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21 June 2018

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-sixth meeting
Antigua, Guatemala, 20-21 June 2018**

**Report of the 26th meeting of the Conference to the Parties to the
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research**

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

Introduction

2. The Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research held its twenty-sixth meeting (CoP-26) in Antigua, Guatemala, from 20 to 21 June 2018.
3. The account of the proceedings and discussions of the meeting are provided in section I of the report.
4. The meeting adopted 45 Decisions and these are provided in section II of this report.

Section I

Proceedings of the Meeting

Introduction

5. In accordance with *the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article V, *The Conference of the Parties*, paragraph 3, the 26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research was held in Antigua, Guatemala from 20 to 21 June 2018.
6. All Parties were invited to attend. The following Parties to the Agreement attended: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States, and Uruguay.
7. The list of participants is available on the IAI website at: <http://www.iai.int/26th-meeting-of-the-conference-of-the-parties/>.

Opening of the Meeting

8. On Wednesday, 20 June, the IAI CoP-26 opened with the national anthem of Guatemala, followed by a minute of silence for the victims following the eruption of Volcán de Fuego on 3 June 2018.
9. The Chair of CoP-26, Dr. Oscar Manuel Cóbar Pinto, National Secretary for Science and Technology (SENACYT), Guatemala, opened the CoP and welcomed delegates. He highlighted that scientific knowledge is the best resource for all countries in all regions to tackle the issues of global change.
10. At the opening plenary session, in addition to the opening statement made by Dr. Oscar Cóbar Pinto, statements were made by Dr. Rafael Barrios, representative for the Vice President of Guatemala and the IAI Executive Director, Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva.

Opening statements

11. Dr. Rafael Barrios, representing the Vice President of Guatemala, welcomed the 26th Conference of the Parties to Antigua, Guatemala. He described how Guatemala is facing extreme threats from climate change and underscored the need for more and improved knowledge on climate change, highlighting the relevance of the IAI in this regard. Dr. Barrios acknowledged that the meeting could provide the mechanisms for Guatemala to make informed decisions to meet the many challenges arising from climate change. He ended his address by inviting the Parties to bring together their collective knowledge to learn from each other and to share their knowledge and expertise.
12. The IAI Executive Director expressed gratitude to Guatemala for its exceptionally warm welcome to the Parties and the faultless organization of the meeting. He stated that the Americas are unique in that it is a continent in peace. The IAI is a reflection of what is possible in the Americas, especially with regard to collaboration, joint activities and joining forces to meet urgent challenges related to global change. He reiterated that the IAI provides the means to solve problems that no one country can face alone. The

importance of this meeting is that it allows Parties to articulate how they wish to collectively move forward in the next 25 years.

13. Dr. Cóbar Pinto opened the first day of meetings by extending a warm welcome to Party representatives and observers and stated his hope for a successful meeting. He stated that Guatemala is honored by the presence of the Parties, especially in light of the recent volcano eruption that has highlighted the need for science to inform policy on natural disasters and risk reduction.

1ST SESSION, 20 JUNE 2018

Administrative and financial matters

Agenda item 1: Election of CoP Bureau

14. Parties elected the composition of the CoP Bureau. The following Parties were elected: Guatemala (Chair), Uruguay and Panama.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda

15. Following the election of members to the CoP Bureau, the Chair invited Parties to adopt the provisional agenda to CoP-26 (IAI/COP/26/2).
16. The IAI Executive Director notified the Parties of a minor change to the agenda. The SPAC election agenda topic was to be combined with the report from the Chair of the SAC.
17. Parties adopted the amended agenda by consensus.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the Minutes of the 25th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

18. Under this item of the agenda, Parties were invited to adopt the *Minutes of the 25th meeting of the Conference of the Parties* (CoP-25, Bogota) (IAI/COP/26/3).
19. Parties adopted the Minutes of CoP-25.

Report of the SAC and SPAC on the Science Policy Workshop and Case presentation by SENACYT, Guatemala

20. The Chair invited the Executive Director of the Asian-Pacific Network (APN) to present the work of his organization. Focusing on the strategic direction and plan of work of the APN, the Executive Director invited the CoP to consider possible areas of collaboration.
21. On conclusion of the above presentation, the Chair invited the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee to present the conclusions of the Science-Policy Workshop which had been held on 19 June 2018 in Antigua, Guatemala.

22. The Chair of the SAC gave a summary of the presentations made during the 2nd Science Policy Workshop¹ including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) *Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Americas*², the IAI Open Data Initiative, and science-policy advances from three IAI-supported projects.
23. He underlined the importance for CoP-26 to articulate a vision for the IAI's direction in the coming years. He discussed the work of the SAC and SPAC presented in the workshop, related to, inter alia, the IAI open data initiative, the drafting of a new IAI strategic plan, and science diplomacy. He also highlighted work related to dry forests, nitrogen cycles and AGUASCAPES as examples of how the IAI promoted scientific research and linked research to the national and international policy agendas.
24. The Science-Policy Workshop participants discussed in depth the complexity of systems, the need to study urban issues and poverty to better understand challenges facing biodiversity and the need for researchers to be trained in science-policy processes.
25. On conclusion of the presentation on the Science-Policy Workshop, the Chair invited the officials from the National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation to present on how science, technology and information supports national priorities in Guatemala, how the organization funds research, and how Guatemala is structuring research on global and climate change research.
26. Prior to the presentations, the Chair described science and technology in the Guatemalan context, and outlined the ways in which financing is provided for research and science projects in his country. He noted that investment in science, technology and innovation (STI) represents only 0.029% of Guatemala's GDP, the lowest in the region. He continued by noting that Guatemala is one of the few countries in the region with a constitutional article on science and technology³; two laws have been passed to operationalize the article; and the budget exclusively for funding science and technology totals around US\$3 million annually. He called for, inter alia: more student involvement in knowledge generation; building research skills; building a "knowledge society" based on STI; and more government investment in STI.
27. With regard to Guatemala's *National Climate Change Action Plan (Plan de Acción Nacional de Cambio Climático, PANCC)*, Dr. Edwin Castellanos, speaking in his capacity as professor at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, emphasized the need to accelerate national action towards reducing the impacts of climate change and bridging the gap between the current situation in Guatemala and what is required under the Paris Agreement.
28. He also described the establishment of the Guatemalan System of Climate Change Science (SGCCC), a national, multi-stakeholder science body on climate change,

¹ See: *Report of the 2nd Science-Policy Workshop of the IAI* (<http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/iai-cop26-spw-fnrpt-e.pdf>)

² See: *IPBES Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Americas* (<https://www.ipbes.net/assessment-reports/americas>)

³ See: *Constitución Política de la República de Guatemala*, Article 80: Artículo 80.- Promoción de la ciencia y la tecnología. El Estado reconoce y promueve la ciencia y la tecnología como bases fundamentales del desarrollo nacional. La ley normará lo pertinente.

which evaluates and generates scientific information on climate science and adaptation and mitigation. This information is submitted to policymakers for their consideration. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of indigenous knowledge and traditional ways of life in Guatemala and how this science can benefit current research.

29. The Chair opened the floor to discussion. Comments were made by the representative from Brazil.
30. During the ensuing discussion, Brazil stated that cooperation was fundamental to science which aimed to understand regional challenges. He also described how uncertainty was discussed as something that scientists had to deal with every day but it was important to work with policy makers to understand uncertainty and how it did and did not affect decisions.
31. On conclusion of discussion, the Chair opened the floor to presentations on Mayan science and civilization.
32. Mr. Tata Felix Sarazua, a representative from the Sotz'il, a Mayan community, stated that Mayan science is "an energy" that fosters research and provides advice to their communities. He explained the concept of 'cosmovision' in which Mayan science and technology combine ancestral knowledge, spirituality and epistemology.
33. Following his presentation, Ms. Nana Francisca Salazar, representative from the Sotz'il, conducted a Mayan ceremony representing appreciation of, and communication with, nature.
34. The Chair continued by inviting Dr. Tomás Barrientos, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, to speak on a new perspective on Mayan civilization.
35. In his presentation, Dr. Barrientos stated that while the Mayan civilization existed for more than 1,000 years, the focus of research has been on the abandonment of cities, rather than on the origins of Mayan civilization and on how it survived for so long. He highlighted the Mayan's efficient social and political organization, public order and leadership, and well-managed resources, noting that agriculture, and water and resource management sustained a population of approximately 11,000,000 people.

2ND SESSION, 20 JUNE 2018

Agenda item 4: Administrative and financial matters

Agenda item 4(a): Report of the Credentials Committee

36. Agenda item 4(a) was taken up during the 2nd session of the meeting on 20 June 2018. In accordance with the *Standing rules of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, rule 25, the Chair of the Credentials Committee informed the Conference of the Parties that 12 Parties were registered attending the meeting and that their credentials were in full compliance with the *Standing Rules*.

37. Credentials that were fully compliant were received from the representatives of the following Parties to the Agreement: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ecuador, United States, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay.
38. The Chair of the Credentials Committee, Mr. Paul Filmer, United States, informed the Conference of the Parties that a quorum of accredited Representatives of one-half of the active IAI Parties⁴ had been achieved in accordance with rule 25 of the *Standing Rules*.

Agenda item 4(b): Report of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures

39. Agenda item 4b was presented by the Chair of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures, Mr. Paul Filmer, United States.
40. In his presentation, the Chair noted the recommendation in his report that amendments are not required to the Rules of Procedure at CoP-26.
41. The Chair referred to notification no. NT 2018/002 which was published on 9 February 2018 and which invited Parties to submit nominations to the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures.
42. At the time of writing of document *Report of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures*, no. IAI/COP/26/4b, nominations had not been received by the IAI Directorate.
43. On 13 April 2018, Argentina submitted a nomination to the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures. The candidate's curriculum vitae was shared with the Chair of the Committee and representatives at the Conference of the Parties.
44. The IAI Directorate noted that the *Standing rules of the Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Chapter VIII, rule 46, states that *the Conference of the Parties shall elect a Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures of three (3) individuals*.
45. Accordingly, at its 26th meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected by consensus the candidate from Argentina.
46. The Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures is currently comprised of 2 members: one from Argentina and one from the United States.

Agenda item 5: Financial and budgetary matters

Agenda item 5(a): Annex 1: Overview of the financial status for the financial year 2017-2018

47. The Chair invited the IAI Directorate to provide an overview of the financial status for the fiscal year 2017-2018 and to highlight any matters of concern.

⁴ Rule 24 of the Standing rules provides a definition of an inactive Party: *If a Party has not participated in any of the three previous Conferences of the Parties and the Party has not over this three-year period designated a Permanent Representative for the IAI, that Party shall be considered to be not active.*

48. The IAI Acting Administration, Finance and Operations Officer presented a comparison of the budgets from previous years. She noted that expenses remained stable and that the IAI Directorate continues to evaluate and review procedures with a view to eliminate duplication of work and increase efficiency. This exercise has resulted in a savings of USD 6,000 in expenses related to information, communication and network technologies. The 2019-2021 preliminary budget has increased slightly but the requested contributions have not increased.
49. The Conference of the Parties took note of the document.

Agenda item 5(b): Annex 2: Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2018-2019 and Preliminary request 2019-2021

50. The IAI Directorate was invited by the Chair to provide a summary of the proposal for the core budget and country contributions for fiscal year 2018-2019 and the preliminary request for 2019-2021.
51. The summary began by noting that this proposal had been reviewed by the Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC), who forwarded its recommendation of approval to the IAI Executive Council. The IAI Executive Council had forwarded its recommendation for approval to CoP-26.
52. The IAI Acting Administration, Finance and Operations Officer presented the Core Budget and the Preliminary request. She noted the proposed FY 2018-2019 core budget of US\$1.4 million and the preliminary request of US\$1.5 million each for FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021. EC Chair, Dr. Maria Uhle, clarified that the preliminary requests for FY 2019-2021 are a projection and should not be considered for approval. The preliminary request for fiscal years 2019-2021 shows an increase of USD100,000 which requires a corresponding slight increase in Party contributions. The EC Chair informed representatives that since 2014, Party contributions had not increased. Contributions, as of April 2018, represent 52% of expected Party contributions, a situation that is unsustainable to the operations of the IAI Directorate in the long-term.
53. The IAI Executive Director stated that the lack of Party contributions is placing a serious strain on the ability of the IAI Directorate to meet its workplan. He reiterated that this situation cannot continue in the long-term and that the IAI Directorate will need to curtail services and will not be able to support many activities as obliged by the decisions under discussion. He concluded by informing representatives that the contributions to the IAI are significantly smaller than those of other American regional organizations, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the Organization of American States being cases in point. He invited Parties to consider this situation. He expressed his hope that Parties late in contributions would consider his comments.
54. The Chair invited representatives and observers to comment on this agenda item. Comments were made by representatives from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Panama, Mexico, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay.
55. With regard to Party contributions, Uruguay shared his country's fundraising experience of establishing a national committee for the IAI to engage relevant line ministries, including the ministry of housing and environment. Through this committee

Uruguay's support to the IAI has been shared by more than one agency. The representative from the United States highlighted a similar experience in her country, the United States Global Change Research Program, which establishes dialogues among 13 federal agencies. She encouraged Parties to consider undertaking similar exercises.

56. The discussion included a statement from a Party that the debt from lack of contributions is equal to a year of operations costs. It was suggested that the Parties consider creating a Working Group to analyze the state of Party contributions, how long the IAI can function under the current situation, and the relative contribution of the IAI to the member Parties. The Financial and Administrative Committee is encouraged to be part of the committee.
57. The Executive Director informed that Parties have been contacted about contributions in arrears and that it is possible that in-kind and other resource contributions could be included with monetary contributions.
58. The representative from Chile reminded representatives that, per Decision XXIII/18, the *CoP decided to charge the EC with creating a committee that would analyze member country participation in the IAI in terms of participation in IAI meetings, payment of contributions and participation in IAI science projects*. The committee was established at CoP-23 (Lima, 2015), and presided by Chile. A presentation on the analysis undertaken by the Committee was made during CoP-24 (Santiago, 2016). Representatives were invited to review the presentation⁵.
59. Delegates also highlighted the importance of raising the visibility of the IAI with regards to the knowledge and support that may be provided to Parties, according to their needs and priorities.
60. Discussion also focused on how to support Parties that face difficulties in securing funds to attend the CoP.
61. In this regard, the IAI Directorate stated that it would be helpful to establish a sponsored delegate program to assist Parties facing financial challenges to allow their participation in meetings of the CoP.
62. A Working Group comprised of Uruguay, United States, Brazil, and the Financial and Administrative Committee was formed to review Party Contributions and the relative value of the IAI. The report will be presented to CoP-27 for consideration.
63. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions contained in document *Financial and budgetary matters Annex 2: Core budget and country contributions for FY 2018-2019 and preliminary request 2019-2021*, no. IAI/COP/26/5/ANNEX/b.

Agenda item 5(c): Auditors report

64. On conclusion of the summary on agenda item 5b, the Chair invited the IAI Directorate to present the findings of the Auditors report.

⁵ See: *IAI Member Country Contributions and Participation: A Path Forward* (http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/IAI_Member_Country_Contributions_and_Participation_Presentation-2.pdf)

65. In the presentation by the IAI Directorate, the Conference of the Parties was informed that the Auditors report reached an opinion that the IAI's financial statement presented fairly in all material respects the financial position of the IAI.

Agenda Item 5(d): Report of the Financial and Administrative ad hoc Committee

66. The representative of the United States presented, on behalf of the Chair of the FAC to the Conference of the Parties, its review of the planning, preparation and implementation of IAI financial, administrative and project management issues.
67. The representative noted that it was recommended to the Executive Council that it forwarded the IAI's core budget request for the fiscal year 2018-2019 to the Conference the Parties for approval. The FAC recommended moving towards the United Nations pay scale but to delay use of the United Nations post adjustment. The IAI Directorate was commended for receiving an unqualified audit.
68. The Conference of the Parties approved the report (IAI/COP/26/5/ANNEX/d).

Agenda item 6: Decision XXV/20: Membership of the Financial and Administration Committee (FAC)

69. The Chair invited the IAI Directorate to introduce agenda item 6.
70. The IAI Directorate informed representatives that a notification was sent on 29 January 2018 inviting Parties to submit nominations to the IAI Directorate for membership in the FAC.
71. At the time of writing of document *Decision XXV/20: Membership of the Financial and Administration Committee (FAC)*, no. IAI/COP/26/6, nominations had not been received by the IAI Directorate.
72. On 13 April 2018, Argentina submitted a nomination to the FAC. The candidate's curriculum vitae was shared with the Chair of the FAC, members of the Executive Council and representatives at the Conference of the Parties.
73. The IAI Directorate noted that the *Standing rules of the Executive Council of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Chapter VII, rule 30, provides the mandate to the Executive Council for the election of members to the FAC.
74. Accordingly, at its 45th meeting (Antigua, 2018), the Executive Council elected by consensus the candidate from Argentina.

Executive Council

Agenda item 7: Report from the Executive Council

75. The Chair opened the 1st session of the meeting of 21 June 2018 and invited the Chair of the Executive Council (EC) to introduce its report.

76. The Chair of the EC announced that nominations for the Executive Council are open and mentioned the need to consider geographic diversity.
77. The Chair of the EC highlighted the results from the 45th EC meeting⁶. She thanked the IAI Open Data initiative project team for their contributions to the IAI community. With regard to the draft decision on the IAI Strategic Plan, she emphasized the need for the EC, SAC, SPAC, and Parties to contribute to its development. She also noted that the draft IAI long-term communications strategy will be discussed at this meeting along with the long-term funding strategy.
78. The Chair of the EC announced to the Parties that the IAI Directorate had submitted an Expression of Interest to host the Secretariat of the Belmont Forum in Uruguay. The submission was successful. Uruguay was acknowledged for their hospitality as the host for the IAI and the IAI Directorate was commended for having the most competitive Expression of Interest to host the Belmont Forum⁷.
79. The Chair followed with an overview of the discussions during the 2nd Science-Policy Workshop⁸ that was held jointly with the 45th EC meeting on 19 June 2018. She spoke on the need to also consider socio-economic data and give focus to urban systems. She continued by noting the importance of the discussions on IAI Open Data and acknowledged the contributions by the partners that made this initiative possible.
80. On the new IAI Strategic Plan, the Chair stressed the importance of understanding the priorities of the Parties, and where the IAI would be able to add value. The IAI Strategic Plan should refer to the role of the social, natural and physical sciences, promote transdisciplinary research and focus on Party needs for food security, social and governmental security, and meeting targets found in international framework agreements.
81. Following her introduction, representatives were invited to make comments. Comments were made by representatives from Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay and the Executive Director.
82. The importance of the association with the Belmont Forum was highlighted and the Parties were invited to view the Belmont Forum's website to see the potential of bringing resources to the region.
83. Parties discussed the recommendation from the EC-45 for the CoP to direct the Directorate in collaboration with the EC, SAC and SPAC, and interested Parties to draft a new Strategic Plan for consideration at CoP-27. The Executive Director explained that the IAI Strategic Plan adopted at CoP-18 (Asuncion, 2011) through Decision XVIII/16, was no longer in force as CoP-18 approved it for one year only.

⁶ For more information, see: *Report of the 45th meeting of the IAI Executive Council*, <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/ec-45-fnrpt-e.pdf>

⁷ For more information see notification 2017/003, IAI Directorate to host the Belmont Forum Secretariat in Montevideo (<http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/nt-2017-003-en.pdf>)

⁸ See: *Report of the 2nd Science-Policy Workshop of the IAI* (<http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/iai-cop26-spw-fnrpt-e.pdf>)

84. The discussion on the above recommendation stated that the EC should be involved in the strategic planning process. It was also reiterated that the EC and the Directorate should reach out to the Parties to align the Strategic Plan with Party priorities and needs.
85. Parties asked for the setting of milestones for the completion of the IAI Strategic Plan with sufficient time for their review and comments. It was agreed that an outline of the Strategic Plan would be available to Parties for their review in three months from the date of the closure of CoP-26. A first draft would be available in 5 months from that date. In both cases, Parties would be given a month to complete their reviews. The final draft would be presented at CoP-27 for consideration. Guatemala requested to be included in the IAI Strategic Plan working group.
86. The Chair of the EC noted the recommendation from the joint meeting of the SAC and SPAC to re-schedule elections of members to the SPAC and request that rules of procedure be drafted for the Committee. She reiterated the call from the joint meeting to hold SAC-SPAC meetings, physical and virtual, jointly. She concluded by informing representatives that these recommendations are presented as decisions from the EC for consideration by CoP-26.
87. Finally, the Chair informed participants of her participation in the Planning meeting of the authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology of the Organization of American States (OAS), which was held in Washington, D.C., United States, on 21 to 22 May 2018. She highlighted the interest of participants on the IAI's scientific and capacity building programs and described the opportunities for collaboration and joint activities.
88. On the margins of this agenda item, the IAI Executive Director presented the request from the Organization of American States (OAS) to adopt a decision on collaboration with the IAI. The United States suggested the Directorate ask the OAS to include similar language regarding the IAI in its equivalent process. Mexico stated that such a decision should focus on continuing dialogue with the OAS on potential collaboration, rather than on approval of a formal partnership. It was agreed that the draft MoU would be shared with the IAI Executive Council for comments and approval.
89. The Chair invited the Conference of the Parties to consider the Decisions agreed to at EC-45. The Conference of the Parties adopted the Decisions of the 45th meeting of the Executive Council⁹ including the draft amended decision on the establishment of an MoU with the OAS.

The Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science Policy Advisory Committee

Agenda item 8: Report of the SAC

90. The Chair of the SAC, Dr. Edwin Castellanos, was invited to present its report and to highlight issues of relevance and concern.

⁹ See: Decisions of the 45th meeting of the IAI Executive Council, document no. IAI/EC/45/dec (<http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/EC-45-dec-e.pdf>)

91. He described how the SAC serves as the science advisory committee to the IAI. He also reported on the current SAC election process and described the participation of the SAC in the new IAI *Co-funded Small Grant Program: the role of ecosystem services in adaptation to global change for human wellbeing* (SGP-HW) call for proposals.
92. The Chair described the SAC as being comprised of 10 members, per paragraph 2, Article VII, of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*. He noted that, during the intersessional period, the SAC had achieved gender balance with five male members and five female members. The knowledge and expertise held by members represent a variety of scientific disciplines. He noted that the majority of members have expertise in the natural and physical sciences but that two members have expertise in the social sciences. The Chair requested, on behalf of the SAC, to have more balance of disciplines in future elections of the SAC. There were five nominations for two vacancies on the SAC.
93. He stated that one of the principle responsibilities of the SAC is to assist in the peer review of proposals and proposal selection, per paragraph 4(b), Article VII of the *Agreement*. During this intersessional period, the IAI held a call for proposals for small projects focusing on ecosystem services and adaptation, i.e.: *the SGP-HW*. The call opened on 21 March 2018 and closed on 27 May 2018. The IAI received 92 pre-proposals. The SAC and SPAC met on 17 June 2018 to review the pre-proposals and recommended a total of 11 pre-proposals to move to the next phase of the process. The call asked for projects that adhere to a participatory approach with policy makers and stakeholders. It also emphasized the need for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research. This modality of research is the most recent effort from the IAI to pioneer methods to better understand the science to policy processes, make use of its leadership in transdisciplinarity and design projects in this regard.
94. The Chair also reported on the Collaborative Research Network (CRN3) Researchers meeting which was held in Cancun, Mexico from 29 November to 1 December 2017¹⁰. Several SAC and SPAC members attended and participated actively in activities and discussions of the meeting.
95. The Chair provided a brief report on the 2nd joint SAC and SPAC meeting and quickly summarized the recommendations arising from the meeting, namely, the need to draft a new IAI strategic plan and establish better procedures for the coordination of the SAC and SPAC.
96. Representatives were invited to comment on the report on conclusion of the presentation. Comments were made by the representative from United States.
97. She praised the work of the SAC and emphasized its important role in the development of the new IAI Strategic plan.
98. The Chair of the SAC and the IAI Directorate were thanked for their work related to the SGP-HW and their efforts to ensure that scientific research supported by the IAI includes transdisciplinarity as one of its core elements. She mentioned that

¹⁰ For more information see: <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/report-crn3-meeting-cancun2017.pdf>

transdisciplinary research is not taught in graduate school and acknowledged the IAI's capacity building program to raise awareness and expertise in this topic.

99. The Conference of the Parties was invited to take note of the report (IAI/COP/26/8).

Agenda item 9: Report of the SPAC

100. On conclusion of the report by the Chair of the SAC, a representative of the SPAC was invited by the Chair to present the report of the SPAC and to highlight issues of relevance and concern.
101. The representative of the SPAC reported on the joint meeting of the SAC and SPAC from Monday, 18 June 2018. He informed participants that SPAC is seeking ways to strengthen its function and better articulate its role. SPAC meetings have not been consistently attended, nor have members felt that the Committee was provided with a clear mandate. He reported that it was decided that the SAC and SPAC would work more closely together by holding joint meetings, physical and virtual. The representative asked the CoP to review the purpose of the SPAC and provide more guidance.
102. Representatives were invited to make comments on the report on conclusion of the presentation. Comments were made by representatives from Brazil, Mexico, Panama, United States, and Uruguay; the Chair of the SAC and the IAI Executive Director.
103. The ensuing discussion explored the causes of the current challenges faced by the SPAC and suggested ways to better support the SPAC. The establishment of the SPAC was to provide advice to the CoP and the IAI Directorates on how to use and design science for policy and decision-making, per Decision XXI/13. It was suggested that there may not have been sufficient opportunities for the SPAC to become embedded in IAI activities.
104. The IAI Executive Director informed participants on the establishment of a new post at the IAI Directorate on science-policy. He noted that the post was made possible through the generous support of the United States. One of the responsibilities of the new science-policy officer will be support to the SPAC.
105. It was requested by Parties that the rules and roles of the SPAC should be clearly outlined in the new IAI Strategic Plan. Both the SAC and SPAC need to work better as advisors to the CoP.
106. The Conference of the Parties took note of the report (IAI/COP/26/9).

Agenda item 9(a): Decision XXV/19: Joint SAC, SPAC and EC-CoP meetings

107. The Chair noted Decision XXV/19 which *directed the Directorate to ensure that the SAC, SPAC, and CoP meetings overlapped to favor interaction*. He invited the IAI Directorate to report on its efforts to fulfill this Decision.
108. The IAI Directorate reported that every effort was made to ensure that the meetings overlap as indicated by the organization of the Joint SAC and SPAC meeting of 18 June 2018, which was held back-to-back with the 45th meeting of the Executive

Council which in turn was held back-to-back with CoP-26 (Antigua, 2018). He also referred to the recommendation and Decision from the Joint SPAC and SAC meeting and EC-45 to hold SAC and SPAC meetings jointly, including physical and virtual meetings.

109. The many positive outcomes of organizing these meetings to overlap were highlighted, particularly with regard to opportunities in stimulating discussions related to the science to policy processes, introduction of the IAI's scientific output to SPAC members and the possibility of greater interaction between the IAI scientific community and its representatives.

110. The Conference of the Parties was invited to take note of the report (IAI/COP/26/9a).

Agenda item 10: Report of the Committee to recommend candidates for the election of the SAC members

111. On taking up agenda item 10, the Chair referred to the *Standing rules of the Conference of the Parties*, Chapter X, rules 65 to 67 on the election of members.

112. He referred to notification no. IAIUYDIR/2018/008 which informed Parties on nominations by Parties received for membership in the SAC and the SPAC. At the time of writing the notification, two (2) vacancies were open and five (5) nominations were received for the SAC: Argentina: Dr. Alicia Fernández Cirelli, Guatemala: Dr. Edwin Castellanos, Peru: Dr. Sara Purca and Dr. Jhan Carlo Espinoza and Uruguay: Dr. Mariana Meerhoff Scaffo. The curricula vitae of candidates were made available to Parties. The Chair opened the floor for nominations or volunteers to join the Committee to recommend candidates.

113. The Conference of the Parties established the Committee with representatives from Brazil, Mexico and the United States.

Agenda item 11: Report of the Committee to recommend candidates for the election of the SPAC members

114. The Chair continued by noting Decision XXI/13 which established the SPAC and the need to elect new members to the SPAC. Similar to discussion under agenda item 10, reference was also made to notification no. IAIUYDIR/2018/008. At the time of writing the notification, one (1) vacancy was open and two (2) nominations were received from Argentina and Peru.

115. The IAI Executive Director presented a report on issues related to SPAC elections. He first mentioned the lack of rules of procedures to guide elections. He continued by mentioning the Decision adopted under agenda item 7 to hold joint meetings and that it would be difficult to organize virtual meetings with a large number of participants. He concluded by also noting the Decision, adopted under agenda item 7, to re-schedule the election to CoP-27.

116. The Chair opened the floor to discussion; there were interventions by Brazil, the United States, the Chair of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures, and the IAI Executive Director.

117. During the ensuing discussion, it was asked if the same rules of procedure already established for the SAC could be used for the SPAC elections. The Chair of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures informed the CoP that the SAC is a committee formed by the IAI *Agreement* whereas the SPAC is a committee formed by the CoP, so the rules of procedure are not interchangeable. Two options were presented: the SPAC could be invited to create their own rules of procedure or the CoP could form a working group to write them.
118. It was agreed that the SPAC would be invited to draft their own rules of procedure to be approved by the CoP.
119. The Conference of the Parties noted the report.

CLOSURE OF 2ND SESSION, 20 JUNE 2018

120. The Chair closed the 2nd session of the meeting at 5:30pm.

1ST SESSION, 21 JUNE 2018

Ad hoc Committee reports

Agenda item 12: Ad hoc Committee reports: Ad hoc committee report on Decision XXV/25: Enhancing activity of IAI Member Country representatives

121. The Chair invited the IAI Directorate to present document no. IAI/COP/26/12 on *Ad hoc committee report on Decision XXV/25: Enhancing activity of IAI Member Country representatives*.
122. The Directorate noted that it had worked closely with some Parties including Brazil, the United States and Uruguay, to analyze Party participation in the IAI in terms of, inter alia, payment of contributions and participation in IAI science projects.
123. The Conference of the Parties took note of the report.

Agenda item 12(a): Ad hoc Committee reports: Article XI: Associates of the Institute (Rede Clima)

124. In his introduction to agenda item 12a, the Chair reminded representatives of Article XI of the *Agreement* which stipulates the procedures for the Conference of the Parties to invite States outside the region, regional or intergovernmental organizations, and industries other non-governmental and private organizations to become Associates of the IAI.
125. On completion of his introduction, he invited the representative from Brazil to present his document, no. IAI/COP/26/12a, recommending Rede Clima as an Associate of the IAI.

126. Brazil introduced this document, noting that Rede Clima is a Brazilian network of scientists that works closely with the Government of Brazil and provides climate change analysis and studies on climate change by contributing to IPCC assessment reports. He stressed Rede Clima's connections to other organizations in implementing the Paris Agreement. He extended his gratitude to the Parties for considering Rede Clima as an Associate to the IAI.
127. On completion of Brazil's presentation, the Chair opened the floor for comments. Comments were made by the representatives from United States and Uruguay; the Chair of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures and the Chair of the SAC.
128. Comments supported the draft decision from Brazil inviting CoP-27 to invite Rede Clima to become an Associate of the IAI.
129. The Chair of the SAC was invited to comment on the invitation and stated his support for the invitation.
130. The Chair continued by inviting the Conference of the Parties to consider adoption of the draft decisions in document no. IAI/COP/26/12a.
131. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions.

Agenda item 12(b): Ad hoc Committee reports: Article XI: Associates of the Institute (AAAS)

132. The Chair continued by inviting the representative from the United States to introduce the document, no. IAI/COP/26/12b, recommending the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) as an Associate of the IAI.
133. The representative introduced this agenda item, noting that the AAAS has played a key role in developing science diplomacy in the United States. She also informed representatives that it is the world's largest general scientific society, and publishes the journal *Science*. She emphasized that the IAI has already worked jointly with the AAAS on projects in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Panama and elsewhere. She concluded by describing a fellowship program by the AAAS in the United States where the candidates are embedded in a federal agency for 2-3 years. Moreover, she noted the AAAS's success at fundraising. The United States invited the representatives to consider the draft decision.
134. After the concluding remarks by the United States, the Chair invited representatives and observers to make comments and to consider adoption of the decisions contained in document no. IAI/COP/26/12b.
135. Comments were made by the representative from Uruguay, the Chair of the SAC and the IAI Executive Director.
136. Parties acknowledged that the AAAS has the potential to be an essential partner with the IAI on science diplomacy in the Southern Cone and in the Caribbean. An invitation to the AAAS would formalize a relationship that can be mutually beneficial and enhance activities in the region on science-policy and science-diplomacy.

137. The Chair invited the representatives to consider the draft decisions contained in document no. IAI/COP/26/12b.

138. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions.

Agenda item 12(c): Ad hoc Committee reports: Article XI: Associates of the Institute (Future Earth)

139. After the introduction of agenda item 12c, the Chair invited the representative from the United States to introduce the recommendation of Future Earth as an Associate of the IAI.

140. The representative of the United States introduced Future Earth as a non-governmental organization with hubs in Japan, France, Canada, Sweden, and the United States. It also counts on an established network of regional partnerships in Cyprus, Egypt, and South Africa. She noted that Future Earth and IAI have been actively working to connect science to policy processes with shared missions.

141. She continued by describing that Future Earth and the IAI share the same mandate to develop knowledge-action networks that bring together scientists and policy makers to co-produce knowledge. They have similar science diplomacy and capacity building activities. Moreover, Future Earth has been working with the Belmont Forum to host workshops and support activities. They play a leading role in IPBES and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; a member of Future Earth serves on the SPAC.

142. Following the comments by the United States, the Chair opened the floor for discussion and comments.

143. Comments were made by the representatives from Brazil, Mexico, United States and Uruguay; and the Chair of the SAC, a SAC member, and the IAI Executive Director.

144. In the following discussion, Parties indicated that it would be an advantage to have Future Earth working formally with IAI. Future Earth is a non-governmental organization with a well established global scientific network.

145. Uruguay stated that it would be interested in hosting a Future Earth hub in the future in some capacity.

146. The IAI Executive Director informed participants that Future Earth lacks a Central and South American hub. Currently, Future Earth activities are coordinated from the hub in North America. However, establishing such a hub may duplicate efforts with the IAI. In this regard, closer collaboration makes sense in that it may facilitate joint work in science, capacity building, and other activities.

147. Parties requested that the invitation should emphasize complementarity and not competition between the organizations.

148. The Chair invited the representatives to consider the draft decisions contained in document no. IAI/COP/26/12c.

149. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions.

Agenda item 13: Ad hoc Committee reports: Decision XXV/30: Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI

150. The Chair gave the floor to the United States as Chair of the Implementation Committee of the Tripartite Structure of the IAI to introduce agenda item 13, document no. IAI/COP/26/13, *Implementation of the Tripartite Structure of the IAI*.

151. The Chair of the Implementation Committee began her introduction by acknowledging the support of Uruguay to the IAI Directorate and their hospitality for the IAI team.

152. She described the continuing discussions with Argentina and Brazil and that the moment was opportune to examine alternate models, including centralization in Montevideo.

153. She noted that discussions on establishing the IAI Science-Policy Liaison Directorate in Argentina and the Science Development Directorate in Brazil have shed light on challenges faced by these countries regarding hosting the offices and supporting staff. She proposed that the CoP consider merging these functions with the IAI Directorate in Uruguay.

154. Noting the importance of utilizing the expertise and capabilities of Brazil and Argentina to be able to liaise with the Directorate in Uruguay, she suggested the CoP consider retiring Decision XX/10 and Resolution 5 (CoP-20) on the Tripartite Proposal.

155. Immediately after her presentation, representatives were invited by the Chair to make comments on the documents and on the draft decisions.

156. Comments were made by the representatives from Brazil, Mexico, and Uruguay; FAPESP and IAI Executive Director.

157. Parties thanked Uruguay for hosting the Directorate and its support.

158. It was agreed that an integrated Directorate would be more cost-effective and provide more timely services to Parties.

159. The Chair invited the representatives to consider the draft decisions contained in document no. IAI/COP/26/13.

160. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions.

Report of the IAI Directorate

Agenda item 14: Report of the IAI Directorate: Science

161. The meeting continued with the introduction of agenda item 14 by the IAI Executive Director. In his introduction, he noted that scientific research on global issues requires cooperation among research institutes, among states and among different parts of the Inter-American region and with regional and international global change research

programs. The reports of the Directorate summarized the work during the intersessional period.

162. The IAI Director for Science Programs was invited to present document no. IAI/COP/26/14. In her presentation, she highlighted the exceptional science achieved by the IAI in the past 25 years and the participation of SAC and SPAC to develop science capacity. She also described the leadership of the IAI in the design of science projects, including the use of co-design and transdisciplinary research.
163. She also discussed the work related science achieved during the intersessional period: (1) maintaining the scientific standards of the IAI through the monitoring of its sponsored research; (2) increasing peer review through enhanced participation by SAC, SPAC and scientific community in IAI scientific activities; and (3) increasing the provision of scientific information to policy makers by making greater use of results from the CRN3 and other projects.
164. She reported on a proposed Special Issue in an open peer review journal to synthesize and celebrate the 25 years of IAI science through papers drafted by CRN3 researchers. Moreover, as the CRN3 research program comes to a close, there will be continued efforts to highlight the policy relevance of the projects. A special journal issue highlighting the CRN3 and its relevance to policy would advance efforts by the IAI to provide policy makers and their communities with scientific information needed for informed decision making.
165. She continued by describing the current call for small grant proposals that requires the inclusion of policy makers and stakeholder in project design and includes a capacity building component in the form of a proposal writing workshop. She noted that co-funding is a requirement of the proposals.
166. She described discussions related to future projects, including the upcoming CRN4 and the importance of the new IAI strategic plan in that regard.
167. She ended by informing participants on a new initiative to support work in mega-cities among partners in municipal governments, the scientific community and civil society. This initiative has resulted in a proposal to QIAO Plan on Climate Change and Nature Conservation of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the Beijing Qiaonyu Foundation in the amount of USD1,500,000¹¹.
168. The topic of poverty alleviation is also a focus for science-policy research through partnerships with the Comparative Research in Poverty program (CROP). The IAI science program will continue its work to build scientific expertise in the region while continuing to be leaders in the field of co-design and transdisciplinary research in the future.
169. The Chair thanked the IAI Directorate for its presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

¹¹ For more information on the QIAO Plan on Climate Change and Nature Conservation see: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/partner-with-us/the-qiao-united-action-plan-on-climate-change-and-conservation/>

170. In the ensuing discussion, comments were made by representatives from Brazil, Canada, Chile, United States, and Uruguay; and the IAI Executive Director.
171. The United States underscored the “groundbreaking” nature of the co-design process. The IAI Directorate welcomed letters from governments expressing support for the co-design process, noting this provided legitimacy to the process. The United States suggested reaching out to Future Earth’s Urban Knowledge-Action Network.
172. On compiling information on Parties’ national priorities on science and science policy, Canada asked that the IAI Directorate develop a structured method for gathering this information, for example, in the form of a questionnaire similar to those used in the IPCC report scoping process. The IAI Executive Director responded that the Directorate is in the process of developing such a survey.
173. On closure of discussions, the Chair invited the representatives to consider the draft decisions contained in the document.
174. The Conference of the Parties adopted the decisions contained in document no. IAI/COP/26/14.

Agenda item 15: Report of the IAI Directorate: Capacity building

175. The next item in the agenda, capacity building, was introduced by the IAI Executive Director. In his introduction, he noted the critical role of capacity building in the objectives of the IAI and that national and regional efforts to address global change must be supplemented by regional cooperation among States. He concluded his introduction by inviting the Director of Capacity Building to present document no. IAI/COP/26/15.
176. She began by noting that all activities related to capacity building took into account concerns and priorities identified by Parties, namely, science-policy, science-diplomacy, communications, transdisciplinary science, and issues related to the provision of scientific information to policy makers.
177. She reported on the development of the IAI Professional Development Seminars, particularly the seminars held in the Dominican Republic and Canada in 2016 and 2017, which focused on developing transdisciplinary approaches to integrating policy and science for sustainability. An important outcome of these seminars included the establishment of 4 new transdisciplinary networks addressing policy relevant themes for the Americas and incorporating scientists, decision-makers from the civil society and indigenous communities. Two projects are being funded by the private sector. One project addresses water governance in Chile, Colombia and Brazil, and the other project addresses improvement of livelihoods and resilience of cocoa production in the Dominican Republic and Colombia.
178. She reported that for three years (2016, 2017 and 2018), the IAI Directorate has developed partnerships with top universities in the state of São Paulo, Brazil to jointly develop three São Paulo Schools of Advanced Science on key global change topics, such as nitrogen cycles, climate change and ocean governance. These activities have supported over 300 young scientists from more than 40 countries. The Schools have been funded by the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) with resources that

exceed USD500,000. These financial resources are an important diversification of the funding for IAI capacity building activities.

179. Moreover, the engagement of the IAI with partners such as AAAS is important in the development of science-policy and science diplomacy activities and courses. The Directorate is working with SENACYT Panama to develop a workshop on science diplomacy for Central America in October 2018. Other Central American Parties will be invited to participate in this activity.
180. In addition, the IAI Directorate participated in and contributed to the First Mexican Congress on Science-Informed Policy organized by Mexico's Science Advisory Council for the Presidency and AAAS in October of 2017. In all capacity building activities, the Directorate has invited or involved Party delegates, SAC and SPAC members to participate as host, co-organizers, or speakers, thus strengthening the Directorate relationships with its representatives.
181. On conclusion of the presentation, the Chair invited representatives and observers to open discussion on the topic. Comments were made by representatives from Brazil, United States, and Uruguay.
182. Brazil stressed the importance of including students in the capacity-building programs. The United States suggested that the IAI should ensure that capacity-building activities are more systematic and that the IAI could potentially become a regional leader in this field. Uruguay underscored the need to conduct "training the trainer" programs on transdisciplinary approaches.
183. The Chair continued by inviting representatives to consider the draft decisions contained in the document.
184. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions contained in document no. IAI/COP/26/15.

Agenda item 16: Report of the IAI Directorate: Global outreach and cooperation

185. The introduction by the Chair on agenda item 16 stressed the need for the IAI to promote regional cooperation among states and multilateral environmental agreements and organizations. He then invited the Director of Policy, Partnerships and Communication to present on document no. IAI/COP/26/16.
186. In her presentation, the recent progress in developing partnerships across the region and around the world was emphasized. For example, during the intersessional period, the IAI has gained observer status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). She additionally noted activities and efforts developed and implemented by the IAI Directorate to enhance partnerships with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, highlighting recently signed MOUs with Future Earth and IPBES.
187. She continued by informing representatives that the IAI Directorate has developed partnerships with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the

PUBLIC Foundation, an organization that harnesses the power of media to drive social change.

188. Representatives of these partner organizations addressed the CoP via video statements.
189. Mr. Jorge Chediek, UNOSSC Director and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, noted the importance of the IAI's leadership on climate change in the Americas and stressed that his office is ready to intensify collaboration with the IAI on efforts towards achieving the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.
190. Mr. Carlos Ruiz, Regional Coordinator, UNFCCC RCC for Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighted that working with the IAI on science diplomacy would help foster evidence-based policymaking.
191. Mr. Sergio Fernandez de Cordova, Chairman, PUBLIC Foundation, noted his organization's mission to generate impact on policymaking and society through media outreach. He said partnering with the IAI would enable the provision of robust solutions through science communication and scientific knowledge.
192. After the presentation by the IAI Directorate, the Chair opened the floor for discussion. Comments were made by the representatives from Brazil, Mexico, United States, and Uruguay; and the IAI Executive Director.
193. Representatives were supportive of the IAI's efforts to establish cooperation with multi-lateral environmental framework conventions and organizations. A request was made to also establish a partnership with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The IAI Directorate replied that it had applied for observer status with the UNCCD and that it will report to Parties on progress of its submission.
194. The Chair thanked the representatives for their comments and requested them to consider the draft decisions in document no. IAI/COP/26/16 and the draft decision on collaboration with the OAS.
195. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions contained in the document and the draft decision on collaboration with the OAS.

Agenda item 17: Report of the Directorate: Science-Policy

196. The Chair began his introduction of agenda item 17, document no. IAI/COP/26/17, by inviting the IAI Executive Director to present the report on science-policy. The Executive Director began by noting that the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* recognizes that policy makers are in need of accurate scientific information and sound policy analyses concerning the causes and the physical, social, economic and ecological impacts of global change.
197. In his presentation of the report, the IAI Executive Director began by acknowledging the generous contribution by the United States for the establishment of a post on science-policy in the IAI Directorate. He stated that this post would contribute greatly to efforts by the IAI Directorate in meeting the needs of its Parties.

198. The IAI Executive Director continued by highlighting the importance of working across multiple governance levels, including local communities, municipalities, national governments. The needs and priorities of the local and municipal levels are articulated at the national level. The priorities and needs are then contextualized at the regional and international levels.
199. The IAI Directorate has targeted all levels in its scientific and capacity building activities. He noted the submission on megacities which included close cooperation with the municipal governments of Buenos Aires, Santiago and São Paulo. The submission, namely, the *International collaborative initiative for decarbonization and climate resilient governance in megacities of South America*, aims to support efforts to improve governance, provide capacity building and develop communication tools necessary to achieve the needed transformations into more resilient cities.
200. Following the presentation, the Chair opened the floor for discussion. Comments were made by the representatives from Brazil, Mexico, and Uruguay.
201. Issues related to synergies among the conventions was raised by Parties. There are seven different conventions on biodiversity alone. The issue of synergies is complex and is currently under discussion in different fora. If need be, the IAI can work with Parties on the articulation of national and regional needs related to science and its role in discussions on synergies.
202. Representatives were then invited by the Chair to consider the draft decisions contained in document no. IAI/COP/26/17.
203. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions.

Agenda Item 18: Report of the Directorate: Communications and outreach

Agenda item 18(a): Report of the Directorate: Communications and outreach: Decision XXV/23: IAI long-term communication strategy and plan

204. In his introduction to agenda item 18a, the IAI Executive Director noted the critical importance of a well-defined communications strategy for the IAI. He continued by inviting the Director of Policy, Partnerships and Communication to present document IAI/COP/26/18a.
205. In her presentation of this agenda item, she emphasized the importance of a long-term communications strategy. She noted Decision XXV/23 which was adopted at CoP-25 (Bogota, 2017). The draft strategy has attempted to include the items identified by Parties necessary to enhance knowledge and public awareness of the IAI by governments and civil society.
206. She continued by introducing report writers from the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (ENB) mentioning that engaging ENB in the CoP is part of a strategy to disseminate the IAI CoP report through their website and social media platforms which reaches close to 80,000 subscribers. It also includes an audience of international negotiators of multilateral agreements. Working with ENB will raise the visibility of the IAI to delegates of United Nations framework conventions and other processes.

207. The Directorate has collaborated with Parties to organize side events at meetings of the multilateral conventions. She invited Parties to consider joint events with the IAI at UNFCCC, United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) meetings and asked that Parties consider how they can be better served through such activities and science-policy discussions.
208. She introduced the PVBLIC Foundation, a non-governmental organization that works with film, advertising agencies that is working with the United Nations Secretariat to promote the Sustainable Development Goals. She cited the example of the hashtag #ScienceforAction, created by the IAI during the Science for Action social media campaign during the UNFCCC COP-23 in 2017. Parties were encouraged to use the hashtag to disseminate their communications on CoP-26. The Directorate reported that with Pvblic, they were able to reach 2.5 million people with an investment of only USD300 during COP-23.
209. The Directorate shared three short videos to illustrate the Science for Action campaign, in collaboration with PVBLIC Foundation to highlight some of the steps taken by the IAI Directorate with regards to communications.
210. The Directorate thanked Guatemala for their support with the videos, press conference and other communications during the CoP-26.
211. The Chair thanked the IAI Directorate for its presentation and invited representatives to discuss the document and the long-term communication strategy and plan. Comments on this agenda item were made by representatives from Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, United States, and Uruguay.
212. The Parties thanked the Directorate for its hard work.
213. A suggestion was made to introduce the IAI to meteorological institutes, which have experience in providing climate services to users and could potentially be IAI partners. It was also suggested that IAI researchers compile important findings from IAI-funded projects and knowledge achieved through the IAI's work to increase IAI visibility.
214. Discussions with other conventions, in addition to the UNFCCC were noted and that specific reference to them was needed. The CoP agreed to add a general reference to "other conventions, organizations and strategic partners" to the draft decision on organizing regional science communication initiatives.
215. Parties also recommended that the Directorate communicate with the scientific community through Special Issues in peer-reviewed journals. The IAI Directorate noted that this topic would be discussed under agenda item 18d.
216. The Directorate mentioned that it will explore engaging the Inter-American Associated Press and their scholarship program and will report to CoP-27 on the progress of this initiative.
217. The Decision on the long-term communications strategy was revised/broadened to include other strategic partners in addition to UNFCCC.

218. Representatives were then invited to consider the draft decisions contained in document no. IAI/COP/26/18a.

219. The Conference of the Parties adopted draft the decisions.

Agenda item 18(b): Report of the Directorate: Communications and outreach: Decision XXV/26: Outreach brochure of the IAI

220. The Chair invited the IAI Directorate to present agenda item 18b.

221. The IAI Directorate began by stating that the IAI possessed few communications materials and that there exists a pressing need to improve on this situation. It continued by introducing document no. IAI/COP/26/18b and its annex 1 which contains a draft bi-fold outreach mockup to be used in the publication of a brochure.

222. It was also mentioned that the massive open online course (MOOC) on Climate change in Latin America, an online capacity building tool with over 9000 participants, is a public awareness tool. Participants to the MOOC include professionals, high school students, and other audiences.

223. The Chair invited representatives to consider adoption of the draft decision contained in document no. IAI/COP/26/18b.

224. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision.

Agenda item 18(c): Report of the Directorate: Communications and outreach: Decision XXV/28: Augmenting science communication capacities in IAI research projects

225. The Chair opened agenda item 18 and invited the IAI Directorate to present document IAI/COP/26/18c.

226. The IAI Directorate gave a presentation on efforts to fulfill Decision XXV/28 and requested participation by Parties and observers to facilitate the increase of science communication in IAI research projects. The document outlines the efforts of the Directorate, including an overview of the CRN3 Principal Investigator's meeting in Cancun in November 2017.

227. On conclusion of discussion, the Chair invited the Conference of the Parties to take note of the document.

Agenda item 18(d): Report of the Directorate: Communications and outreach: Decision XXV/29: 25th anniversary publication

228. Agenda item 18d was introduced by the IAI Executive Director, who provided a background to Decision XXV/29. He concluded by inviting the IAI Director for Science Programs to present document no. IAI/COP/26/18d.

229. In her presentation, the IAI Director for Science Programs stated that a CoP Decision stays in force until it is completed. Usually, activities required in a Decision should be completed during the Decision's inter-sessional period.

230. She continued by discussing the results of the *CRN3 Researchers Meeting: Results and Outcomes* which was held in Cancun, Mexico from 29 November to 1 December 2018. The work achieved in the meeting will also contribute to the publication of a special issue in a peer-reviewed, open-access journal on the CRN3 in specific and the CRN in general.
231. Following the presentation, the Chair opened the floor for discussion. Comments were made by representatives from Brazil, Costa Rica, and the United States; and the Chair of the SAC.
232. The Parties were concerned about reaching wider audiences than just the scientific community. There was also concern that the publication would likely be published in English. The IAI Directorate replied by explaining that it intends to offer to translate the articles to Spanish and provide the translations to the journal free of charge, or at a minimum, to place the translated articles on the IAI website.
233. On conclusion of discussion, the Chair invited representatives to consider the draft decision contained in the document.
234. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision in document no. IAI/COP/26/18d.

Agenda item 19: Report of the Directorate: Fundraising

Agenda item 19(a): Decision XXV/24: Report of the Directorate: Fundraising: IAI long-term funding strategy

235. The meeting continued with discussion on agenda item 19a. The Chair introduced this item by noting the need for alternate funding sources to support the scientific agenda of the IAI and its capacity building program. He commended the support from Parties to encourage activities by the IAI Directorate in this regard. Following his introduction, he invited the IAI Directorate to introduce document no. IAI/COP/26/19a.
236. The IAI Executive Director began his presentation by mentioning that he had sought the advice from experts in the field in the drafting of the long-term funding strategy. He also highlighted the need for continued expert advice.
237. He concluded his presentation by emphasizing the importance of fundraising and the need to seek non-traditional donors, the private sector being a case in point. The long-term strategy should be fine-tuned and revised during the inter-sessional period as new opportunities become possible. It is a dynamic strategy and should be under constant review.
238. The Chair invited representatives to discuss the IAI long-term funding strategy.
239. Comments were made by representatives from Brazil, Canada and United States.
240. The discussion indicated that all IAI related strategies should have a Party-driven approach. The Parties are central to any activity and their input and feedback are essential to the success of all activities.

241. The IAI Executive Director was asked to elaborate on the types of donors the strategy is targeting. The Director responded by describing two sources of funding for the IAI. There is the Core Budget based on Party voluntary contributions to cover salaries, official travel, office spaces, among others. The other IAI activities, including those under the scientific agenda and the capacity building program, are supported through extra-budgetary sources.
242. The IAI Executive Director noted paragraph 3, Article XIII of the *Agreement* which states: *The Executive Council, with the assistance of the Executive Director, will propose to the Conference of the Parties, for its approval, the establishment of an endowment fund which would generate income through an interest-bearing arrangement, as well as options to obtain resources through other means.* The establishment of an endowment fund of approximately USD100,000,000 would provide the IAI with sustainability in the long-run and sufficient resources to implement large-scale projects on a yearly basis.
243. He continued by describing the efforts of the Directorate to gain tax exemption from federal income tax under Title 26 section 501(c)(3) of the United States Code. Such non-profit status would provide the IAI greater flexibility in reaching out to United States based donors and foundations.
244. However, the IAI Executive Director explained that professional help is needed to provide the expertise and experience with this level of fundraising.
245. The United States suggested crowdfunding as another alternate source of external funding and the IAI Directorate will incorporate this approach in the IAI Strategic Plan. The United States also mentioned that the Belmont Plenary meeting to be held in London later in 2018 would be a useful opportunity to engage in discussions related to fundraising.
246. Following discussions, the Chair invited representatives to consider adoption of the draft decision contained in annex 2 to the document.
247. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision.

Agenda item 19(b): Report of the Directorate: Fundraising: Decision XXV/27: Participation in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Days

248. The Chair invited the IAI Directorate to introduce agenda item 19b.
249. The IAI Executive Director informed participants that the IAI Directorate submitted an expression of interest to the Belmont Forum Executive Council to host its Secretariat in Montevideo, Uruguay and that it was successful.
250. The Chair followed by inviting representatives to comment on this agenda item. Comments were made by representatives from Brazil, Mexico, and the United States.
251. The ensuing discussion included an overview of the Joint Program Initiative (JPI), a European Commission initiative that aims to pool national research efforts in order to make better use of public research and development resources. The United States highlighted that JPI is keen to work in Latin America, noted communications between

the Belmont Forum and the JPI, and said the JPIs are addressing cities, climate change, biodiversity, and science and innovation.

252. The Chair closed this agenda item by inviting representatives to note document no. IAI/COP/26/19b.

Agenda item 19(c): Report of the Directorate: Fundraising: Decision XXV/31: Reporting to CoP on fundraising activities by the Executive Director

253. The Chair invited the Executive Director of the IAI to report on funding activities achieved during the intersessional period of 2017 to 2018.

254. In his presentation, the IAI Executive Director described efforts to seek advice from experts in the field of fund-raising and his discussions with organizations that have used crowdfunding and social media to secure external funds. He reiterated the urgent need for alternate sources of funding to support the scientific agenda of the IAI and encouraged Parties to support the Directorate's efforts.

255. He also summarized his meetings with development banks and organizations such as the Development Bank of Latin America, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Belmont Forum. The Development Banks have their own calendars and mechanisms, which add a layer of complexity to joint initiatives, but discussions are ongoing.

256. Finally, he described the results of a brief consultancy with the IAI Directorate and the results achieved from this work.

257. On conclusion of his remarks, the Chair invited representatives to comment on the report.

258. The Chair closed this agenda item by inviting the Conference of the Parties to take note of the report.

Agenda item 19(d): Report of the Directorate: Fundraising: Donor's session and Party contributions (Program and project activities, core budget, international collaboration)

259. Agenda item 19d was introduced by the Chair.

260. The IAI Executive Director noted that the Donor's session provides Parties with the opportunity to pledge new or to summarize previous contributions to the core budget to support the work of the IAI. He continued by informing representatives that donor sessions have also evolved to provide Parties and donors with the opportunity to announce extra-budgetary contributions independent from the core budget.

261. The following representatives commented on this agenda item: Brazil, the United States and Uruguay.

262. The Chair concluded this agenda item by thanking Parties for their continued support to the IAI. He then invited representatives to consider adoption of the draft decision in document no. IAI/COP/26/19d.

263. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision.

Agenda Item 20: Data and information

264. The Chair invited representatives to take note of this agenda item and requested the IAI Directorate to introduce document no. IAI/COP/26/20.

265. The IAI Directorate informed participants of recent activities related to improvement of the information and communication technologies used by staff in support of program activities and administration.

266. His presentation focused on improvement of services through centralization of providers, acquiring software licenses, installation of anti-virus software and updating of server operating systems. An IP telephony system was likewise installed along with the purchase of new laptops for staff use. These new procedures and acquisitions resulted in an annual net saving of USD 6,000.

267. The IAI Directorate concluded by explaining that the IAI website did not provide the information services required by the Parties and encouraged the Parties to support the re-design of the website.

268. On conclusion of the IAI Directorates presentation, the Chair invited comments from the floor. Comments were made by representatives from Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, the United States, and Uruguay.

269. The IAI Directorate suggested that technical support could be provided, as appropriate, by Parties to improve website.

270. Parties suggested an open contest for web design including schools and other organizations or individuals. The idea of an IAI "hackathon" was also raised.

271. It was requested that the first Decision on this topic should be rephrased to invite Parties rather than encourage and include technical support in addition to extraordinary resources in support of the website.

272. The Chair invited representatives to consider adoption of the draft decisions, including the first amended draft decision, contained in document no. IAI/COP/26/20.

273. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions.

Agenda item 20(a): Data and information: Decision XXV/6: Open data policy and principles

274. The meeting continued with discussion on agenda item 20a. The Chair requested the IAI Directorate to report on this agenda item and to introduce the *Open data policy and principles*.

275. The IAI Directorate acknowledged the assistance of the Belmont Forum, the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, the United States National Science Foundation, and the government of Uruguay in the development of the Policy.

276. Following the presentation by the IAI Directorate, the Chair invited representatives and observers to comment on the presentation and on the *Open data policy and principles*. Comments were made by representatives from Costa Rica and Guatemala.
277. Parties noted the need for an IAI open data policy, and supported the initiative. Parties also noted the need to exercise caution with private or sensitive data and noted that indigenous peoples would require prior and informed consent in the use of their data.
278. The Chair then invited representatives to consider adoption of the draft decision contained in document no. IAI/COP/26/20a.
279. The Conference of the Parties adopted the decision.

Agenda item 20(b): Data and information: Decision XXV/21: Member country sheets

280. The Chair introduced agenda item 20b and requested the IAI Executive Director to present document no. IAI/COP/26/20b.
281. The IAI Executive Director reported that Party country sheets were posted on the IAI website but, at the time of writing, they were available in PDF format making the information difficult to manipulate and re-use.
282. He continued by describing how a database-driven system would greatly enhance use of the information and provide the tools to make comparisons among countries and projects.
283. After the presentation, the Chair invited representatives and observers to comment on the presentation.
284. The Chair closed discussion on this item by inviting the Conference of the Parties to take note of document IAI/COP/26/20b.

Agenda item 20(c): Data and information: Decision XXV/22: Access to IAI official documents

285. Discussion on data and information continued with agenda item 20c. The Chair invited the IAI Executive Director to report on its efforts to provide public access to IAI official documents.
286. He reported that official IAI documents were made open to the public immediately following CoP-25 (Bogota, 2017). He informed participants that care was taken to ensure that confidential information remained restricted.
287. The IAI Executive Director also informed representatives that previous Decisions were enumerated and compiled into a single file to facilitate the searching, locating and retrieval of specific Decisions or Decision text. He continued by thanking the intern from the Republic of Korea for compiling the Decisions and making them searchable.
288. Additionally, all official documents will now be enumerated, as the case with CoP-26, EC-45 and EC-46 and the joint SAC-SPAC meeting documents, to facilitate citation and archival.

289. The Chair followed by inviting representatives and observers to comment on this agenda item.
290. The Chair closed this agenda item by inviting the Conference of the Parties to take note of the report.

Elections

Agenda item 21: Election of EC members

291. The Chair invited the United States, as Chair of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures, to report on the election of Party representatives to the EC.
292. The Chair of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures began by recommending that the CoP elect a maximum of nine members, including the EC Chair, for the years 2018-2020. Several delegates questioned whether non-active Parties could be candidates. The Chair of the EC and the IAI Executive Director were of the opinion that voting should not exclude non-active Parties. Representatives to the meeting agreed that non-active Parties could be nominated.
293. The Chair asked for two representatives to serve as tellers for the elections of members to the EC and to the SAC.
294. Chile and Uruguay volunteered to serve as election tellers. The election was carried out according to the *Standing rules of the IAI Conference of the Parties*.
295. The Conference of the Parties elected Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, the United States and Uruguay to serve as members of the EC.
296. The Bureau of the EC would be elected during the 46th meeting of the Executive Council on 22 June 2018.
297. The Chair welcomed the new members to the EC and thanked the election tellers for their work.

Agenda item 22: Election of SAC members

298. The Chair opened this agenda item by asking the Chair of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures to describe the voting procedure in the *Standing rules of the IAI Conference of the Parties*.
299. The SAC Chair and current members of the SAC were requested to leave the meeting room during the election.
300. The Committee to recommend candidates for the election of the SAC members, which was composed of representatives from Brazil, Mexico and the United States, reviewed the curricula vitae of the candidates against the selection criteria. The criteria which included: academic excellence, publication record, understanding of issues related to the IAI, project management experience, cultural awareness and understanding the

role of, and relationships between, policymakers, resource managers, social scientists and natural scientists. The candidates recommended by the Committee were: Dr. Edwin Castellanos (Guatemala), and Dr. Maria Meerhoff (Uruguay).

301. The Chair of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures noted that five nominations were received and each Party should select two candidates from those nominations.

302. He informed representatives that the curricula vitae of candidates were circulated to members of the EC and to Party representatives. The candidates included: Dr. Alicia Fernandez Cirelli, Dr. Edwin J. Castellanos, Dr. Jhan Carlo Espinoza, Dr. Maria Meerhoff and Dr. Sara Purca.

303. The Conference of the Parties elected Dr. Edwin J. Castellanos and Dr. Maria Meerhoff to serve on the SAC.

Agenda item 23: Election of SPAC members

304. The Chair reiterated discussions related to and Decisions adopted under agenda items 7, 9 and 11 and closed this agenda item.

Outstanding items and conclusion of the meeting

Agenda item 24: Approval of decisions adopted by EC-45

305. The Chair noted that Decisions adopted by EC-45 were adopted by the Conference of the Parties under agenda item 7 and closed this agenda item.

Agenda item 25: Approval of the core budget and country contributions for FY 2018-2019

306. The Chair noted that this agenda item was discussed and the draft decision was adopted by the Conference of the Parties under agenda item 5b.

Agenda item 26: Determination of the time and venue of the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties

307. The Chair opened this agenda item by inviting Parties to express interest they may have in hosting the 27th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-27).

308. Ecuador stated that it would discuss with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the possibility of hosting CoP-27 and that it would inform the Parties and the IAI Directorate of its decision in due time. Parties and the Chair expressed support to Ecuador for its consideration of hosting CoP-27

Closing remarks

309. The Chair invited each of the Parties to make closing remarks.

310. Closing remarks were made by representatives from: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United

States, and Uruguay; and the Chair of the Executive Council, Chair of the SAC, representatives of the SPAC and SAC, and the IAI Executive Director.

311. Representatives thanked the Government of Guatemala for hosting CoP-26, and the IAI Directorate for its work in the preparation of documents, facilitating the discussions and on the joint organization of the meeting with Guatemala. The representative from Peru stated that he would be promoting the IAI's work in his country. Panama stated that the meeting helped advance critical issues that will define the IAI in the years to come. Guatemala expressed his country's commitment to more actively participate in the IAI and involve more Guatemalan scientists. Ecuador noted her country's promotion of innovation and technology, mentioning, inter alia, the establishment of a university in the jungle. The Chair of the SAC called for increased CoP interaction with the SAC going forward. Chile said that the enhanced interaction with the SAC and SPAC enriched discussions at the Conference. The United States thanked Parties for their participation and the IAI Directorate staff for their dedication to the Institute.
312. The meeting was closed on 21 June at 3:45PM.

Section II

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-six meeting

Decisions of the 26th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research

CORE BUDGET / PRESUPUESTO OPERATIVO

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXVII/1. The Conference of the Parties accepts and approves the Core Budget for fiscal year 2018-2019.

XXVII/2. The Conference of the Parties accepts and approves the Core Budget preliminary request for fiscal year 2019-2021.

PARTY CONTRIBUTIONS

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXVII/3. The Conference of the Parties urges Parties to submit their contributions to the Core Budget in a timely manner and in accordance with the basic scale and encourages them to make extraordinary contributions above their regular contributions whenever possible and as appropriate.

XXVII/4. The Conference of the Parties invites Parties to submit their contributions as far as possible during the year prior to the one to which they relate or, otherwise, by the beginning of the calendar year to which the contributions apply.

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVII/5. The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to continue to monitor Parties that have pending contributions to the Agreement by sending reminders twice yearly, with copies to the permanent missions in Montevideo, Uruguay and initiating discussions with the permanent missions in Montevideo of the Parties with pending contributions for three or more years.

XXVII/6. The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to work with the Financial and Administrative Committee to present to CoP-27 different options regarding increases to Party contributions and possible use of United Nations post adjustment scales on professional staff salaries.

EXTRA-BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Directed to the Parties

XXVI/7. The Parties are urged to contribute extra-budgetary financial resources to support the work related to the scientific agenda of the IAI, its capacity building program and other activities not supported through the core budget.

SCIENCE-POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXVI/8. 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.

XXVI/9. The Conference of the Parties directs the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee to hold its meetings, physical and virtual, jointly.

XXVI/10. Conference of the Parties decided to re-schedule elections to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee to its twenty-seventh meeting.

THE IAI STRATEGIC PLAN

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXVI/11. 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.

INVITATION TO BECOME AN ASSOCIATE OF THE INSTITUTE

Directed to Parties

XXVI/12. The Conference of the Parties is encouraged to invite Rede Clima to become an Associate of the Institute.

XXVI/13. The Conference of the Parties is encouraged to invite American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to become an Associate of the Institute.

XXVI/14. The Conference of the Parties is encouraged to invite Future Earth to become an Associate of the Institute.

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/15. On behalf of the Conference of the Parties, the IAI Directorate is tasked with drafting an invitation to Rede Clima to become an Associate of the Institute and to prepare an Agreement of Association.

XXVI/16. On behalf of the Conference of the Parties, the IAI Directorate is instructed to draft an invitation to AAAS to become an Associate of the Institute and prepare an Agreement of Association.

XXVI/17. On behalf of the Conference of the Parties, the IAI Directorate is instructed to draft an invitation to Future Earth to become an Associate of the Institute and to prepare an Agreement of Association.

INTEGRATED OPERATIONS AND FINANCE DIRECTORATE IN MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

Directed to Parties

XXVI/18. The Conference of the Parties is invited to retire Decision XX/10, *Tripartite Proposal for hosting the IAI*.

XXVI/19. The Conference of the Parties is invited to instruct the Integrated Operations and Finance Directorate to merge with the Science Development Directorate and the Science-Policy Liaison Directorate in Montevideo, Uruguay.

XXVI/20. Parties are encouraged to support work related to science and science policy undertaken through an Integrated Operations and Finance Directorate in Montevideo, Uruguay.

SCIENCE

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/21. The IAI Directorate is directed to develop the synthesis and dissemination activities and products of the last phase of the CRN3 program, including a special issue in a peer-review journal and a catalog of science-policy experiences.

XXVI/22. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue working jointly with the CONICET of Argentina in the CONICET-IAI research program.

XXVI/23. The IAI Directorate is directed to gather information on the Parties' national priorities on science and science-policy, especially in the context of international environmental frameworks such as the SDGs, among others, necessary to implement the IAI scientific agenda, including the development of new science and science-policy programs, and a fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks, in particular.

XXVI/24. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue working in collaboration with the SAC/SPAC on the promotion of science by developing alliances, generating synergies with partners and seeking funds to develop scientific programs aimed at completing the scientific knowledge needed to respond to the challenges of global change, in the context of international environmental frameworks such as the SDGs, among others.

Directed to Parties

XXVI/25. The Parties are invited to collaborate with the IAI Directorate in gathering information on the Parties' national priorities on science and science-policy, especially in the context of international environmental frameworks such as the SDGs, among others, necessary to implement the IAI scientific agenda, including the development of new science and science-policy programs, and a fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks, in particular.

XXVI/26. The Parties are invited to work with the Directorate in an effort to harmonize their science and technology funding schemes to match IAI calls, in particular with the upcoming call for the fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks, CRN4.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/27. The IAI Directorate is instructed to continue the development of capacity building programs and activities for professionals from the Americas; to engage with strategic partners, and support Parties by providing training in areas of national and regional interest, subject to the availability of external financial resources.

XXVI/28. The IAI Directorate is instructed to develop a new Seed Grant Program associated with the Professional Development Seminars to be implemented in 2019-2020, subject to the availability of external financial resources.

XXVI/29. The IAI Directorate is instructed to develop the IAI Science and Technology Policy Fellowships Program and submit it to the 27th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for review and possible adoption, subject to the availability of external financial resources.

XXVI/30. The IAI Directorate is instructed to invite Parties to participate in the IAI Research Internship Program as research host organizations and report back at the 27th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

GLOBAL OUTREACH AND COOPERATION

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/31. The IAI Directorate is directed 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.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE IAI DIRECTORATE AND MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Directed to Parties

XXVI/32. The Parties are invited to facilitate collaboration between the IAI Directorate and national focal points to the CBD, UNFCCC and the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), among others, for the communication of relevant IAI scientific Project information for consideration in the drafting of national reporting as obliged under those frameworks.

XXVI/33. The Parties are encouraged 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.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/34. 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.

XXVI/35. The IAI Directorate is instructed to submit the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of American States to the IAI Executive Council for review and approval.

LONG-TERM COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/36. The IAI Directorate is instructed to adopt the *IAI Communication strategy and plan* to increase awareness of the IAI scientific agenda, the IAI capacity building program, and the activities related to provision of data and information to policy makers and other stakeholders.

XXVI/37. The IAI Directorate is directed 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.

XXVI/38. The IAI Directorate is directed to organize with the UNFCCC and other conventions, organizations and strategic partners, regional science communication initiatives such as a workshop and other outreach activities subject to the availability of financial resources, to improve the provision of data and information to policy makers, and dissemination of scientific knowledge needed for the implementation of national, regional, and international policies in light of the Paris Agreement and other under multilateral environmental agreements.

OUTREACH BROCHURE OF THE IAI

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/39. The IAI Directorate is instructed to adopt the Outreach brochure and to update it annually.

IAI PUBLICATION IN A PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/40. The IAI Directorate is instructed to communicate with editors of relevant peer-reviewed journals for the publication of a special issue on the IAI, subject to the availability of financial resources, focusing on past and current scientific projects under the Collaborative Research Networks, among other projects, capacity building activities, the Small Grants Program, and the potential impact of these projects and activities on national and regional policies and decisions.

IAI LONG-TERM FUNDING STRATEGY

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/41. The IAI Directorate is directed to adopt the *IAI long-term funding strategy* to guide efforts to secure alternate funding sources, particularly the establishment of an IAI endowment, in support of the IAI scientific agenda, capacity building program, provision of information to policy makers and stakeholders and other activities.

FLEXIBLE MECHANISM TO FACILITATE THE FUNDING OF SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS ON GLOBAL CHANGE IN THE AMERICAS

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXVI/42. The Conference of the Parties is invited to encourage their national funding mechanisms and institutions and regional and international development banks to which they may be members to participate in discussions on the establishment of a flexible mechanism to facilitate the funding of scientific projects on global change in the Americas.

ENHANCEMENT OF THE WEBSITE

Directed to the Parties

XXVI/43. The Parties are invited to provide extraordinary resources and/or technical support for the enhancement of the IAI website including use of a new content management system and database technologies.

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/44. The IAI Directorate is directed to make efforts to secure external funding for the enhancement of the IAI website.

OPEN DATA POLICY AND PRINCIPLES

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/45. The IAI Directorate is directed to use the IAI Open data policy and principles to provide open access, as appropriate, to data and information generated by IAI funded research.