

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

June 3, 2026

Executive Board
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Sixty-first Meeting—Videoconference
June 3, 2026
Agenda Item No. 6

Report of the IAI Executive Council

1. This document was prepared by Panama in its capacity as Chair of the Executive Council (EC)

Background:

2. Article VI of the Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research assigned to the EC the role of serving as the Institute's executive body.
3. At the time of writing this report, the EC is composed of eight (8) member countries: Canada, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Jamaica, Panama (Chair), Paraguay (First Vice Chair), and Venezuela. The membership of this EC remains in effect until CoP35 in 2027.
4. Given that the position of Second Vice Chair of the Executive Council is currently vacant, Executive Council members are invited to consider nominating candidates for Second Vice Chair of the Council (a one-year term). Members may wish to take into account the need for geographically balanced representation on the Council. Panama currently holds the Presidency and Paraguay holds the First Vice Presidency; candidates must now be nominated for the Second Vice Presidency.
5. At an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties on March 9, 2026, the Parties approved the following framework: an Acting Executive Director, a minimal organizational structure, and an operating budget to be reviewed at COP34.
6. During the extraordinary COP, the continuation of the ad hoc committee on financial restructuring was endorsed (for an additional 6 months).
 - a. The ad hoc committee on financial restructuring was composed of: Panama, Brazil, Colombia, and Paraguay

Activities of the Executive Council during the intersessional period:

7. Following the recommendation of the extraordinary COP of March 9, 2026:
 - a. Since March, the committee held three (3) meetings, culminating in May with the presentation of possible financial scenarios and the selection of one (1) conservative scenario for consideration by the Executive Council and the COP.
 - b. Three financial scenarios were presented to the committee for consideration.
 - i. **Scenario 1: Conservative Scenario** (Interim Leadership + Minimal Structure; Fundable with Current Resources and Expected Contributions)
 - ii. **Scenario 2: Intermediate Scenario** (Interim Leadership with Additional Technical Support)
 - iii. **Scenario 3: Ideal Scenario** (Executive Director and strengthened structure)
 - c. Of the three (3) scenarios presented, the only feasible scenario, based on current annual budget availability, is Scenario 1; therefore, it is the scenario recommended by the committee for consideration by the EC and COP.
 - i. The conservative scenario (Scenario 1) allows for:
 - Maintain the minimum operations of the IAI and its respective programs, ensure the continuity of current programs and commitments, monitor active funding initiatives, and seek new funding.
 - Maintaining the position of Interim Director
 - a. This scenario does not allow for the hiring of a new executive director (therefore, the position of interim director must be maintained)
 - Maintaining the IAI's key science and scientific diplomacy programs in operation, allocating resources to each program
 - Monitor active projects
 - Launch new projects resulting from applications for international grants (Sargazo/GEF-CAF, Sintesis Hub with IA/WT, GEF-9, IKI/Fonplata, etc.)
 - Maintain a minimal operational structure
8. As part of the meetings of the ad hoc financial restructuring committee, institutional financial statements were also reviewed (available balances as of the date of the meeting, payment status of member countries, expected revenue, contractual commitments and payment deadlines for IAI staff, and the 2026–2028 financial outlook, etc.).

Panama Office – Host Country

9. Transfer of Accounts from Uruguay to Panama

- a. The necessary procedures and consultations with the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIRE) have been completed
- b. MIRE Panama has issued a certification authorizing the Director of Administration, Finance, and Operations, acting as the IAI's legal representative, to initiate collection proceedings.
- c. In June, the first transfers of funds from the accounts in Uruguay to Panama will begin (where diplomatic immunity for these accounts will be reestablished).

Recommendations:

- 10. Invite COP members to nominate a new Executive Committee member, bringing the total to 9 members (currently there are 8 members), a process that will take place within the framework of the COP.
- 11. Develop and launch a sustainability plan that involves outreach and follow-up with IAI member countries to consolidate a strategy for the payment of voluntary contributions, as well as the recruitment of new member countries.
 - a. This will allow us to move forward with the conservative scenario and evaluate, in a timely manner, the transition to a strengthened scenario, which would enable the hiring of an Executive Director and additional support staff, as well as the full restoration of the IAI Executive Directorate's operations.
 - b. The IAI's financial sustainability depends entirely on contributions from its member countries. It is crucial that the Parties remain current with their current and past payments.
- 12. Recommend a defined time period for the implementation of the recommended scenario (conservative scenario).
- 13. Maintain the ad hoc financial restructuring committee to work on a plan for sustainability and institutional strengthening.

Correspondence and Communications:

Communication from the IAI Acting Director to the Executive Committee, May 18, 2026

- **The GEF8 project for the integrated management of sargassum in the Caribbean** has been officially approved, marking a significant milestone for environmental management in the region and for the IAI.
 - The IAI will be responsible for Component 2 (Sargassum Existing Early Warning Systems and Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity), which not only consolidates its technical leadership but also reinforces its strategic role in strengthening scientific and management capacities in the Americas.
 - This project represents a significant boost to the IAI's presence and influence of the IAI in the region, opening new opportunities to coordinate efforts, generate applied knowledge, and support decision-making processes in addressing this common challenge

Belmont Forum Communication to the Executive Committee:

On April 17, 2026, a communication was received from the Belmont Forum addressed to the IAI Executive Council.

- In this communication, the Executive Board is asked to include a representative from the Belmont Forum in the discussions on the restructuring of the IAI. This request is based on the possibility that
The restructuring of the IAI could have implications for the Executive Secretariat of the Belmont Forum.
 - Similarly, and with the aim of clarifying any questions or concerns raised by the Belmont Forum Steering Committee, on April 2, 2026, the of the IAI requested a meeting with the committee chairs of the Belmont Forum. This request has not yet been answered and/or scheduled by the Belmont Forum chairs.

The Executive Committee's Board of Directors responded to the communication on May 7, 2026, stating the following:

- The IAI's governance is **intergovernmental** in nature, with decision-making reserved exclusively for the States Parties.
 - The IAI encourages and promotes cooperation with other international organizations and initiatives, but does not provide for the participation of external actors
in its governing bodies and/or institutional decision-making processes.



IAI

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- Consequently, the Executive Board considers that any participation in processes to define the Institute's structure must remain aligned with Institute's current legal framework, preserving the distinction between technical cooperation and intergovernmental governance.
- However, it should be noted that if there are any recommendations or observations that you wish to submit to the appropriate governance structures, these may be formally submitted through the Executive Committee's Board of Directors, so that they may be forwarded to the relevant bodies (both the Executive Committee and the COP), in accordance with established institutional mechanisms.