

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN
THE AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION (AGU) AND
THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH (IAI)**

Among the undersigned, namely, the American Geophysical Union (AGU), hereinafter, **AGU**, and the Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), hereinafter **IAI Directorate**;

Considering that the AGU represented by the Executive Director and CEO, Janice R. Lachance, and the Directorate of the IAI, represented by the Executive Director, Anna Stewart Ibarra, have an interest in enhancing collaboration and the exchange of knowledge and technical information in support of their shared objectives.

Considering that AGU was invited to become an Associate of the IAI at the 33rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the IAI (Asunción, Paraguay, 29-30 May 2025) under Article XI, *Associates of the Institute*, of the *Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*;

Recognizing AGU as a global organization dedicated to advancing Earth and space sciences, with over 500,000 members and supporters in more than 200 countries, including the 19 IAI Parties;

Acknowledging AGU's leadership in promoting Open Science, particularly the FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable), and its commitment to ethical data practices, including the engagement with the CARE principles (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, and Ethics), and its inclusive approach to integrating traditional and Indigenous knowledge;

Noting AGU's contributions to capacity building through student programs, leadership training, professional development cohorts, and career pathways that align with the mission of the IAI and complement activities of the IAI Science Diplomacy Center;

Recalling that the IAI is an intergovernmental organization with 19 member countries in the Americas and the Caribbean envisioned to foster regional cooperation in global change research, promoting science-based policy actions to address the multifaceted challenges of global change across the Americas;

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Recalling the collaboration between AGU and IAI through the Belmont Forum and other joint initiatives that have contributed directly to IAI's Open Access to Data and Publications Policy and ethical frameworks for climate intervention;

Recognizing that both AGU and the IAI Directorate share a strong institutional commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, transdisciplinary research, and the ethical advancement of science to address the challenges of global change;

Now, therefore, AGU and the IAI Directorate agree as follows:

1. AREAS OF COLLABORATION

Areas of collaboration may include, but are not limited to:

- **Strengthening Collaboration Mechanisms:** Promote interaction between scientists and institutions affiliated with AGU and the IAI network to advance shared goals on biodiversity, health, and other global challenges.
- **Open Science and Data Sharing:** Collaborate on initiatives related to open science and data sharing, including FAIR and CARE principles, and the ethical handling of data involving Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- **Science Diplomacy and Policy Interface:** Cooperate on initiatives led by or aligned with the IAI Science Diplomacy Center, especially those supporting evidence-informed decision-making in the Americas.
- **Transdisciplinary Research:** Support projects that integrate natural and social sciences, policy engagement, and diverse knowledge systems, including Indigenous and local knowledge.
- **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:** Advance shared commitments to EDI by co-promoting and advancing inclusive practices, capacity-building opportunities, and research programs that center full representation and belonging in STEO and Earth and space science across all demographic groups.
- **Capacity-Building Programs:** Explore ideas and opportunities for training programs, workshops, and professional development opportunities for students, early-career researchers, and professionals.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Foster cooperation across IAI Parties and with non-member countries through research collaborations, workshops, and other joint efforts.
- **Joint Proposals and Resource Mobilization:** Maintain open dialogue and coordination to identify funding sources for projects and programs of mutual interest and benefit, and seek co-funding through joint proposals on agreed-upon initiatives.

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- **Participation in Meetings and Events:** Invite representatives from each organization to participate in relevant meetings, workshops, and conferences where topics of mutual interest are discussed, in accordance with applicable participation rules.

2. Specific Agreements

The Parties shall enter into a separate written agreement for each specific initiative or project arising under this Memorandum of Understanding that requires the commitment of funds or other resources from both Parties, or that requires detailed documentation of mutual roles, responsibilities, timelines, and deliverables ("Project Agreement").

3. No Financial Commitments

This Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute a financial or legal obligation.

The execution of any joint activity, including research, dissemination, or capacity-building projects, will be contingent upon the availability of resources.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST. The Parties shall not derive any personal profit or gain, directly or indirectly, by reason of their participation.

5. Use of Name and Logo

Each Party agrees not to use the name, acronym, or logo of the other without prior written consent, and only in accordance with the applicable branding and communications policies of the other Party.

6. Public Disclosure

This MoU is not confidential. The Parties may disclose its existence and general objectives in accordance with their respective communications and disclosure policies.

7. Intellectual Property

Intellectual property created jointly under specific collaborative initiatives will be governed by mutually agreed terms to be established in writing. Each Party retains rights to any intellectual property created independently.

8. Dispute Resolution

Any dispute related to the interpretation or implementation of this MoU shall be resolved through good faith consultations between designated representatives of the Parties.

9. Duration and Termination

This MoU shall remain in effect for five (5) years from the date of signature and may be renewed by mutual written agreement. Either Party may terminate the MoU by giving ninety (90) days'

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written notice to the other Party. Termination shall not affect obligations already undertaken under specific activities in progress.

10. Dispute resolution. Dispute resolution will be addressed through direct consultation and negotiation in good faith, and if unresolved, by a mutually agreed method of arbitration.

11. SEVERABILITY. If any portion of this MOU will be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the validity, legality, or enforceability of the remainder of this MOU will not be affected or impaired thereby.

12. NO WAIVER. If either Party does not exercise any right provided for in this MOU, this does not mean that the Party waives the right to exercise it in the future.

13. Legal and Institutional Autonomy

Nothing in this MoU shall be construed as creating a legal partnership, agency, or joint venture. Each Party shall act in accordance with its own rules and procedures and maintain full autonomy over its operations and decisions.

14. FORCE MAJEURE. Neither Party will be liable to the other Party under this MOU for failures of performance resulting from acts or events beyond the reasonable control of such Party, including by way of example and not limitation, acts of nature, civil or military authority, civil disturbance, war and strikes. In such event, each Party will use its best efforts to perform its duties and responsibilities under this MOU. In the event that such force majeure should obstruct the performance of this MOU for more than thirty (30) calendar days, the Parties shall consult with each other to determine whether this MOU should be modified or terminated.

15. Entire Agreement

This MoU does not create binding legal obligations but reflects the goodwill of both Parties to collaborate in areas of mutual interest.

This MOU constitutes and contains the entire agreement among the Parties covering the performance hereof and supersedes any prior oral or written agreements related to the subject matter of this MOU.

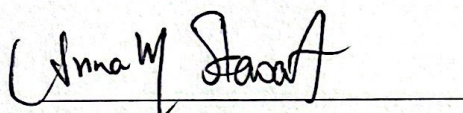
Modifications to this MoU must be made in writing and signed by authorized representatives of both Parties.

Signatures exchanged in PDF or scanned format shall be valid and enforceable as original signatures.

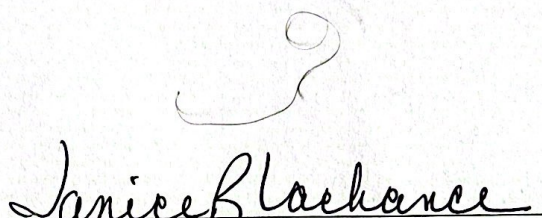
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In proof of all the foregoing, the parties sign this Memorandum of Understanding in two (2) originals of equal text and value, one for each party.

9 October, 2025.



Anna Stewart Ibarra
Executive Director
Inter-American Institute of
Global Change Research



Janice R. Lachance
Executive Director and CEO
American Geophysical Union (AGU)