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15 March 2019

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-seven meeting
Brasilia, Brazil, 5 - 6 June 2019
Agenda item 9**

Report of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) with the assistance of the IAI Directorate.

Background

2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 21st meeting (CoP-21, Montevideo, 2013), adopted Decision XXI/13, which states:

The CoP approved the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Science-Policy Liaison. The committee will provide advice to the CoP and the IAI Directorate on how to use and design science for policy and decision-making.

3. The Conference of the Parties, at its 26th meeting (CoP-26, Antigua, 2018) adopted Decision XXVI/8, which states:

The Conference of the Parties directs the Executive Council and the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures, with the support of the IAI Directorate, to draft rules of procedure for election of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee for consideration at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

4. CoP-26 also adopted Decisions XXVI/9, XXVI/10 and XXVI/11, which state, respectively:

The Conference of the Parties directs the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee to hold its meetings, physical and virtual, jointly.

The Conference of the Parties decided to re-schedule elections to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee to its twenty-seventh meeting.

The Conference of the Parties instructs the Directorate, in collaboration with the Science Advisory Committee, the Science-Policy Advisory Committee and interested Parties, to draft a new IAI Strategic Plan for consideration at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Membership

5. The current membership of the SPAC includes: Dr. Brigitte Baptiste, Dr. Walter Baethgen, Dr. Gilberto Cámara, Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza, Dr. Maria Netto, Dr. Evelia Rivera-Arriaga and Dr. James Rusak. In June 2019, two (2) SPAC members, Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza, nominated by the Parties, and Dr. James Rusak, nominated by the SPAC, concluded their first term, both are eligible for re-election if nominated. Dr. James Rusak will resign from the SPAC at the conclusion of his term.
6. In accordance with Decision XXVI/10 (CoP-26, Antigua, 2018), elections to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee were rescheduled for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
7. Nominations to the SPAC will depend on adoption by Parties at the 27th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the draft Rules of Procedure for the SPAC which are available in Annex II of this document.
8. Assuming the draft Rules of Procedure for the SPAC are approved by the Parties, the IAI Directorate will invite Parties to submit nominations to the SPAC during the upcoming intersessional period.

Activities

9. Per Decision XXVI/9 (Antigua, 2018), the Science-Policy Advisory Committee held its meetings jointly with the Scientific Advisory Committee during the 2018-2019 intersessional period. The joint meetings have been successful, resulting in enhanced communication, participation, and exchange of knowledge between the Scientific and Science-Policy Advisory Committees.
10. Five teleconferences were held: on 3 September, 10 October, 13 November, 12 December 2018, 7 March 2019. Issues discussed included: improvement of

information exchange and communication between the Scientific Advisory Committee (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 CRN3 projects and science-policy, feedback on CRN3 project synthesis meetings, as well as important contributions to the revision of the IAI's Scientific Agenda and Strategic Plan following Decision XXVI/11 (Antigua, 2018) and the merger of the SPAC with the SAC.

11. SGP-HW review process was concluded on 14 December 2018. Four projects were selected for funding.
12. The SPAC will meet in Brasilia, Brazil on 3 June 2019 together with the SAC, prior to CoP-27 and EC-47 and EC-48 meetings, to discuss new areas of possible research on global change, particularly in light of the upcoming CRN4. Discussions will also center on linkages with the Belmont Forum and its Collaborative Research Actions program, ongoing and future funding proposals, and the IAI Strategic Plan and Scientific Agenda.
13. Pursuant to Decision XXVI/8 (Antigua, 2018), the IAI Directorate drafted Rules of Procedure for consideration at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of Parties. The Rules of Procedure are contained in Annex II to this document for consideration of the Parties.

Recommendation

The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decision contained in Annex I to the present document.

Annex I

Draft decision of the Conference of the Parties

Science-Policy Advisory Committee

Directed to the Parties

XVII/ . The Parties are invited to adopt the Rules of Procedure for the Science Policy Advisory Committee.

Annex II

DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE SCIENCE-POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

RULE 1

The Science-Policy Advisory Committee shall be comprised of five members elected by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to Decision XXI/13 (Montevideo, 2013).

RULE 2

To comply with the provision in the preceding Rule, the Parties, at the request of the Conference of the Parties, may submit the name of one candidate. Using the slate received, the Conference of the Parties shall elect the number of persons necessary to fill the vacancies that exist.

RULE 3

The Science-Policy Advisory Committee, at the request of the conference of the Parties, shall submit a slate no less than twice and not more than four times the number of vacancies to be filled.

RULE 4

All candidates nominated must provide a curriculum vitae.

RULE 5

The Science-Policy Advisory Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee shall hold its meetings, physical and virtual, jointly, pursuant to Decision XXVI/9 (Antigua, 2018).

RULE 6

The Science-Policy Advisory Committee shall perform the duties as directed by Decision XXI/13 (Montevideo, 2013) to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties and the IAI Directorate on how to use and design science for policy and decision-making.

RULE 7

The Chair of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee shall serve for a term of two years.

RULE 8

A quorum shall consist of an absolute majority of Science-Policy Advisory Committee.

RULE 9

Current members of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee shall not present proposals to any call by the IAI in any capacity, as Principal Investigator, co-Principal Investigator, collaborator, consultant, or advisor. This ban extends for six months after the member ceases to participate in the Science-Policy Advisory Committee.