



**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**4 April 2024**

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Thirty-second meeting  
Videoconference  
22-23 May 2024  
Agenda item 9e**

**Implementation of EDI decision and  
the new advisory committee of indigenous peoples and local communities**

1. This document has been prepared by the IAI Directorate in collaboration with the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Background

2. The Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) at its 28th meeting (Videoconference, 2020), adopted Decision XXVIII/6, which instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Executive Council, to develop a policy on gender and IAI projects and activities.
3. At its 29th meeting (Videoconference, 2021), the Conference of the Parties adopted by consensus the gender policy for the projects and activities of the IAI.
4. At the same 29th meeting (Videoconference, 2021), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision XXIX/8, which:

*... instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the SAC and SPAC, to continue to revise the Gender policy on IAI scientific projects and activities during the 2021/2022 intersessional period in light of comments and suggestions made by the Executive Council, Parties and partners for consideration by the 30th meeting of the of the Parties.*
5. The Conference of the Parties, at its 30th meeting (Montevideo, hybrid, 2022), adopted Decision XXX/5, which states:

*The Conference of the Parties approves the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy for IAI Scientific Projects and Capacity Building Activities.*

6. At the same 30th meeting (2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision XXX/6, which states:

*The Conference of the Parties is invited to establish a Gender and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, in collaboration with the SAC, SPAC and Associates and with the support of the IAI Directorate, to develop and implement activities under the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy for IAI Scientific Projects and Capacity Building Activities and to report on achievements at the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties*

7. The Conference of the Parties at its 31st meeting (Panama, 2023, in person) adopted Decision XXXI/16, which states:

*... instructs the IAI Directorate to establish an Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Advisory Committee (IP&LC-AC) to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties regarding the Scientific Agenda, IAI Strategic Plan, and the annual program of the Institute thereby strengthening the work of the Institute and facilitating the equitable participation and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.*

8. CoP-31, also adopted Decision XXXI/15, which states:

*The Conference of the Parties invites the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee to adopt its own rules of procedure.*

#### Report of the Advisory Committee on Gender and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

9. In light of Decision XXX/6 of the 30th meeting of Conference of the Parties, the IAI Directorate asked members of the SAC and SPAC, the parties, the IAI staff and STePs Program Fellows to form the Gender and EDI Committee.
10. Members of the Committee include national representatives from Argentina, Canada, Dominican Republic, Panama and United States; representatives of Belmont Forum; IAI staff; STeP Program fellows, and SAC and SPAC members.
11. The Committee appointed Margot Hurlbert (SPAC member) and Maria Schumkler (IAI STeP Fellow) as co-chairs.
12. During the intersessional period, the Committee met five times via Zoom: on 28 August 2023, 25 September 2023, 30 October 2023, 27 November 2023, 06 March 2024.
13. The Committee developed its rules and procedures for functioning. These are presented in information document 1.
14. In March 2024, the IAI Directorate presented to the Committee a report with achievements and progress regarding the implementation of its gender and EDI policy.

It highlights the main activities carried out by the IAI Directorate, relating them to the operational goals set in the Implementation Plan. In view of this, one of the members of the Committee suggested the creation of training spaces on gender and EDI policy to work internally at the IAI. What has been presented can be seen as information document 2.

15. In light of Decision XXXI/16 of the 31st Meeting of Conference of the Parties, the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the EDI Committee, undertook a meticulous process to devise an effective strategy for the formation and operation of the new IPLC Committee. This effort included consultations and interviews with subject matter experts, to define how best to structure and lead this new committee. From these interactions, several crucial issues were identified that require in-depth reflection in to fulfill the task instructed by CoP-31. A central point of contention is the controversy over whether, in advising the IAI, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities should be considered as a single entity. Indigenous leaders argue that these identities must be differentiated, highlighting divergences in their knowledge systems and worldviews. However, it is essential that both local communities and indigenous peoples are involved as "experts" in these conversations, seeking common ground that allows for an inclusive and respectful dialogue based on diversity. The aforementioned can be seen in information document 3.

#### Recommendation

16. 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**

### **Policy on Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

*Directed to the IAI Directorate*

XXXII/xx: The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to train its staff and fellows in Gender and EDI, and internally promote strategies and guidelines to carry out the Implementation Plan of its Policy on Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

### **The Committee on Indigenous Peoples and the Committee on Local Communities**

*Directed to the IAI Directorate*

XXXII/xx: The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to form two Advisory Committees: the Committee on Indigenous Peoples and the Committee on Local Communities, with their own workspaces with their referents, and joint meetings convened by the SAC, as "expert advisors".