Plan and Scientific Agenda provides mechanisms for both. He referred to a recently concluded Memorandum of Understanding with the OAS to establish joint scientific programs and to possibly use its membership as one of the vehicles to share IAI science.

26. The IAI Executive Director brought to the Parties' attention the efforts of the Directorate to meet the objectives under Article II of the *Agreement*. He noted the definition of the IAI as expressed under Article I, namely the IAI as a *regional network of cooperating research entities*. He continued by expressing the opinion that Article IX, *Institute research centers*, Article X, *Affiliated research institutions,* and Article XI, *Associates of the Institute*, provide the mechanisms to establish such a regional network. He concluded by referring to the draft decision on this topic under agenda item 13 of CoP-27.

27. The United States noted the need to keep efforts under these Articles flexible and stressed the need to work with all partners.

28. The SAC Chair noted the need for stable funding when establishing the regional network. During discussions under this topic, the IAI Executive Director referred to the fundraising efforts of the IAI Directorate and mentioned its efforts to receive tax free status in the United States.

29. The Chair stated that the Parties should engage their national funding agencies. He also referred to the possibility for funding agencies to work together as a flexible funding mechanism for the Americas.

30. In light of discussions related to funding agencies, the representative from the United States proposed a recommendation to be considered at CoP-27: *The Conference of the Parties is invited to establish a task force to meet with national funding agencies to encourage and to ensure support to IAI science and capacity building programs, activities and projects*. The Recommendation was approved by consensus.

31. The Chair asked the IAI Directorate to describe joint funding calls and capacity building efforts. The Directorate presented on ongoing efforts to work with Parties and non-Parties in Central America and the Caribbean to build capacity and implement projects on emerging priorities.

32. The Chair thanked the EC and SAC and SPAC for their contributions.

Agenda item 3: Approval of the Reports of the 45th and 46th meetings of the Executive Council

33. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the reports of the 45th and 46th meetings of the Executive Council.

34. The reports were approved by Consensus.

<u>Agenda item 4: Establishment of a committee to recommend candidates for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) elections, on the second day of CoP-27</u>

35. The Chair introduced this agenda item and read the Party nominations for SAC membership. Two nominations were provided by Parties, one by an Associate, and a fourth from the SAC.

36. The SAC underlined the need for membership to reflect geographic and subject matter diversity. There should be a balance between natural and social sciences, and across regions. The Parties are free to nominate SAC members from other countries. The SAC suggested that the SAC and the SPAC, with the support of the Directorate, could look for engaged IAI researchers from underrepresented countries.

37. The IAI Executive Director reminded the EC that the SPAC does not currently have Terms of Reference. CoP-26 asked the SPAC to develop for approval at CoP-27. If approved, elections will be held at CoP-28. Current SPAC Members will be asked to remain until CoP-28.

38. The Chair of the EC invited members of the EC to make recommendations to the CoP-27 on Thursday. Three Parties volunteered: Guatemala, Panama and the United States.

Afternoon session

<u>Agenda item 5: Report of the Executive Council</u>
   a) <u>Activities charged to the EC and its Bureau</u>
   b) <u>Activities, actions, and decisions of the EC Bureau or its members</u>
   c) <u>Recommendation on the renewal of the contract of the IAI Executive Director</u>

39. The Chair reviewed the Document IAI/EC/47/5, Report of the EC and its Bureau with the EC.

40. The Chair reported on the process to select an IAI Science Director. The selection committee was composed by the Chair, the SAC Chair, the SPAC Chair, and United States (the United States participation was excluded from the report; a correction will be made). The IAI Executive Director and the United States both expressed the high quality of applications received. A decision is expected to be announced soon after CoP-27.

41. The Chair asked the IAI Executive Director to report on the revisions to the IAI Scientific Agenda. The SAC and SPAC met several times and made a number of recommendations to increase clarity. The SAC and SPAC recommended that the CoP adopts the Scientific

Agenda. Canada will present additional revisions during the CoP and these revisions were unanimously supported by the SAC and the SPAC.

42. The EC supported the revisions to the Scientific Agenda and congratulated the SAC and the SPAC for their work.

43. Recommendation: *The EC invites the CoP to accept the IAI Scientific Agenda*

44. The Chair asked for a closed-door session to discuss the renewal of the contract of the IAI Executive Director.

45. The Executive Council decided by consensus to recommend to CoP-27 an extension to the contract of the IAI Executive Director.

Agenda item 6: Financial and Administrative Committee report

46. The Chair invited the IAI Directorate to present the Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC) report IAI/EC/47/6.

47. The IAI Directorate invited members of the Executive Council to consider the FAC's recommendation regarding the IAIs core budget request and invited the EC to recommend the CoP to adopt the core budget request.

Agenda item 7: Auditors Report and approval of Financial Status Report, Financial items to be forwarded to the CoP-27

48. The IAI Directorate presented on the Auditors report and financial items to be forwarded to CoP-27.

49. Recommendation – *The EC recommends that CoP-27 approves the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2019-2020 and Preliminary request 2020-2022*.

Agenda item 8: Approval of items to be forwarded to CoP-27

50. The Chair opened agenda item 8 by inviting members to consider approval of items to be forwarded to CoP-27.

51. Members of the Executive Council approved the items to be forwarded to CoP-27.

Agenda item 9: Closing remarks and closure of the meeting

52. The Chair invited members to make closing remarks.

53. The United States representative expressed her approval of the recommendations to the CoP-27 and looked forward to a productive meeting that week. The Chair thanked the United States for its continued support and the engagement and ideas brought forth by the United States.

54. The IAI Executive Director thanked the EC for its support and confidence.

55. The Second Vice Chair of the EC expressed her gratefulness to the IAI Executive Director, and she stated that the draft IAI Strategic Plan will be important for the continuity of the organization.

56. The Chair thanked the EC for working more closely with actors and stakeholders in the Parties, promoting a positive feedback in Brazil and other nations. The Chair acknowledged the Chair of the EC and the work that he has been supporting in the intersessional period.

57. The meeting was closed by the Chair on 4 June 2019 at 2:36 PM.

Section II

Decisions and recommendations adopted by the Executive Council at its forty-seventh meeting.

Decisions and recommendations

Decisions and recommendations made at the 47ᵗʰ meeting of the IAI Executive Council

Approval of the Reports of the 45th and 46th meetings of the EC

XLVII/1. The Executive Council approved the reports of its 45ᵗʰ and 46ᵗʰ meetings

Establishment of a committee to recommend candidates for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) elections, on the second day of CoP-27

XLVII/2. The Conference of the Parties is invited to establish a committee to recommend candidates for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) elections, on the second day of CoP-27.

Establishment of a committee to recommend candidates for the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) elections, on the second day of CoP-27

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XLVII/3. The Conference of the Parties is invited to direct the Executive Council and the Rules of Procedure Committee, with the support of the IAI Directorate, to draft rules of procedure for election of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee for consideration at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

XLVII/4. The Conference of the Parties is invited to direct the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee to hold its meetings, physical and virtual, jointly

XLVII/5. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider the re-scheduling elections to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee to its twenty-seventh meeting

Financial and Administrative Committee report

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XLVII/6. The Conference of the Parties is invited to approve the Financial and Administrative Committee report

Auditors Report and approval of Financial Status Report, Financial items to be forwarded to the CoP-27

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XLVII/7. The Conference of the Parties is invited to approve the auditors' report and the financial status

XLVII/8. The Conference of the Parties is invited to approve the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2019-2020 and to consider the Preliminary request 2020-2022

IAI Strategic Plan

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XLVII/9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to approve/adopt the new IAI Strategic Plan

Approval of the items to be forwarded to the CoP-27

Directed to the Executive Council at its 47th meeting

XLVII/10. The Executive Council approved the Decisions and Recommendations for forwarding to CoP-27.

Establish a task force to meet with national funding agencies

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XLV/11. The Conference of the Parties is invited to establish a task force to meet with national funding agencies to encourage and to ensure support to IAI science and capacity building programs, activities and projects