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

**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)
4. A Memorandum of Understanding between Future Earth and the IAI Directorate was established on 7 September 2017 with a view to *promote cooperation between the IAI*

*Directorate and Future Earth, building on the complementarity between relevant parts of IAI's mandate, namely to provide a stronger scientific contribution to policy processes and build capacity on and implement transdisciplinary research in the Americas to support national and regional policy processes and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup>.*

5. The Director of the Future Earth Colorado hub, in his personal capacity, is a member of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC is the principal scientific advisory organ of the Institute and is tasked with the making of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties regarding the IAI's Scientific Agenda, long-range plans and annual program.

## Future Earth

6. Future Earth is an international network non-governmental organization with secretariat hubs, centers, and offices in Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, France, India, Japan, South Africa, Sweden and the United States. The mission of Future Earth is to accelerate transformations to global sustainability through research and innovation.
7. Future Earth facilitates and amplifies research through its 20 Global Research Projects, many of which have deep roots in the Americas, its PEGASuS grants programme for research and synthesis, which has already funded multiple biodiversity projects centered in the Americas, and its work with the Belmont Forum on collaborative research actions.
8. In addition, Future Earth works to connect science on sustainability to policy processes through different fora, including, but not limited to, multilateral environmental agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity and assessment mechanisms such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the SDGs. This work is implemented in light of international environmental frameworks, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.
9. Of interest to the scientific networks established by the IAI, Future Earth convenes and mobilizes networks through its Knowledge-Action Networks focused on major global challenge areas, its networks of early career professionals, our conferences, our scholars programs, and the Open Network, which has over 3000 participants from the Americas.
10. Future Earth turns knowledge into action, through projects and products such as the Global Carbon Budget, and *10 science 'must knows' on climate change*, and publications such as *Anthropocene Magazine*<sup>2</sup>, which is syndicated by *El País*, the most widely-read Spanish language newspaper.

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<sup>1</sup> See: Memorandum of understanding between Future Earth International and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, [http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/MoU\\_IAI-FutureEarth\\_final\\_without\\_signatures.pdf](http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/MoU_IAI-FutureEarth_final_without_signatures.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> For more information on *Anthropocene magazine*, see: <http://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/>

11. Future Earth creates and supports a wide and growing range of capacity building programs targeting early career professionals, including the undergraduate and graduate programs, such as the Global Sustainability Scholars and Fellows Programs. The development of additional fellows programs and travel grant opportunities for global change practitioners and academics is a key part of the Future Earth strategy to support the next generation of sustainability leaders.
12. Similar to the IAI, Future Earth works with regional partners and networks in the Americas and around the world, including IAI, the Global Young Academy, START, the Leopold Leadership Program, and others, to exchange and promote best practices in co-design, trans-disciplinary research design, and curriculum development.
13. Future Earth works with the IAI Directorate as a part of the Belmont Forum. Each year, Future Earth conducts a global scoping of critical transdisciplinary research needs within a key global topic and presents it for consideration by the Belmont Forum. This process has led to the current Collaborative Research Program on Food, Water, and Energy in Urban Systems (SUGI /NEXUS) and the development of two Future-Earth / Belmont Forum co-branded Collaborative Research Actions. The first will be on Ocean Sustainability, and the second, which is being developed with IAI engagement, will be on Climate, Environment and Human Health. Future Earth anticipates working closely with IAI on future Belmont Forum-related research scoping processes, to assess research needs from the Americas, and to combine these needs with needs emerging from other parts of the world.
14. Both Future Earth and IAI are actively working to connect science to policy processes, and have worked together on issues related to Habitat III, meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, the IPCC Cities Conference, and in support of the IPBES. In addition, Future Earth and the IAI share significant connections through the membership in their respective advisory and governance structures (the IAI SAC and Science Policy Advisory Committee, and the Future Earth Advisory Committee and Governing Council).
15. Future Earth is developing a set of regional and national structures, with regional centers and offices in Japan, India, Cyprus, Egypt, and South Africa, and National structures in over 20 countries. The IAI acts currently as a strategic partner to Future Earth, serving as a key link to sustainability research and innovation needs throughout the Americas.
16. Given the above, the United States is of the opinion that Future Earth meets the requirements under Article XI of the Agreement to become an Associate of the IAI. As an Associate of the IAI, Future Earth would provide a more formal framework within which specific areas for collaboration, particularly scientific projects in the Americas, may be identified and implemented.

### Recommendation

17. The United States invites the Conference of the Parties to consider that the Future Earth meets the requirements under Article XI of the *Agreement* to become an Associate organization of the Institute.

18. The United States is also of the opinion that *Future Earth*, once established as an Associate of the Institute, would strengthen the international collaboration between the two organizations.
19. 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 Future Earth 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 Future Earth to become an Associate of the Institute and to prepare an Agreement of Association.