



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

24 March 2020

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Twenty-eighth meeting  
Asunción, Paraguay, meeting date to be confirmed  
Agenda item 9**

**Report of the Science-Advisory Committee (SAC)**

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) 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.*

Membership

4. 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.

5. In June 2020, one SAC member nominated by the Parties, Tereza Cavazos from Mexico, will conclude her first term and is eligible for re-election, per Article VII, paragraph 2 of the *Agreement*, if nominated by a Party.
6. One SAC member nominated by the Parties, Carlos Alfredo Joly from Brazil, will conclude his second term.
7. Notification no. IAIUYDIR/2020/003, published on 9 March 2020, invited Parties to submit nominations for this vacancy.
8. Additionally, two SAC members nominated by the SAC, Antonio Magalhaes from Brazil and Michelle Grunauer from Ecuador, will conclude their first and second terms respectively. The members of the SAC have been invited to submit names for these vacancies.
9. 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.
10. The Conference of the Parties shall elect SAC members from nominations received from Parties, the Associates and the SAC itself.
11. 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.

#### Activities

12. In accordance with Decision XXVI/9 (Antigua, 2018), 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.
13. Seven teleconferences were held: 27 August 2019, 5 November 2019, 3 December 2019, 4 February 2020, 3 March 2020, 31 March 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.
14. The SAC contributed to the revision of the IAI's Scientific Agenda per Decision XXVII/5 of CoP-27 (Brasilia 2019), *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.*

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.

15. The SAC contributed to the editorial and review process for the CRN3 special issue per decision XXVII/29 of CoP-27 (Brasilia 2019), *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.*
16. The SAC provided feedback on the 5-year proposal submitted by the IAI Directorate to the NSF (currently under review) entitled, *Building Capacity for Science-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) from CoP-27 (Brasilia 2019).
17. The SAC provided feedback on a white paper on the IAI's internal and external peer review process for proposals, developed per the Strategic Plan (IAI/COP/27/14).
18. The SAC and SPAC will meet back-to back with EC-49 and CoP-28 meetings to discuss new areas of possible research on global change in light of recent proposals 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

19. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of this report.