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15 April 2019

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-seventh meeting
Brasilia, Brazil, 5-6 June 2019
Agenda item 7**

Report from the Executive Council

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the IAI Executive Council (EC).

Background

2. Article 6 of the *Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* accorded the EC the role as the *executive organ of the Institute*.
3. At the time of writing, membership in the EC includes the following Parties:

Brazil (Vice-Chair), Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, the United States, and Uruguay (Chair).

Election to the IAI Executive Council

4. Election for membership to the EC are not required at the 27th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-27).

Activities by the IAI Executive Council during the intersessional period

5. The Conference of the Parties, at its 26th meeting (Antigua, 2018), adopted 45 Decisions. CoP-26 Decisions requiring oversight and reporting by the EC, and also Decisions where the EC contributed its advice and guidance, are listed below:

XXVI/11 – The IAI Strategic Plan:

XXVI/8 – Rules of procedure for election of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee;
XXVI/35 – Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of American States;

IAI/COP/27/7

XXVI/42 - Flexible mechanism to facilitate the funding of scientific projects on global change in the Americas

Decision XXVI/11 – The IAI Strategic Plan

6. Parties which were also members of the EC that contributed to the drafting of the IAI Strategic Plan include Brazil, the United States and Uruguay. The IAI Directorate has acknowledged to the Chair of the EC the valuable contributions by the Parties and by the members of the EC to the draft Strategic Plan.
7. The draft IAI Strategic Plan is presented to CoP-27 in document no. IAI/COP/27/14, *Ad hoc committee report on Decision XXVI/26: IAI Strategic Plan*. The EC recommends adoption of the IAI Strategic Plan by CoP-27.

Decision XXVI/8 – Rules of procedure for election of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee

8. The EC participated in meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) where rules of procedure were discussed and recommended.
9. The draft rules of procedure drafted by the EC, the SAC and the SPAC are reported in CoP-27 document no. IAI/COP/27/9/Annex 2, *Decision XXVI/8: Rules of procedure for the Science-Policy Advisory Committee*. The EC recommends the adoption of the draft rules of procedure by CoP-27.

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

10. The Chair of the EC discussed with the IAI Directorate the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Organization of American States (OAS).
11. A copy of the MoU is available in CoP-27 document no. IAI/COP/27/18a, *Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of American States*. Members of the EC are invited to take note of the MoU.
12. The EC looks forward to collaboration with the OAS and requests the IAI Directorate to inform the EC of activities implemented jointly with that Organization.

Decision XXVI/42 - Flexible mechanism to facilitate the funding of scientific projects on global change in the Americas

13. The Chair of the EC participated in discussions with the IAI Directorate and provided guidance on efforts to establish a *Flexible mechanism to facilitate the funding of scientific projects on global change in the Americas*.

14. The EC notes in particular the efforts by the IAI Directorate to provide information to Parties related to possible participation in the Belmont Forum's Collaborative Research Action (CRA) program. The CRA may offer Parties increased funding from alternate sources for projects related to global change.
15. The EC recommends that the IAI Directorate continue its joint work with the Belmont Forum on CRAs and inform Parties of opportunities where participation may be possible.

Work of the EC not related to Decisions

Participation in the Advisory Committee for the Selection of the IAI Science Director.

16. The Chair of the EC was invited by the IAI Directorate to participate in the Advisory Committee for the Selection of the IAI Science Director. Members of the Advisory Committee include: the EC Chair, the SAC Chair, the SPAC Chair, the IAI Executive Director and appropriate staff of the IAI Directorate.
17. A total of 52 applications were received from 13 of the 19 Parties to the IAI, including: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, United States and Venezuela.
18. The IAI Directorate distributed the 52 applications to the Advisory Committee, made a preliminary review of candidates and flagged a total of 9 candidates that met fully the requisites of the vacancy announcement.
19. Of interest is that several applications were received from States not party to the *Agreement*, including Guyana, Ethiopia, India, Italy, United Arab Emirates and Zambia perhaps indicating greater awareness of the work of the IAI at a global level.
20. At the time of writing, a meeting is scheduled for the end of April for the Committee to select a final candidate. It is hoped that a selection will be made prior to the CoP-27.

The provision of advice regarding the revisions to the Scientific Agenda

21. The Chair of the EC was briefed by the IAI Directorate on the results of work by the SAC and the SPAC to the IAI Scientific Agenda, in accordance with Article III of the *Agreement*, and provided its views and advice on the revised agenda.
22. The EC recommends adoption by CoP-27 of the revised IAI Scientific Agenda.

Auditors Report and approval of Financial Status Report, Financial items to be forwarded to the CoP-27

23. At the time of writing, the Chair of the EC has not received copies of the IAI Auditors Report and IAI Financial Status Report. The IAI Directorate has informed the Chair that it has not received all documentation and reports required from Principal Investigators of CRN3 projects to be able to close accounts and draft the financial reports.
24. The EC will forward its recommendation to the CoP-27 on receipt and review of above documents.
25. However, a draft decision is provided in brackets ([]) approving the IAI Auditors Report and IAI Financial Status Report in the Annex to this report. However, it is noted that final approval is contingent on review of the documents by the Finance Advisory Committee and its recommendation to the EC and CoP-27.
26. A draft decision is also provided in brackets ([]) approving the IAI Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2019-2020 and the Preliminary request 2020-2022. Similar to the above, final approval is contingent on review of the documents by the Finance Advisory Committee and its recommendation to the EC and CoP-27.

Recommendation

27. The Executive Council is invited to take note of the draft decisions and recommendations contained in the Annex to this document.

**Draft Decisions of the 47th meeting of the IAI Executive Council
Brasilia, Brazil
4 June 2019**

Approval of the Reports of the 45th and 46th meetings of the EC

XLVII/1. The Executive Council approved the reports of its 45th and 46th meetings

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XLVII/2. Invites the Conference of the Parties to adopt the draft IAI Strategic Plan.

XLVII/3. Invites the Conference of the Parties to adopt the draft rules of procedure for the Science-Policy Advisory Committee.

[XLVII/4. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the IAI Auditors Report and IAI Financial Status Report.]

[XLVII/5. XLV/8. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2019-2020 and to consider the Preliminary request 2020-2022.]

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XLVII/5. Instructs the IAI Directorate to inform and, when appropriate, involve the Executive Council in work related to the establishment of a flexible funding mechanism for the Americas.

XLVII/6. Instructs the IAI Directorate to inform on and, when appropriate, involve the Executive Council in joint activities with the Belmont Forum, in particular efforts to establish a flexible mechanism to facilitate the funding of scientific projects on global change in the Americas.