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15 March 2018

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Twenty-sixth meeting  
Antigua, Guatemala, 20-21 June 2018  
Agenda item 19c**

**Decision XXV/31: Reporting to CoP on fundraising activities by the Executive Director**

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

Background

2. The Conference of the Parties (CoP), at its 25th meeting (Bogota, 2017), adopted Decision XXV/31 on *Reporting to CoP on fundraising activities by the Executive Director*, which states:

*The CoP directed the Executive Director to present a report on fundraising activities and results.*

3. The activities below were undertaken in support of the above Decision.

Fundraising activities

4. The Executive Director and the Director, Policy, Partnerships and Communication met with the Del Rio Family Foundation from 16 to 19 August 2017 in Redding, California, for advice on fundraising and to seek assistance in reaching out to major donors in the information technology sector and to other foundations.
5. The Del Rio Family Foundation supports education, health, and science programs that seek to improve the condition of emerging communities of the world. The Del Rio Family Foundation also supports *research and projects that promote an*

*understanding of the need for or the development of a socio-ecologically sustainable global environment*<sup>1</sup>.

6. Results from discussions include:
  - a. Advice on the development of an IAI long-term funding strategy<sup>2</sup>;
  - b. Advice on development of crowdfunding<sup>3</sup>;
  - c. Advice on consultancies to assist in communicating with the private sector, private foundations and individual donors; and,
  - d. Communication strategies for fundraising.

#### Fund-raising strategy

7. Parties are invited to review the IAI fund-raising strategy available as an annex to document IAI/COP/26/19a.

#### Crowdfunding

8. At the time of writing, the IAI contracted a web design and support consultant to develop a section on the website where it would be possible to raise funds from a large number of people.
9. This funding mechanism will be linked to an IAI Paypal account.

#### Consultancies

10. The IAI Directorate contracted J&M Philanthropy to assist in the organization of meetings with prospective donors, particularly from the information technology sector. J&M Philanthropy had worked with the Del Rio Foundation and has worked closely with the University of Washington, Seattle, United States.
11. At the time of writing, J&M Philanthropy is also assisting the IAI Directorate in securing tax-exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Such status would greatly facilitate reaching out to United States donors.
12. A fund-raising event in Seattle, United States, is being planned once the IAI is able to gain 501(c)(3) tax-exemption status.
13. Efforts are also being made to reach to donors in other countries and regions, especially donors in Canada, the European Union and Switzerland.

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<sup>1</sup> See: Nelson del Rio Family Foundation website: <http://www.delriofoundation.org/>

<sup>2</sup> See document Decision XXV/24: *IAI long-term funding strategy* (<http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/IAI-CoP-25-3-Approved.pdf>)

<sup>3</sup> Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising money from a large number of people who each contribute a relatively small amount, typically via the Internet. *Oxford Dictionaries* (<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/crowdfunding>)

## International development banks

### Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

14. Meetings were held at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C, on 15 September 2017 with the Manager of the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector, and with the Specialist of the Integration and Trade Sector.
15. With regard to the meeting with the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector, an informal agreement was made to try to harmonize better the IADB's projects with those of the IAI's, particularly the Small Grants Program of 2018.
16. Discussions with the Integration and Trade Sector centered on how the IAI could become a strategic partner and assist IAI Parties in submitting proposals under that Sector. These submissions could be drafted in a manner so that complementarity would be possible with existing IAI projects.

### CAF—Development Bank of Latin America

17. A meeting was held at the CAF with its new Director and heads of relevant departments to introduce the IAI, its scientific agenda and capacity building activities, the upcoming Small Grants Program on the Role of Ecosystem Services in Adaptation to Global Change for Human Well-Being (SGP-HW) and the Collaborative Research Networks (CRN).
18. Discussions also touched on the IAI's MOOC, *Climate change in Latin America*<sup>4</sup>, which was developed in part with financial support from the CAF. The IAI Directorate was invited to submit a proposal to enhance the course website to include certification and an update of the content and conversion to a Learning Management System.

## Belmont Forum

19. The IAI Directorate submitted a bid to host the Secretariat of the Belmont Forum, which was accepted at the meeting of the Belmont Forum Executive Council, in São Paulo, Brazil, on 7 November 2017.
20. The IAI Directorate believes that hosting the Belmont Forum Secretariat will bring much needed capability in reaching out to donors and funding agencies and also offer its Parties new opportunities for the establishment of collaborative initiatives.

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<sup>4</sup> For information on the MOOC, see information document no. IAI/COP/26/Info.7: *IAI open online course on the Impacts of Climate Change in Latin America*.

21. The Belmont Forum and the IAI Directorate collaborated in the organization of a meeting to discuss the establishment of a flexible mechanism to facilitate the funding of scientific projects on global change in the Americas. Information on the recommendations made at this meeting is available in document number IAI/COP/26/19a, *Decision XXV/27: Participation in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Day*.

#### Recommendation

22. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of this document.