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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
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CHANGE RESEARCH**
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Agenda item 18

Report of the Directorate
Global Outreach and Cooperation

This document has been prepared by the IAI Directorate.

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its 26th meeting, adopted Decision XXVI/31, which directed the IAI Directorate to:

...continue to work with strategic partners, identify opportunities to facilitate the science to policy interface, including through science communication initiatives, and to facilitate dissemination of the scientific knowledge needed for the implementation of national and international policies.

2. Additionally, Parties at the same meeting adopted Decision XXVI/33 which encouraged Parties to

... organize side-events, science-policy dialogues and other events with the IAI Directorate to explore synergies and to increase the visibility of the IAI.

3. Finally, Decision XXVI/37 directed the IAI Directorate to:

...support Parties in promoting synergies and to cooperate with multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations in the design and implementation science communication activities and projects.

Introduction

4. A number of activities were implemented during the 2018-2019 intersessional period to enhance existing cooperation and to develop new partnerships aimed at facilitating interactions among the academic, scientific and policy communities at the national, regional and global levels.
5. The rationale for the initiatives described in this document are aimed at supporting regional scale research that is of interest to and best pursued through a multinational and institutional collaborative approach.
6. In promoting regional cooperation for interdisciplinary global change research, the role of the IAI is not advocacy. The value of its outreach is only as important as the type and reach of the partnerships developed. The initiatives promoted by the Directorate are key to understand the transversal nature of the transboundary issues affecting the countries in the region.
7. The following paragraphs describe these activities, in chronological order.

Global and Regional Cooperation

8. The IAI Directorate developed outreach activities and cooperation based on the principle that Parties have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies. All activities coordinated by the IAI are Party-driven and strive to meet their needs and priorities.
9. The IAI Directorate signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in 2018 and since then have increased collaboration. The IAI was invited to participate in the IPBES *Expert Group Meeting on Policy Support Tools and Methodologies* held from 7 to 9 August 2018 in Cambridge, UK. The IAI Directorate collaborates with IPBES to support research, capacity-building and the provision of scientific information and analyses needed by decision-makers to deliver more effective policies on biodiversity and global change.
10. The work of the IPBES Expert Group on Policy Support Tools and Methodologies, tasked by the IPBES Plenary to provide policy support tools and policy instruments linked to assessments, case studies, learning opportunities, and communities of practice through its Support Tool Catalog will be presented to the Seventh meeting of the IPBES Plenary, to be held in Paris, France from 29 April to 4 May 2019. The IPBES Secretariat continues to support the Directorate in its communications initiatives as described in document IAI/COP/27/20a.
11. The IAI Directorate, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) co-hosted a workshop on South-South Cooperation for Climate and Sustainable Development Progress in Montevideo, Uruguay on 20 August 2018 as part of the Climate Week 2018. IAI focal points Mr. Mariano Jordan, from Argentina, Ms. Gladys Santis, from Chile, and Mr. Mr. Ignacio Lorenzo, from

Uruguay and Uruguayan representative, Mr. Gabriel Aintablian joined this science-policy dialogue with municipal officials from Buenos Aires, Santiago and Sao Paulo to discuss activities aimed at enhancing cooperation on the challenges posed by global change in urban areas throughout the Latin American and the Caribbean region. Building on discussions related to the IAI International collaborative initiative for decarbonization and climate resilience governance in megacities for South America, a joint publication on *Cities and Local Communities, Urban Systems and Transportation*, is under development, scheduled for publication in fall 2019.

12. The joint workshop took place in the context of the cooperation between the IAI Directorate and the UNOSSC. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organizations has been finalized. The MoU will support the mission of both organizations towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other multilateral environmental frameworks in the context of national and regional needs as identified by IAI Parties. At the time of writing, a signing ceremony is being organized to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States, with the presence of representatives from the Permanent Missions of countries in the Americas to the United Nations. IAI focal points will be notified of the date in due time.
13. A summary of the IAI-UNOSSC workshop is available in the publication *South-South and Triangular Cooperation on Climate Technologies, Regional Perspectives*, available to the CoP as Information Document
14. Discussions with the UNOSSC are ongoing on possible implementation of the project proposal, *International collaborative initiative for decarbonization and climate resilient governance in megacities of South America*, submitted to the Qiao Plan by the Directorate in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Secretaria do Verde e do Meio, Ambiente da Prefeitura do Município de São Paulo and the Governo do Estado de São Paulo, Brazil, and the Ministerio de la Vivienda y Urbanismo (MINVU), División de Desarrollo Urbano del MINVU and Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Chile.
15. Following the IAI Directorate's participation in the IPBES *Expert Group Meeting on Policy Support Tools and Methodologies*, the IAI was invited by the IPBES Technical Support Unit on Capacity-Building to participate in its *Third Capacity-Building Forum*, held in Paris, France from 25 to 27 September 2018. The objective of this meeting was to enhance collaboration with other organizations in the implementation of the capacity-building rolling plan, which included uptake of IPBES assessments, national and regional science-policy platforms and the development of learning materials. Specific opportunities for collaboration on indigenous and local knowledge for the above-mentioned areas were also discussed. The Directorate co-facilitated discussions on capacity-building and indigenous and local knowledge and the breakout group on communications and learning materials.
16. The IAI Directorate participated in the 48th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-48) from 1 to 5 October in Incheon, Korea, which approved the report *Global Warming of 1.5 °C*, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.
17. On the occasion of IPCC-48, the Directorate met with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Secretariat to explore collaboration, specifically how the IAI may be a Readiness Delivery Partner in Latin

America. At the time of writing, the GCF General Counsel was carrying out consultations with its Country Programming Division regarding the status of the IAI. The IAI Directorate will inform IAI focal points on the results of this effort when a decision by the GCF is made.

18. GCF collaborated with the IAI Directorate in the organization of a side-event held during the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the UNFCCC which was held in Katowice, Poland from 2 to 14 December 2018.
19. The GCF Readiness Programme provides resources for strengthening the institutional capacities of UNFCCC National Designated Authorities/focal points and to effectively engage with the Fund. It also assists countries in undertaking adaptation planning and developing programming frameworks to build out their long-term climate action agenda.
20. The IAI Directorate became a member of the Steering Committee of the Belmont Forum at its Plenary Meeting which was held in London, United Kingdom, from 16 to 18 October 2018. Membership in the Belmont Forum provides the IAI with a voice in the development of funding initiatives on projects related to global change research and a better understanding of national and global funding programs on global change. It also may assist in efforts by the IAI Directorate to interest national funding agencies to participate in the establishment of a flexible funding mechanism for the Americas.
21. The IAI Directorate also met with the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) of France regarding its Food Security and Climate Change Collaborative Research Action (CRA) proposal presented to the Belmont Forum plenary. As a result of discussions, the IAI issued a notification to Parties to join this call. This CRA call presents opportunities to leverage knowledge gained in several countries involved in relevant CRN3 projects and to engage countries in the region in a Belmont-like co-funding mechanism for the Americas. Expressions of Interest were received from: Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala and Honduras. Additional information can be found in Fundraising Report to CoP-27, document IAI/COP/27/21c
22. As part of the IAI fundraising activities, the IAI Executive Director and the Director, Policy, Partnerships and Communication met with the Wellcome Trust and the UK Children's Fund and Charities Aid Foundation. A report on these meetings can be found in document IAI/COP/27/21a.
23. The Directorate co-organized with European Commission, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) the Fourth Science for Biodiversity Forum at the fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-14) held from 17 to 29 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. This science-policy dialogue engaged participants representing science, policy and civil society to discuss how science can foster implementation of biodiversity policy up to 2020 and inform the post- 2020 global biodiversity framework.
24. The IAI Directorate organized the side-event *From science to policy: achieving the SDGs in a 1.5 degree warmer world* held on 4 December during the UNFCCC Twenty-fourth session Conference of the Parties in Katowice, Poland. The side-event was the result of a partnership between the IAI, the German Committee Future Earth, the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

25. The Special 2019 Climate Summit Special Envoy Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba opened the IAI event. Speakers at this event were Mr. Douglas Leys, General Counsel, Green Climate Fund, Ms. Thelma Krug, Vice-Chair of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Jean-Pascal van Ypserle, Lead Author of the UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) and Daniela Jacob, Coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR15). Participants of this event discussed the outcomes of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR15) in light of the upcoming UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) to be released in 2019.
26. During the UNFCCC COP-24 in Katowice, the Director for Policy, Partnerships, Communications held bilateral meetings with Mr. Douglas Leys, regarding the potential application for a Delivery Partners status for the IAI. In addition, she met with Mr. James Fahn, Global Director of Internews' Environmental Programs and Executive Director of the Earth Journalism Network, to discuss collaboration on how to engage journalism students in the work of the IAI in support of Decision XXIV/9¹.
27. Within the scope of the IAI-Public Foundation partnership to promote science and climate change communication, the digital social media campaign *Science for Action* was carried out from 10 to 14 Dec. 2018, on the occasion of the Centennial Meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU100), in Washington DC. Serving as a "live social media newsroom", the IAI booth-SDG Data Hub provided a platform to promote collaboration and to highlight how to make the best use of open data and scientific evidence to guide the implementation of the SDGs. A video of activities during the event is available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7vRPBASC-U&feature=youtu.be>
28. The Directorate met with American Chemical Society International Global Portfolio Manager for the American Chemical Society (ACS) International on 14 December 2018 to discuss shared priorities and to strategize how the two organizations might work together. The benefit of this relationship is that the IAI could expand its reach through the ACS International Center to disseminate information about relevant IAI mission, capacity building initiatives and programming resources/opportunities. The International Center is specifically interested in the IAI's capacity building grants and programs which seed collaboration efforts in the STEM field. The ACS has 150,000 members worldwide, with 20% of the membership residing outside of the United States. Additionally, the American Chemical Society is promoting "Chemistry for sustainability," specifically aimed at policy implications, which aligns closely with current IAI motivations. The ACS is interested in discussing partnership with the IAI to build stronger chapters in the Latin America and Caribbean.
29. The Directorate participated in the United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment Multi-stakeholder Dialogue and Capacity-building Partnership event held from 24-25 January 2019 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Directorate is discussing engagement of its scientists in the Regular Process and joint communication activities, such as a Regional Science Communication Workshop and other outreach activities.

¹ The CoP endorses the proposal of involving journalists and journalism students in the different countries in the CRN 3 projects and future CRN4.

30. Climate change is a key focal challenge crossing all countries of the Americas and Europe and other regions. Scientific evidence was given by the new IPCC report SR15 that climate change will have negative impacts in South America on biodiversity, water availability and weather events. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of Germany is currently discussing a new initiative on “*Climate Change and climate related natural risks*” (working title) that intends to strengthen cooperation across countries and continents to tackle these issues of climate change. During the first exploratory meeting for this Initiative, the IAI was represented and introduced as a potential regional partner in cooperation with Germany to engage in excellent research and science based stakeholder dialogues across countries of South America. Science plays a central role to identify impacts of climate change for instance, in a regional approach, but also to support decision-making and action on climate change on a regional and/or national level. This new Initiative fits very well with the IAI goals to strengthen regional approaches and partnerships on a long-term perspective, the role of science in science-policy dialogues and mutual learning in the context of global change and climate change.

Recommendation

31. The Conference of the Parties is invited to support continued engagement of the IAI Directorate with the Green Climate Fund, States not Party to the IAI and new partners d to facilitate co-funding of research programs, capacity-building activities and science-policy dialogues.
32. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document.

Annex

Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Global Outreach and Cooperation

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVII/ . The IAI Directorate is directed to continue to explore collaboration with Green Climate Fund (GCF) Secretariat, to act as a Readiness Delivery Partner in Latin America.

XXVII/ . The IAI Directorate is directed to identify viable avenues to engage Parties in partnership with the Initiative by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of Germany to strengthen cooperation across countries and continents on issues of climate change.