



Ref: IAIUYDIR/2017/003

8 November 2017

NOTIFICATION

Subject: IAI Directorate to host the Belmont Forum Secretariat in Montevideo

Dear Madam, Sir,

The 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.

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.

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 collaborative science on global change in the Americas. The meeting was held in São Paulo, Brazil, during the morning of 7 November 2017. A report of the meeting will be made available in due time.

Furthermore, the IAI Directorate notes a number of formal and informal discussions where Member Countries voiced support for the implementation of the 2015 Decision on a *Belmont-like agreement*. In this regard, the IAI Directorate submitted an Expression of Interest to the Belmont Forum to host its Secretariat in Montevideo, Uruguay.

I am pleased to inform you that in the afternoon session of the meeting of the Belmont Forum Plenary on 7 November 2017, in São Paulo, Brazil, the Belmont Forum Executive Council accepted the Expression of Interest submitted by the IAI Directorate.

Hosting the Belmont Forum Secretariat in Montevideo will provide greater opportunities for the IAI in the establishment of collaborative scientific projects related to global change research and enhancement of scientific networks throughout the Americas. It will also support the IAI's efforts to establish a flexible collaborative funding mechanism for the Americas.

The Belmont Forum's partnership of funding organizations, international science councils, and regional consortia committed to the advancement of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary science complements exceptionally well the mission of the IAI. The Americas will gain from this enhanced relationship between the Belmont Forum and the IAI Directorate, including much needed expertise in reaching out to donors and funding agencies and also offering to IAI Member Countries new opportunities for the establishment of collaborative initiatives.

The IAI Directorate is grateful to members of the Belmont Forum for its confidence in the IAI and to the Government of Uruguay for supporting its bid to host the Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,



Marcos Regis da Silva
Executive Director