



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

13 March 2018

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-sixth meeting
Antigua, Guatemala, 20-21 June 2018
Agenda item 12b**

**Article XI Associates of the Institute of the Agreement Establishing the
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research**

1. This document has been prepared by the United States of America.

Background

2. Article XI, paragraph 1 of the *Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* states:

The Conference of the Parties may invite States outside the region, regional or international intergovernmental organizations, and industries and other nongovernmental and private organizations interested in supporting the Scientific Agenda and programmatic activities of the Institute, to become Associates of the Institute.

3. At the time of writing, three organizations have been invited by the Conference of the Parties to become Associates of the IAI. These organizations are the:
 - a. Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN);
 - b. Centro del Agua del Trópico Húmedo para América Latina y el Caribe [Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean] (CATHALAC); and
 - c. Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo [São Paulo Research Foundation] (FAPESP)

The American Association for the Advancement of Science

1. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is an American international non-profit organization which promotes cooperation among scientists, supports scientific education, defends ethics and responsibility in science and fosters scientific freedom and outreach to serve society. It is the world's largest general scientific society, and is the publisher of the well-known scientific journal Science.
2. The AAAS plays an important role in fostering scientific development in the United States and abroad. In addition to publishing Science magazine, the AAAS fulfills its mission to advance science to serve society through initiatives in science policy; diplomacy; education and public engagement with science.
3. The AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy aims to build bridges between communities, societies, and nations through closer interactions between science and diplomacy and elevate the role of science in Nations' foreign policy to address national and global challenges.
4. The AAAS has an outstanding program that has been successful in promoting science-policy collaboration. The Science & Technology Policy Fellowships provide opportunities for outstanding scientists and engineers to learn first-hand about federal policymaking while using their knowledge and analytical skills to address today's most pressing societal challenges. This program has been replicated by many AAAS partners around the world.
5. Another AAAS program of relevance to the IAI is the Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellows Program. This 10-week summer program places science, engineering, and mathematics students at media organizations nationwide. Fellows use their academic training as they research, write, and report today's headlines, sharpening their abilities to communicate complex scientific issues to the public.
6. The AAAS directly, or with the support of the IAI, has engaged in collaboration with many institutions in IAI Parties, such as Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Panama.
7. The AAAS and the IAI have collaborated in several capacity building and science-policy activities. Some examples are: IAI participation in the AAAS annual course on Science Diplomacy & Leadership Workshop since 2015; AAAS-TWAS course on Science Diplomacy in 2016; First Mexican Congress on Science-Informed Policy organized by the Science Advisory Council of Mexico, the Office of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Presidency of Mexico and AAAS in 2017; as well as AAAS participation in the IAI Professional Development Seminars and Seed Grants Program in 2015-2017.
8. Other areas of possible collaboration between the IAI and the AAAS include, but are not limited to: development of partnerships to promote and support global change research at the national and regional levels; promoting a science-policy dialogue, including communication of research outcomes to inform decision-making, promoting linkages between the scientists and institutions of the region; and, developing joint capacity-building activities.
9. Given the above, the United States is of the opinion that AAAS meets the requirements under Article XI of the Agreement to become an Associate of the IAI. As an Associate of

the IAI, AAAS would provide a more formal framework within which specific areas for collaboration may be identified and implemented.

Recommendation

10. The United States invites the Conference of the Parties to consider that the AAAS meets the requirements under Article XI of the Agreement to become an Associate organization of the Institute.
11. The United States is also of the opinion that AAAS, once established as an Associate of the Institute, would strengthen the international collaboration between the two organizations.
12. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document.

Annex

Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Invitation to become an Associate of the Institute

Directed to Parties

XXVI/xx. The Conference of the Parties is encouraged to invite AAAS to become an Associate of the Institute.

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/xx. 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.