



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

14 September 2020

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Forty-ninth meeting
Videoconference, 19 August 2020**

Report of the 49th meeting of the IAI Executive Council

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

Introduction

2. The Executive Council to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research held its forty-ninth meeting via videoconferencing on 19 August 2020.
3. The account of the proceedings and discussions of the meeting are provided in section I of the report.
4. The meeting made four recommendations, and they are provided in section II of the report.

Section I

- I. Proceedings of the Meeting

Introduction

5. In accordance with *the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article IV, *The Executive Council*, paragraph 3, the 49th meeting of the Executive Council to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research was held via videoconference on 19 August 2020.

6. This meeting was held back-to-back with the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-29, Videoconference) in accordance to Article VI, paragraph 3 of the *Agreement to establish the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* and Decision XXV/19: *Joint SAC, SPAC and EC-CoP meetings*.
7. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Executive Council (EC).
8. The following Parties to the Agreement with membership in the Executive Council attended the meeting: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, the United States of America and Uruguay.
9. The list of Parties and observers is provided in the List of participants available at: <http://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/49th-Meeting-of-the-IAI-Executive-Council->.

Opening of the meeting

Welcome by the Executive Council Chair

10. The Chair expressed his gratitude to members of the Executive Council for their participation in the meeting. He noted that is the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties held via videoconferencing and that a certain flexibility regarding the rules of procedures was necessary. He continued by stating that Covid-19 highlighted the need for enhanced science and cooperation among the countries in our region and hoped that we would continue to work together towards common objectives.
11. The Chair also acknowledged the work of Brazil as the former Chair of the Executive Council and expressed his appreciation for its support and work.
12. He concluded by inviting the participants to introduce themselves.
13. Following the introductions, the Chair invited the IAI Executive Director to speak.
14. The Executive Director thanked participants and informed Parties that elections for the Executive Council would be held during the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and expressed his hope that current members would consider continuing to serve on the Council.

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

15. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the agenda.
16. The agenda was approved by consensus.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the Reports of the 47th and 48th meetings of the Executive Council

17. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the reports of the 47th and 48th meetings of the Executive Council.
18. The reports were approved by consensus.

Agenda item 3: Establishment of a committee to recommend candidates for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) elections, during CoP-28

19. The Chair introduced this agenda item and read the Party nominations for SAC membership. Two nominations were provided by Parties, one by an Associate, and a fourth from the SAC. The Parties also agreed to submit the names of two alternate members to the SAC.
20. The Chair of the EC invited members of the EC to make recommendations to the CoP-28. Three Parties volunteered: Brazil, Mexico and the United States.

Agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Council

21. The Chair reviewed the Document IAI/EC/49/4, Report of the Executive Council.
22. The Chair summarized the activities of the IAI Executive Council during the 2019-2020 intersessional period, including efforts to establish a flexible funding mechanism for the Americas. The organization of a meeting on the margins of the Belmont Forum plenary meeting, to be held in October 2020, of Latin American and Caribbean development banks, funding mechanisms and national funding agencies and donors was not possible owing to Covid-19.
23. He also described the work of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee to revise the Scientific Agenda. The Chair suggested that the Executive Council recommend approval of the Agenda to the Conference of the Parties at CoP-28.
24. He concluded by noting the need for Parties to support the IAI and to submit their voluntary contributions with due urgency.

Agenda item 5: Financial and Administrative Committee report

25. The IAI Directorate presented the report of the Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC).

26. It noted that the report states that: *The FAC received and has reviewed the IAI's core budget request for the coming fiscal year and recommends that the Executive Council forwards it to the Conference of the Parties for approval.*

Agenda item 6: Auditor's Report and approval of Financial Status Report, Financial items to be forwarded to the CoP-28.

27. The Chair invited the IAI Directorate to introduce the Auditor's report.

28. In its introduction to the Auditor's report, the IAI Directorate pointed to the positive outcomes and conclusions. He continued by summarizing the Financial Status Report, and the core budget, country contributions for FY 2020-2021 and preliminary request 2021-2023 to be forwarded to the CoP-28.

29. The IAI Directorate stressed that, owing to the economic and social challenges faced by Parties, there are no increases requested to the core budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. However, the IAI Directorate noted that this situation is not sustainable and that it is experiencing difficulties in meeting the workplan as outlined through decisions adopted at CoP-28.

30. Recommendation - *The EC recommends that Parties at CoP-28 approve the IAI Auditor's Report and IAI Financial Status Report.*

31. Recommendation – *The EC recommends that CoP-28 approves the Core Budget, Country Contributions for FY 2020-2021 and Preliminary request 2021-2023.*

Agenda item 7: Approval of items to be forwarded to CoP-28

32. The Chair opened Agenda Item 8 by inviting members to consider approval of items to be forwarded to CoP-28 contained in the Section II of this document.

33. Members of the Executive Council approved the items to be forwarded to CoP-28.

Agenda item 9: Closing remarks and closure of the meeting

34. The Chair invited members to make closing remarks.

35. The United States representative informed members that it would be requesting the Conference of the Parties to adopt two decisions. The first decision would highlight the need to implement an annual performance evaluation of the IAI Executive Director. The second decision would be to implement a whistleblower mechanism for staff to communicate with the Executive Council.

36. It was noted that paragraph 4, of Article VI, of the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, provides the authority to the Executive Council to establish such procedures.
37. The IAI Executive Director thanked the Executive Council for its support and confidence.
38. The Chair thanked the members of the Executive Council and wished everyone a successful CoP-28.
39. The meeting was closed by the Chair on 19 August 2020 at 11:00AM.

Section II

Recommendations adopted by the Executive Council at its forty-seventh meeting.

Decisions and recommendations

Decisions and recommendations made at the 49th meeting of the IAI Executive Council

Approval of the Reports of the 47th and 48th meetings of the EC

XLVII/1. The Executive Council approved the reports of its 47th and 48th meetings

Scientific Agenda

XLIX/2. Invites the Conference of the Parties to adopt the revised IAI Scientific Agenda.

Auditors Report and IAI Financial Status Report

XLIX/3. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the IAI Auditor's Report and IAI Financial Status Report.

Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2020-2021 and Preliminary request 2021-2023

XLIX/4. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2020-2021 and to consider the Preliminary request 2021-2023.