



Ref: IAIUYDIR/2018/012

26 June 2018

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Results of the 26th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the IAI

Dear Madam, Sir,

The 26th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the IAI (CoP-26), which was held from 20 to 21 June 2018, adopted 45 Decisions establishing a program of work on a diversity of topics. A total of 12 Parties to the IAI attended the meeting including observers from non-Party states, non-governmental organizations and civil society. In addition, representatives from the UNFCCC Regional Office, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the Public Foundation delivered video statements to the Conference of the Parties reaffirming their commitment to collaborate with the IAI. The list of Decisions adopted at CoP-26 is attached to this notification.

Decisions were adopted on the IAI core budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019, the core budget preliminary request for fiscal years 2019 to 2021 and Party contributions. These Decisions acknowledged the need for timely contributions by Parties and instructed the IAI Directorate to continue to monitor Parties that have pending contributions to the Agreement by sending reminders twice yearly, with copies to the permanent missions in Montevideo, Uruguay. They further requested that the Directorate initiate discussions with the permanent missions in Montevideo of the Parties with pending contributions for three or more years.

Parties reached consensus on a number of topics, including the urgent need to secure alternate sources of funding to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the IAI; the continued development of outreach activities to raise the profile of the Institute; and, the use of an IAI open data policy and principles guidelines to provide access to data and information generated by IAI supported projects and activities. These discussions resulted in the adoption of a long-term funding strategy, a long-term communications strategy and an open data policy and principles.

Discussions also centered on the scientific agenda of the IAI, its call for pre-proposals under the Small Grants Program, the conclusion of the 3rd Round of the Collaborative Research Networks (CRN3) program and the upcoming CRN4. The IAI's capacity building program and initiatives and its efforts to establish cooperation with multilateral framework conventions and organizations were the subject of discussions on linking the IAI's unique achievements to their respective programs of work. A number of Decisions were adopted in light of these discussions.

A Decision on the drafting of a new IAI strategic plan was adopted taking into account the need to plan strategically for the financial sustainability of the IAI and the enhancement of its scientific agenda. Discussions also touched on current environmental governance frameworks including, but not limited to, the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The Conference of the Parties also decided to extend invitations to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Rede Clima and Future Earth to become Associates of the IAI, in accordance with paragraph 1, Article XI, of the *Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*.

With regard to the election of members to the Executive Council, new members include Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, the United States and Uruguay for 2018-2020. Uruguay was elected Chair of the EC at the 46th meeting of the Executive Council Nationals from Argentina were elected as members of the Financial and Administrative Committee and the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures.

Elections were also held for membership in the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the IAI Dr. Edwin Castellanos was re-elected and Dr. Mariana Meerhoff Scaffo was elected as member of the SAC.

An introduction to Mayan culture and science and its relevancy to the IAI's science agenda was presented by Guatemala. These presentations were timely and uniquely relevant given discussions during the meeting on the need to be more inclusive of issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities. Guatemala also provided Party representatives to an introduction of its national science and research activities.

Several meetings were held back-to-back with CoP-26, including the 2nd Joint meeting of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science Policy Advisory Committee, the 45th and 46th meeting of the IAI Executive Council and the 2nd Science-Policy Workshop. The reports of these meetings, with recommendations and decisions, will be made available on the IAI website in due time.

The Earth Negotiations Bulletin provided an informal report of the meeting which is available at: <http://enb.iisd.org/iai/cop26/html/enbplus172num43e.html>. The report of CoP-26 is under final review and should be made available in the next few weeks. The list of participants is available on the CoP-26 section of the IAI website: <http://www.iai.int/26th-meeting-of-the-conference-of-the-parties/>

The IAI Directorate is grateful to Guatemala for the excellent organization of meeting facilities and its warm hospitality and services. It also acknowledges its invaluable contributions to the meeting agenda of CoP-26 and the back-to-back meetings. It notes with sadness the very difficult moments faced by Guatemala caused by the eruption of the Fuego volcano prior to the meeting but notes also its admiration for the resilience and strength of its people.

The IAI Directorate would be pleased to provide any additional information on CoP-26 and its back-to-back meetings.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Marcos Regis da Silva
Executive Director