

Canada’s Nomination Process for the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research’s (IAI) Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

Canada undertook the following steps in order to identify candidates to put forth for SPAC elections:

1. Development of selection criteria for SPAC membership in collaboration with Government of Canada stakeholders and a network of science policy professionals (October 2014)
2. Launch of Call for Applications for Canadian nominations to the SPAC (November 2014)
3. Notifications sent to successful applicants (2) (December 2014)

Below is Canada’s Call for Applications information, which includes the selection criteria for SPAC membership. Canada invites IAI member countries to draw from this material, should they find it helpful, to inform their own nomination processes. Canada will post its nominations to the IAI twiki in advance of the SPAC elections in June and encourages other member countries to do the same.

Call for Applications: GoC Nominations to International Science Policy Advisory Committee

Application deadline November 14, 2014

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) is developing a Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) to improve and broaden the links between its scientific work and policy-making communities.

The purpose of this Call for Applications is to identify candidates that the Government of Canada could nominate to represent Canada on the IAI’s SPAC for a term between one and three years. Elections will take place at the IAI’s Conference of the Parties (CoP) meeting in summer 2015.

For the SPAC’s first call for nominations, Government of Canada stakeholders and Science Policy professionals are sharing this Call for Applications with their networks. As the SPAC matures, the intention is to broaden the Call for Applications process.

*Additional information on the IAI and the SPAC are provided in annex.

Selection criteria and eligibility

	Objective	Criteria	Indicators
1.	SPAC member has strong science policy expertise in science-based decision making or science policy liaison	1.1 Science Policy expertise and ability to effectively communicate scientific information in a policy relevant manner	1.1.1 Publications on relevant subject matter 1.1.2 Membership/ participation in organizations, Boards, high-level meetings, conferences, etc. related to Science Policy 1.1.3 Years spent working on Science Policy within public, NGO, academic, and/or private sectors
		1.2 Experience leveraging research use	1.2.1 Demonstrated impact in connecting research producers with research users (i.e. enabling research uptake)
2.	SPAC member has experience relevant to the objectives of the IAI	2.1 Experience related to global change (especially climate change)	2.1.1 Experience undertaking work related to global change (especially climate change) in a scientific or policy capacity, particularly in a leadership role

3.	SPAC member can collaborate effectively with committee members from the Americas	3.1 International Committee Experience	3.1.1 Role held and years spent as a member of an international committee
		3.2 Knowledge and cultural awareness of the Americas	3.2.1 Years spent working/living in Latin America or the Caribbean 3.2.2 Experience working on files focused on Latin America or the Caribbean 3.2.3 Can communicate effectively in Spanish. Ability to communicate in Portuguese would be an asset.

Application of criteria (weighting) will be at the discretion of Science Policy Roundtable¹ members responsible for evaluating candidates.

Candidates must be available to serve on the SPAC for a term of one, two or three years. While most interaction will be done virtually, it is likely that in-person meetings will be held once a year. Nominations put forth by Canada will aim to reflect the balance in composition that the SPAC aims to achieve, namely gender balance as well as broad sectoral and thematic representation. As the SPAC also seeks to achieve geographic balance, Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status may also be considered in the selection process. Candidates with conflicts of interest would not be eligible.

Application Process

October – November 2014

Interested candidates must:

- Submit their CV to Lauren.Walsh-Roussel@ec.gc.ca by end of day Monday, November 10th.
- Ensure that their CV demonstrates how they respond to the selection criteria

Selection Process

November 2014

Ottawa’s Science Policy Roundtable, which is hosted by the University of Ottawa’s Institute for Science, Society and Politics, will evaluate applications based on the established criteria and reach agreement on a list of candidates to put forth for consideration in SPAC elections in 2015.

As a unique network of science policy professionals from various backgrounds and organizations, the Science Policy Roundtable offers an excellent opportunity to draw from diverse perspectives and networks to inform Canada’s nomination process for the SPAC. This role is consistent with the Science Policy Roundtable’s purpose of discussing science policy issues that cut across jurisdictions and sectors and strengthening the science policy roles that participants play in their own organizations.

Announcement

December 2014 & summer 2015

Candidates whose names will be put forth to the IAI will be advised in December. Candidates will be notified of election results following the IAI’s Conference of the Parties meeting in summer 2015.

¹ The Science Policy Roundtable brings together science policy professionals from various backgrounds and organizations (government, academia, NGOs) to discuss science policy issues that cut across jurisdictions and sectors and strengthen the science policy roles that participants play in their organizations.

Annex

Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

The IAI is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to developing capacity to understand the integrated impact of global change on regional and continental environments in the Americas and promoting collaborative, well informed actions at all levels. The Institute operates on the basis of the principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation and the open exchange of information.

The IAI's research agenda is focused on the following themes:

- Climate Change and Variability
- Comparative Studies of Ecosystem, Biodiversity, Land Use and Cover, and Water Resources
- Global Change Modulations of the Composition of the Atmosphere, Oceans and Fresh Waters
- Human Dimensions and Policy Implications of Global Change, Climate Variability and Land Use

Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

As part of the IAI's efforts to enhance its governance structure, the Institute is developing a SPAC, which will provide support and guidance on its strategy to improve and broaden the links between its scientific work and policy-making communities.

Specifically, the SPAC will advise the IAI on how to:

- Effectively present its scientific results in a format that is most useful for decision making
- Build institutional capacity to facilitate the dialogue between scientific research and decision-making
- Effectively engage policy stakeholders in the Institute's programs and other activities.

During 2014-2015, an initial committee of nine science policy professionals will work to set the foundation for the SPAC, including rules of procedure, mechanisms of interaction between the SPAC and the IAI's Science Advisory Committee, and identification of key partners for the SPAC throughout the region.

With the groundwork set, elections will take place to determine nine SPAC members at the IAI's Conference of the Parties (CoP) meeting in June 2015. In the lead up to the meeting, the IAI has requested that member countries put forth nominations for consideration. The IAI Directorate and the initial committee of science policy professionals will also submit nominations. For the first year, candidates' term length will vary between one and three years in order to achieve a staggering of terms that guarantees future continuity in membership. Subsequently, term length should be three years for all members.

The process to select candidates is currently at the discretion of member countries. Canada's selection criteria for SPAC membership was developed in consultation with Government stakeholders and Science Policy professionals through the University of Ottawa's Science Policy Roundtable.