

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



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Report of the Standing Committee on Rules & Procedures

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**Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)
Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures**

4 May 2009

Dr. Paul Filmer
Chair, IAI Executive Council
c/o Directorate for Geosciences
U.S. National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A. 22230

Dear Paul,

I am pleased to report to you and to the Conference of the Parties (CoP) on the activities of the CoP's Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures over the past year. First of all, I am very pleased to report that Alvaro F. dos Santos has been designated by Brazil to serve on the Committee. He is a legal expert with Brazil's Ministry of Science and Technology. His joining the Committee provides both relevant expertise and experience, including with the IAI in its early days, that is very much welcome. We look forward to working closely with him and expect that he will make very valuable contributions to the efforts of the Committee.

The work of the Rules Committee has focused on considering possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure for both the Conference of the Parties (CoP) and the Executive Council. We have worked closely with the Directorate on these amendments, a draft of which the Director has already distributed to Member States.

These amendments are intended to address three issues. The first is that of the way in which the IAI deals with the issue of a quorum for CoP meetings in order to avoid in the future the kinds of problems that arose in this respect at the CoP in Manaus.

The second deals with the operating procedures of the IAI, in particular, the way in which the IAI is expected to work in the future without having an EC Meeting at the midpoint of the yearly period between CoP's. The basic approach that we suggest is intended to enable the EC to expand the meeting that it normally holds just after the CoP. These meetings in the past have normally involved only the election of the EC's Bureau.

It is suggested now, however, that this be expanded into a more comprehensive EC Meeting that would provide direction for the IAI's implementation of the decisions taken at the CoP just completed. Such an expanded meeting would especially enable the EC to provide the Directorate with the detailed guidance that it will need to operate over the next full year between CoP meetings, rather than just over the six-month period that has existed in the past between a CoP and the EC at the midpoint and between that EC and the following CoP.

Finally some amendments are also proposed to enable the IAI to fill vacancies on the Bureau, thus keeping the Bureau at its full membership of three. This is also, in our view, more important as the IAI moves to a one-year interval between its meetings.

This completes my brief report and I would, in closing, simply refer you and all of the IAI Members to the proposed amendments themselves.



Louis B. Brown
Chair
Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures

Cc: Sr. Diego Malpede, Committee Member
Sr. Alvaro F. dos Santos, Committee Member
Dr. Holm Tiessen, Director, IAI