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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH**
Twenty-seven meeting
Brasilia, Brazil, 5-6 June 2019
Agenda item 8

Report of the Science- Advisory Committee (SAC)

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

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: Dr. Edwin Castellanos, Dr. Elena Abraham, Dr. Susana Beatriz Adamo, Dr. Tereza Cavazos, Dr. Alicia Fernandez Cirelli, Dr. Michelle Grunauer, Dr. Carlos Alfredo Joly, Dr. Antonio Magalhaes, Dr. Joshua Tewksbury and Dr. Reynaldo Victoria.
5. In June 2019, two SAC members nominated by the Parties, Dr. Elena Maria Abraham from Argentina and Dr. Joshua Tewksbury from the United States of America, will

conclude their first term and are eligible for re-election, per Article VII, paragraph 2 of the *Agreement*, if nominated by a Party.

6. Notification no. IAIUYDIR/2019/007, published on 1 April 2019, invited Parties to submit nominations for these two vacancies.
7. Additionally, the SAC member nominated by the SAC, Dr. Reynaldo Victoria, will finish his first term and will be eligible for re-election.
8. Finally, Dr. Susana Adamo (CIESIN), nominated by the Associates of the Institute, will complete her second. The Associates of the Institute have been invited to submit names for this vacancy. The Conference of the Parties shall elect SAC members from nominations received from Parties.
9. 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 sciences.

Activities

10. 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.
11. Five teleconferences were held: 3 September, 10 October, 13 November, 12 December 2018, and 7 March 2019. Issues discussed included: improvement of information exchange and communication between the SAC and the SPAC, advice on the review and selection of awards for the Small Grants Call on *Ecosystem Services and Adaptation for Human Well-Being* (SGP-HW), input on the publication of the IAI 25th anniversary special journal issue related to the Collaborative Research Networks round 3 (CRN3) projects and science-policy and feedback on CRN3 project synthesis meetings. The SAC and SPAC also discussed and contributed to the revision of the IAI's Scientific Agenda and Strategic Plan following Decision XXVI/11 (Antigua, 2018).
12. The SAC contributed to the SGP-HW review process which was concluded on 14 December 2018. Four projects were selected for funding. Two other projects were selected once the IAI Directorate was able to secure additional funding.
13. The SAC assisted the *ad hoc* Strategic Plan Working Group on the draft 25-year Strategic Plan. Specifically, the Working Group requested the SAC to be the lead authors on Theme II, *Science for the Sustainability of the Americas*. Four members of the SAC also served on the Working Group: Dr. Tereza Cavazos, Dr. Carlos Joly, Dr. Reynaldo Victoria, and Dr. Edwin Castellanos.
14. At the time of writing, the Chairs of the SAC and the SPAC are members of the advisory selection committee to the post of IAI Science Director.

15. The SAC and SPAC will meet back-to back with EC-47 and CoP-27 meetings to discuss new areas of possible research on global change in light of the upcoming CRN4. Discussions will also center on possible linkages with the Belmont Forum and its Collaborative Research Actions program, ongoing and future funding proposals, the draft IAI Strategic Plan and proposed revisions to the Scientific Agenda.

The IAI Conflicts of Interest and Standards of Ethical Conduct

16. SAC members recommend that the *IAI Conflicts of Interest and Standards of Ethical Conduct* be revised to reflect concern regarding the participation of SAC members acting as investigators or reviewers of IAI supported scientific projects.
17. Accordingly, the SAC suggests a revision of the *IAI Conflicts of Interest and Standards of Ethical Conduct*, Rule 3.2, to reflect this concern. The text of Rule 3.2 would be revised as follows: *Current members of the SAC shall not present proposals to any call by the IAI in any capacity, as PI, co-PI, consultant or advisor. This ban extends for 6 months after the member ceases to participate in the SAC.*
18. The document presenting the revised *IAI Conflicts of Interest and Standards of Ethical Conduct* is available under CoP-27 agenda item 12. The SAC notes that the IAI Directorate has also made suggestions to the *IAI Conflicts of Interest and Standards of Ethical Conduct*.

Recommendation

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