



Inter-American Forum
São Paulo, Brazil
Tuesday, 7 November 2017

REPORT OF THE MEETING ON THE POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTER-AMERICAN FORUM

A. Background

1. The IAI Conference of the Parties, at its 25th meeting (Bogota, 2017) adopted Decision XXV/27: Participation in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Days which states:

The CoP decided that country delegates contact funding agencies within their countries to participate in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Days in São Paulo, Brazil, in the first week of November 2017.

2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 23rd meeting (Lima, 2015) also adopted a Decision to:

...prepare a list of funding agencies interested in subscribing a Belmont-like agreement to fund global change research projects in the IAI and in the continent for September.

3. In support of the above Decisions, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and the Belmont Forum collaborated in the organization of a meeting to discuss the establishment of a flexible mechanism to facilitate the funding of scientific projects on global change in the Americas.
4. The meeting was held in São Paulo, Brazil, on 7 November 2017.
5. The Belmont Forum and the IAI are grateful to the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP) for its support in the organization of the meeting.

B. Attendance

6. Representatives of the following governmental, donor and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated in the meeting:

(a) *Governmental agencies*: National Science Foundation, (United States) National Agency of Research and Innovation, Uruguay; National Research Agency, France; Centro Nacional de Monitoramento e Alertas de Desastres Naturais, Brazil; National Council for Science and Technology, Mexico; National Secretariat for Science and Technology, Guatemala; Scientific and Technological Research National Commission, Chile; Environment and Climate Change Canada; São Paulo Research Foundation, Brazil; Fonds de recherche du Québec, Canada; National Institute For Space Research, Brazil; Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, Argentina; National Secretary of Science and Technology, Panama; US Global Change Research Program; US Geological Survey.

(b) *Intergovernmental organizations*: European Commission, IAI

(c) *Donor/funding mechanisms: Global Environment Facility; Qatar National Research Fund, Qatar*

(d) *Non-governmental: Future Earth*

(e) *Universities: State University of Campinas, Brazil; Integration and Application Network (IAN), University of Maryland*

7. The full list of participants is contained in Annex I below.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

8. The meeting was opened at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 7 November 2017 by Dr. Maria Uhle, Co-Chair of the Belmont Forum and Chair of the Executive Council of the IAI. She spoke on how the Belmont Forum can promote international collaboration and establish cooperative scientific initiatives between and among countries facing challenges from global change. This meeting will allow participants to discuss their interest in developing a mechanism to facilitate the support of projects in the Americas on global change.
9. She invited Dr. Marcos Regis Silva to address participants. Dr. Regis da Silva thanked FAPESP for hosting the meeting and for its hospitality. He continued by speaking on the need for a flexible mechanism to support scientific projects in the Americas.
10. Participants were invited to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

11. The Agenda is attached as Annex II to this report.

ITEM 3. UPDATE ON EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT AN IAI SUSTAINABLE FUNDING STRATEGY AND EXAMPLES OF IAI SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMS

12. Dr. Regis da Silva introduce this item and spoke on efforts by the IAI Directorate to access alternate sources of funding to support the IAI strategic agenda and its scientific projects and initiatives. Among these efforts include reaching out to the private sector and the establishment of an IAI Foundation Board to assist in the raising of an endowment for the IAI.
13. He continued by presenting the results of the 3rd iteration of the Collaborative Research Network (CRN) and the upcoming call for the Small Grants Projects. He highlighted the benefits arising from these projects including the development of an American wide network of scientists and researchers. Other benefits include an innovative capacity building program and scientific data and information for use by policy makers in reaching more informed decisions.
14. He concluded by emphasizing the need to seek alternate funding to ensure the long-term sustainability of the IAI and its scientific agenda.

ITEM 4. National Science Foundation (NSF) funding to the Americas

15. Dr. Maria Uhle gave a brief presentation on the structure and functions of the Belmont Forum. She also highlighted the contributions by the NSF to the Belmont Forum's funding priorities. She highlighted the procedures used by the Belmont Forum to select projects and to establish a collaborative mutually beneficial and cost-effective approach to funding among different donor and funding mechanisms.
16. Comments on her presentation were made by representatives of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina, São Paulo Research Foundation, Brazil, the Scientific and Technological Research National Commission, Chile; The Qatar National Research Fund and the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America & Caribbean (ICSU-ROLAC).
17. Technical questions were made on the implementation of projects by the Belmont Forum and on the participation of countries. Also highlighted was the need for donors to be involved in activities related to project selection.

ITEM 5. Options for the implementation of a flexible collaborative funding mechanism for the Americas, membership and roadmap

18. Dr. Regis da Silva opened discussion on this item by highlighting the urgent need to secure alternate funding in support of scientific projects developed under the IAI. The situation of dependency on a single donor is of concern and must be remedied. He proposed several options in the establishment of a flexible collaborative funding mechanism to ensure the sustainability of the IAI's scientific agenda and projects. Among options include an ad hoc group of funding agencies to meet periodically and discuss funding opportunities, a separate parallel Belmont Forum like mechanism or a component within the IAI joining member with an interest in funding projects in the Americas.
19. Comments on the above were made by representatives of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina; the Scientific and Technological Research National Commission of Chile; the National Secretary of Science and Technology of Panama, FAPESP, the European Commission, ICSU ROLAC, and Future Earth.
20. The view was expressed that countries in the Americas with the capacity to undertake scientific research should consider contributing financial resources to support scientific projects under the IAI. It was also suggested to use the upcoming IAI Small Grants Projects as a vehicle to encourage co-funding among IAI Member Countries. Countries discussing possible financial support could constitute an ad hoc flexible mechanism to examine the possibility of co-funding. Agencies and donors with an interest in funding such scientific projects would be invited to the upcoming 26th IAI CoP to discuss possible contributions and to assist the IAI in finding solutions for sustainable support in the long-term.
21. Participants reached consensus on the use of the Small Grants Projects as a vehicle for possible co-funding, the establishment of an ad hoc group of interested agencies and donors to discuss possible co-funding and support, and requesting the IAI Directorate to extend invitations to donors and funding agencies to meet at the upcoming IAI CoP 26.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

22. The Chairs declared the meeting closed at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 7 November 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. The IAI Directorate should consider a call for co-funding in the implementation of the Small Grants Projects and use this initiative as a vehicle to ascertain the possibility of establishing a flexible collaborative funding mechanism for the Americas.
24. The IAI Directorate should extend an invitation to members of the Belmont Forum to meet at the margins of or back-to-back with the IAI Conference of the Parties at its 26th meeting which is tentatively scheduled to be held in Guatemala in 2018 and discuss the establishment of a flexible collaborative funding mechanism for the Americas
25. The Belmont Forum invites members to consider the co-funding of IAI sponsored projects, particularly its upcoming Small Grants Projects.

ANNEX I: List of Participants

ANII	National Agency of Research and Innovation, Uruguay	Maria Laura Fernandez
ANR	National Research Agency, France	Jean Pierre Vilotte
BF	Belmont Forum Secretariat	Mao Takeuchi
BF e-IDM	BF e-Infrastructures & Data Management Project	Robert Samors
BF / NSF	Belmont Forum / NSF	Susanna Ehlers
BF e-IDM / ICSU	BF e-Infrastructure & Data Management / ICSU	Mustapha Mokrane
BF e-IDM / NSF	BF e-Infrastructure & Data Management / NSF	Carrie Seltzer
CEMADEN	Centro Nacional de Monitoramento e Alertas de Desastres Naturais, Brazil	Andrea Ferraz Young
CONACYT	National Council for Science and Technology, Mexico	Moira Karosuo
CONCYT	National Secretariat for Science and Technology, Guatemala	Leonel Monterroso
CONICYT	Scientific and Technological Research National Commission, Chile	Sharapiya Kakimova
EC	European Commission	Marialuisa Tamborra
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Viletta Diamantopoulos
FAPESP	São Paulo Research Foundation	Alexandre Roccatto
FAPESP	São Paulo Research Foundation	Carlos Américo Pacheco
FAPESP	São Paulo Research Foundation	Gilberto Câmara
FE	Future Earth	Amy Louers
FE	Future Earth	Josh Tewksbury
FRQ	Fonds de recherche du Québec, Canada	Luce Beaulieu
IAI	Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research	Marcos Regis da Silva
IAI	Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research	Elma Montana
IAI	Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research	Marcella Ohira
IAI	Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research	Soledad Noya
IAN UMCES	Integration and Application Network	Alexandra Fries
ICSU-ROLAC	International Social Sciences Council – Regional Office L. A.	Claudia Marroquin
ICSU-ROLAC	International Social Sciences Council – Regional Office L. A.	Manuel Limonta
INPE	National Institute For Space Research, Brazil	Jean Pierre Ometto
MINCYT	Ministerio de Ciencia Tecnología y Innovación Productiva, Argentina	Magdalena Alvarez Arancedo
NSF	National Science Foundation, US	Maria Uhle
QNRF	Qatar National Research Fund, Qatar	Omar el Farouk Boukhris
SENACYT	Secretaria Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Panama	Luz Graciela Cruz
GEF	The Global Environment Facility	Sarah Amy Whyatt
UNICAMP	State University of Campinas	Carlos A. Joly
USGCRP	US Global Change Research Program	Apurva Dave
USGS	US Geological Survey	Virginia Burkett

ANNEX II: Meeting's Agenda

Agenda

- 9:00. Opening of the session. Dr. Maria Uhle and Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva.
- 9: 05. Introductions
- 9:15. Update on efforts to implement an IAI sustainable funding strategy. Examples of IAI successful collaborative research programs (i.e. CRN). Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva, Dr. Elma Montana
- 9:40. NSF funding to the Americas. Dr. Maria Uhle
- 10:00. Options for the implementation of a flexible collaborative funding mechanism for the Americas. Open discussion
- 10:30. Break
- 10:45. (Continuation) Options for the implementation of a flexible collaborative funding mechanism for the Americas. Open discussion
- 12:00. Membership in a funding mechanism for the Americas. Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva and Dr. Elma Montaña
- 12:30. Agreement on a roadmap. Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva and Dr. Elma Montana
- 13:00. Closing of the meeting. Dr. Maria Uhle and Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva.