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28 March 2019

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Twenty-seventh meeting  
Brasilia, Brasil, 5-6 June 2018  
Agenda item 18a**

**Decision XXVI/34: Memorandum of Understanding with the  
Organization of American States**

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

Background

2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 26th meeting (CoP-26, Antigua, 2018), adopted Decision XXVI/18a, which states:

*The IAI Directorate is instructed to initiate discussions with the Organization of American States with a view to establish a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration and joint activities and research related to global change in the Americas.*

Implementation of Decision XXVI/18a

3. As instructed, the IAI Directorate initiated discussions with the Organization of American States (OAS) on establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) immediately following the conclusion of the 26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-26, Antigua, 2018).

4. These discussions centered on possible joint activities between the IAI Directorate and the OAS General Secretariat that would be mutually supportive and assist in meeting the objectives of the IAI.
5. In this regard, the MoU would aim to establish a framework for cooperation mechanisms between their respective Parties, to provide stronger scientific contribution to policy processes, and to build human and institutional capacities in the Americas.
6. Discussions also focused on how the General Secretariat of the OAS could assist the IAI Directorate in reaching out to non-Parties in Central America and the Caribbean and inviting them to ratify the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*.
7. Accordingly, the OAS General Secretariat invited the IAI Directorate to present the objectives of the IAI to the Joint Session of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and the Permanent Council (PC), held in celebration of World Water Day 2019, in Washington, D.C., United States, on 19 March 2019. The event was attended by twenty-eight Member States to the OAS, in addition to observers from Europe and other international organizations.
8. At the Joint Session and back-to-back with the event, meetings were held with representatives of El Salvador, Guyana, and Honduras on the benefits that ratification of the Agreement would provide their countries and scientific communities. A meeting was also held with the representative of Ecuador to provide a briefing on the upcoming IAI Conference of the Parties.
9. The MoU was signed at a private ceremony on the margins of the Joint session. Parties were notified of the signing through notification no. IAIUYDIR/2019/004. A copy of the MoU is available on the IAI website at: <http://www.iai.int/pdf/en/MoU-OAS-IAI.pdf>

#### Recommendation

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