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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Twenty-seventh meeting  
Brasilia, Brazil, 5-6 June 2018  
Agenda item 13**

**Associates of the Institute**

**Decision XXVI/12, Decision XXVI/13 and Decision XXVI/14: Rede Clima, American  
Association for the Advancement of Science and Future Earth**

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

Background

2. Article I of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* states:

*The Parties hereby establish the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, as a regional network of cooperating research entities, hereinafter referred to as the "Institute".*

3. Article XI, *Associates of the Institute*, states:

*The Conference of the Parties may invite States outside the region, regional or international intergovernmental organizations, and industries and other nongovernmental and private organizations interested in supporting the Scientific*

*Agenda and programmatic activities of the Institute, to become Associates of the Institute.*

4. The Conference of the Parties (CoP), at its 26th meeting (Antigua, 2018) adopted Decisions XXVI/12, XXVI/13 and XXVI/14 on inviting Rede Clima, American Association for the Advancement of Science and Future Earth to become Associates of the IAI.

Implementation of Decisions XXVI/12 Rede Clima, XXVI/13 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and XXVI/14 Future Earth

5. With regard to Decision XXVI/12, discussions are ongoing with Rede Clima on its possible role as an Associate of the Institute. [The IAI and Rede Clima have discussed the establishment of a Nitrogen Center of Excellence in partnership with the National Institute for Space Research]. IAI network CRN3005 findings indicate that there are no nitrogen specific policies in the region, neither a common directive nor a framework in which nations can create their own regulations. The IAI Directorate will report to the Parties at CoP-27 on the results of these discussions.
6. In support of Decision XXVI/13, a letter of invitation to become an Associate of the Institute was sent to the AAAS on 9 July 2018 which resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding<sup>1</sup> in Washington, D.C. on 14 September 2018.
7. The program of work established under this MoU is described in the Report of the IAI Directorate: Capacity building. The IAI Directorate acknowledges the support to the AAAS in the development and organization of IAI capacity building workshops.
8. Future Earth and the IAI Directorate have a long-standing relationship of support to scientific and capacity building programs in the Americas. The IAI Directorate notes that the IAI has been named as a Future Earth Strategic Partner. Moreover, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was established between Future Earth and the IAI Directorate in 2017.
9. Accordingly, Future Earth was invited to become an Associate of the Institute on 9 July 2018. Discussion on Future Earth's role as an Associate, particularly in light of objectives highlighted in the MoU, are ongoing and have resulted in several fruitful collaborative activities.
10. For example, The IAI Directorate and the German Committee Future Earth organized a side-event during the UNFCCC COP-24 to promote a dialogue on the outcomes of the new IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1,5°C and the 2030 Agenda. Some of the issues discussed at this side-event focused on reducing risks to ecosystems (e.g. land-use, biodiversity) and human well-being (e.g. food security, health) on a regional and national levels.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <http://www.iai.int/pdf/es/MOU-IAI-AAAS.pdf>

11. A discussion of cooperation with the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP), which was invited to become an Associate at CoP-22 (Mexico City, 2014) is available in the *Report of the IAI Directorate: Capacity building*.

#### Article I: Establishment of the Institute

12. Article I of the *Agreement* states that the IAI is established as *a regional network of cooperating entities*.
13. With the drafting of the IAI Strategic Plan, the moment may be opportune to reflect on the objectives of Article I and consider ways and mechanisms to reinforce the IAI's efforts to establish a regional network of cooperating entities.
14. The IAI Directorate is of the opinion that Article IX, *Institute Research Centers*, Article X, *Affiliated Research Institutions*, and Article XI, *Associates of the Institute*, although not explicitly stated in the *Agreement*, are the mechanisms by which the IAI should establish formally such a regional network.
15. At the time of writing, the IAI counts on the support of five Associates<sup>2</sup>. However, only one Institute Research Center, AQUASEC – The Center of Excellence for Water Security<sup>3</sup> at the University of Arizona and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, has been established.
16. Perhaps of concern, there has never been an Affiliated Research Institution established by the Conference of the Parties under Article X of the *Agreement* and in support of the Collaborative Research Networks program of work.
17. Given that a new Director of Science is to assume the vacancy at the beginning of the 2019-2020 intersessional period, and given the need for the IAI to enhance and strengthen its networks, it is an appropriate moment to consider the role of Articles IX, X and XI and how they may be used to reach the vision as articulated under Article I.
18. The Conference of the Parties, therefore, is invited to consider instructing the IAI Directorate to work with the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Committee to more effectively implement Articles IX, X and XI of the *Agreement* with a view to enhancing and formalizing the networks which underpin the IAI.

#### Recommendation

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<sup>2</sup> The five Associates are: Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Centro del Agua del Trópico Húmedo para América Latina y el Caribe, Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Future Earth

<sup>3</sup> See: <http://aquasec.org/contact-us/>

19. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decision contained in the Annex to the present document.

Annex

## **Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties**

### **Article I of the *Agreement***

*Directed to the IAI Directorate*

XXVII/xx. The IAI Directorate is instructed to work with the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science Policy Advisory Committee and review implementation of Articles IX, X and XI of the Agreement with a view to recommending a process to increase the number of Institute Research Centers and Affiliated Research Institutions for consideration at the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.