



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

8 June 2020

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-eighth meeting
Video conference, 19 August 2020
Agenda item 8**

**Joint Report of the Science-Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science-Policy Advisory
Committee (SPAC)**

1. This document has been prepared by the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) with the assistance of the IAI Directorate.

Background

2. The *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article VII, the Scientific Advisory Committee, paragraph 1, stipulates that the SAC:

...shall be the principal scientific advisory organ of the Institute.
3. Additionally, Article VII, paragraph 4(a) directs the SAC, among other actions, to:

Make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties regarding the Scientific Agenda, long-range plans and annual program of the Institute.
4. The Conference of the Parties, at its 21st meeting (CoP-21, Montevideo, 2013), adopted Decision XXI/13, which states:

The CoP approved the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Science-Policy Liaison. The committee will provide advice to the CoP and the IAI Directorate on how to use and design science for policy and decision-making.

5. The Conference of the Parties, at its 27th meeting (COP-27, Brasilia, Brazil, 2019), adopted Decision XXVII/3, XXVII/37, and XXVII/38, which state:

The CoP adopts the Rules of Procedure for the Science Policy Advisory Committee.

The CoP invited current members and members whose terms are expiring to continue their participation in the Committee until elections may be held.

The CoP agrees to reschedule elections for membership to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee to its twenty-eighth meeting.

Membership

6. The current membership of the SAC includes: Reynaldo Victoria (Chair), Elena Abraham, Edwin Castellanos, Tereza Cavazos, Michelle Grunauer, Carlos Alfredo Joly, Antonio Magalhaes, Mariana Meerhoff Scaffo, and Joshua Tewksbury.
7. In June 2020, one SAC member nominated by the Parties, Tereza Cavazos from Mexico, will conclude her first term and she is eligible for re-election, per Article VII, paragraph 2 of the *Agreement*, if nominated by a party.
8. One SAC member nominated by the Parties, Carlos Alfredo Joly from Brazil, will conclude his second term.
9. Notification no. IAIUYDIR/2020/012, published on 2 June 2020, invited Parties to submit a nomination for this vacancy.
10. Additionally, a SAC member nominated by the SAC, Michelle Grunauer from Ecuador will conclude her second term. SAC member Antonio Magalhaes from Brazil has concluded his first term and will not seek re-nomination. The members of the SAC have been invited to submit names for these two vacancies.
11. Finally, Moacyr Araujo, nominated by the Associates of the Institute, has resigned from the SAC. The Associates of the Institute have been invited to submit names for this vacancy.
12. Membership to the SAC requires expertise in a number of critical areas relevant to the Scientific Agenda of the IAI and to reflect an appropriate balance among the biogeographical areas of scientific importance to the Americas and also an integration of natural and social science.

13. The current membership of the SPAC includes: Dr. Brigitte Baptiste, Dr. Walter Baethgen, Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza, Dr. Maria Netto, and Dr. Evelia Rivera-Arriaga. All members are eligible for re-nomination.
14. IAI Directorate invites Parties and the SPAC to submit nominations for the elections held at the twenty-eighth meeting in accordance with Decision XXVII (COP-27, Brasilia, 2019).
15. Notification no. IAIUYDIR/2020/013, published on 2 June 2020, invited Parties to submit nominations for the vacancies.
16. The Conference of the Parties shall elect SAC and SPAC members from nominations received from Parties, Associates, SAC and SPAC.

Activities

17. In accordance with Decision XXVI/9, meetings of the SAC and SPAC were held jointly during the intersessional period. The joint meetings have been successful, resulting in enhanced communication and participation, and increased exchange of knowledge between the SAC and the SPAC.
18. Eight teleconferences were held: 27 August 2019, 05 November 2019, 3 December 2019, 4 February 2020, 3 March 2020, 31 March 2020, 5 May 2020, and 2 June 2020, as of this writing. Issues discussed included: revision of the scientific agenda, development of a white paper on peer review of IAI grants, the CRN3 special issue, new opportunities for funding including grants submitted, alignment of IAI activities with the strategic plan, and creation of a COVID-19 working group.
19. The SAC and SPAC contributed to the revision of the IAI's scientific agenda per Decision XXVII/5: *The Science Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee are instructed to further revise and update the IAI Scientific Agenda in line with the IAI Strategic Plan to better reflect transdisciplinary research and science with special attention to human issues and systems.*
20. The revised draft IAI Scientific Agenda is available as an annex to document Decision XXVII/5: *Recommendations by the SAC and SPAC on revisions to the IAI Scientific Agenda*, no. IAI/COP/28/13.
21. The SAC and SPAC contributed to the editorial and review process for the CRN3 special issue per Decision XXVII/29: *The IAI Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) are instructed to collaborate with the Directorate on the publication of a special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal, by acting as guest editors, reviewers, and/or any other function that contributes to the publication of the Special issue.*
22. The SAC and SPAC provided feedback on the 5-year proposal submitted by the IAI directorate to the NSF (currently under review) entitled, *Building Capacity for Science-*
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Informed Policy in the Americas through Regional Collaboration, Global Change Science Synthesis, Science Diplomacy, and Transdisciplinary Networks. The proposal addresses Decisions XXV11/15 (Fourth Round of Collaborative Research Grants), XXVII/17 (Transdisciplinary Science), XXVII/20 (Seed Grant Programs), XXV11/30 and XXV11/30 (Establishment of a Flexible Funding Mechanism for the Americas).

23. The SAC and SPAC provided feedback on a white paper on the IAI's internal and external peer review process for proposals, developed per the IAI Strategic Plan (IAI/COP/27/14).
24. The SAC and SPAC created a working group on the IAI's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The working group met in May 2020 to identify strategic areas where the IAI can support Parties in the context of COVID-19. The working group is drafting a document summarizing these observations and recommendations, and are identifying outreach mechanisms to Parties such as publications and webinars.
25. The SAC and SPAC will meet back-to back with EC-48 and CoP-28 meetings to discuss new areas of possible research on global change in light of recent proposal submitted to support the science and capacity building programs of the IAI. Discussions will also center on the establishment of an Inter-American Flexible Funding Mechanism.

Recommendation

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