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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 13**

**Decision XXV/30: Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI**

1. This document has been prepared by the United States of America as Chair of the Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI.

Background

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

*The Directorate shall be the primary administrative organ of the Institute.*

3. The Conference of the Parties, at its 20th meeting (Arlington, Virginia, 2012), adopted Decision XX/10 and Decision XX/11 which state, respectively:

*The CoP approved the Tripartite Proposal<sup>1</sup> for hosting the IAI Directorate.*

*The CoP decided to establish an Implementation Committee for the Tripartite IAI Directorate whose terms of reference would be drafted by the Ad Hoc Committee that had prepared the tripartite proposal.*

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<sup>1</sup> *Strengthening Governance of the Inter-American Institute: Draft Proposal for a Tripartite Governance Structure.* Submitted by the IAI Ad Hoc Committee. See [http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/Ad-hocCommittee\\_Tripartite\\_Governance\\_Proposal\\_27May12\\_Final.pdf](http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/Ad-hocCommittee_Tripartite_Governance_Proposal_27May12_Final.pdf)

4. The approved *Tripartite Governance Structure* proposal states:

*The CoP agreed that the strengthening of the IAI's capacity would be best fulfilled by implementing a distributed Directorate based on a tripartite approach to host the IAI in the three countries of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. Overall coordination and integrated operations for the IAI Directorate would be based in Uruguay, while new science development activities and new science-policy liaison activities for the IAI Directorate would be based in Brazil and Argentina respectively<sup>2</sup>.*

5. The Conference of the Parties, at its 25th meeting (Bogota, 2017), adopted Decision XXV/30 which states:

*The CoP renewed the term of the Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI for one year. The committee will maintain its terms of reference and membership: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador (Vice-Chair), Uruguay, and United States of America (Chair). The Committee shall be open to all the Parties.*

#### Progress in the implementation of the *Tripartite Governance Structure*

##### Uruguay

6. The *Agreement between the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay concerning the establishment of the headquarters of the Integrated Operations and Finance Directorate of the IAI*<sup>3</sup> was established on 13 November 2012.
7. At the time of writing, the IAI Directorate in Uruguay is fully operational and able to meet the responsibilities assigned to it under Article VIII of the *Agreement*.
8. The Chair of the Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI and the IAI Directorate acknowledge the generous contribution of Uruguay in the establishment of this office.

##### Argentina

9. Discussions are ongoing between Argentina and the IAI Directorate regarding the finalization of the agreement to establish the IAI Science-Policy Liaison Directorate.

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<sup>2</sup> Strengthening Governance of the Inter-American Institute: Tripartite Governance Structure. Prepared by the IAI Ad-Hoc Committee. approved by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, 27 to 29 June 2012, p. 3. See: <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/IAItripartiteGovernanceAPPROVEDjune2012.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Agreement between the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay concerning the establishment of the headquarters of the Integrated Operations and Finance Directorate of the IAI. [In Spanish only].

See: [http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/IAI\\_host\\_country\\_agreement\\_uruguay\\_2012\\_sp.pdf](http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/IAI_host_country_agreement_uruguay_2012_sp.pdf)

## Brazil

10. Discussions are also ongoing between Brazil and the IAI Directorate regarding the establishment of the Science Development Directorate.

### Alternate models in the implementation of the *Tripartite Governance Structure*

11. CoP-26 (Antigua, 2018) will mark the sixth anniversary of the adoption of the *Tripartite Governance Structure*. Given the many challenges faced by Argentina and Brazil to establish and finalize agreements establishing the IAI Science-Policy Liaison Directorate and the Science Development Directorate, respectively, the time may be opportune for Parties to consider if the requirements in the *Tripartite Governance Structure* are too ambitious and to evaluate more flexible models.
12. The Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI notes that the approved *Tripartite Governance Structure* views the general objective of the IAI Science-Policy Liaison Directorate as:

*The work of the Science-Policy Liaison Office is framed by Articles II.b) and II.f) of the Agreement Establishing the IAI, that is, strengthening the regional relevance of scientific programs and projects, understood as a establishing and maintaining sound linkages between IAI and policy-making communities in various sectors, and improving public awareness and scientific information input to governments for the development of public policy relevant to global change.*

13. The approved *Tripartite Governance Structure* also views the general objective of the Science Development Directorate and its Director as:

*The Director of Science Development will work in conjunction with Science Advisory Committee to develop the strategic vision with input from the Assistant Director of Science Programs, Program Manager and with regional science institutions to develop science directions and capabilities needed for the IAI to fulfill its mandate.*

14. Moreover, physical office space with appointed staff, including at the Director level, are requirements under the approved *Tripartite Governance Structure*. The financial burden and administration requirements under this model should not be underestimated, particularly in light of the current economic environment faced by many Parties.
15. In light of the above, Parties may wish to consider alternate options of implementation that replace the objectives of the *Tripartite Governance Structure* with an merged structure that is easier to implement, more effectively meets the needs of the IAI and does not entail significant and onerous financial and human resources.
16. One such option could be the retirement of Decision XX/10, which approved the *Tripartite Proposal for hosting the IAI Directorate*, followed by new decisions which would continue to recognize and support the contribution by Uruguay as the host to the Integrated Operations and Finance Directorate, merge the three Directorates into a

single Directorate and invite contributions by all Parties to support work on science and science to policy.

#### Recommendation

17. The Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI invites the Conference of the Parties to consider the retirement of Decision XX/10: *Tripartite Proposal for hosting the IAI Directorate*.
18. The Committee is also of the opinion that the Science Development Directorate and the Science-Policy Liaison Directorate should be merged with the Operations and Finance Directorate in Montevideo Uruguay.
19. The Committee invites Parties to provide financial and human resources, as appropriate and subject to the availability of such resources, to the integrated IAI Directorate.
20. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document.

**Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties**

**Integrated Operations and Finance Directorate in Montevideo, Uruguay**

***Directed to Parties***

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

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