

28 April 2025

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH**

**Thirty-third meeting**

**Asunción, Paraguay. Hybrid.**

**29–30 May 2025**

**Agenda item 6**

**Implementation of the Gender, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and  
establishment of the new  
Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC)**

This document was drafted by the IAI Executive Directorate in collaboration with the Gender, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), at its 32nd meeting (videoconference, 2024), adopted decision XXXII/18:

*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.*

2. At the same meeting, the IAI's CoP adopted Decision XXXII/19:

*The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to continue working on the design of two advisory committees, one with representatives of Indigenous Peoples and the other with representatives of Local Communities, based on the facilitation of consultations with representatives and leaders of these communities, and to report the results of these consultations at the next meeting of the Executive Council.*

### Activities of the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee

3. The Directorate presented to the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee (EDI Committee) a summary of the activities undertaken to implement the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion policy, is available as an [information document](#). Based on this report, progress has been made in implementing goals 2–7, with less progress made on goals 1 and 8, related to designing structural policies and producing knowledge on the interconnections between gender, EDI, and global environmental change.
4. In relation to decision XXXII/18, the Directorate and the EDI Committee organized an information session in October 2024 on the IAI's Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy and its Implementation Plan for staff and fellows.

### Establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC)

5. Considering decision XXXII/19, EDI Committee decided to first move forward with the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC).
6. The EDI Committee noted the importance of establishing the Local Communities Advisory Committee during the subsequent intercessional period.
7. The EDI committee met on 19 August, 2 September and 16 September 2024, to plan the establishment of the IPAC.
8. A consultation workshop was held by the EDI Committee and Directorate on 21 October 2024 with representatives of indigenous groups to discuss the candidate profiles, format, and governance structure of the future IPAC. Individual meetings were then held with other representatives of Indigenous Peoples to broaden the consultation process.
9. During December 2024 and January 2025, the EDI Committee drafted two key documents for the call for nominations for the IPAC:
  - Official call for nominations: addressed to the Parties, Associates, and SAC and SPAC members, as well as indigenous organizations. The document describes the purpose, background, and rationale for creating the IPAC, details its objectives, governance structure, role within the IAI, and the profiles expected of applicants.
  - Curriculum vitae (CV) template: designed to facilitate the structured evaluation of applicants by allowing them to reflect on their knowledge, experience, professional and personal backgrounds.

10. The call for applications to join the IPAC<sup>1</sup> opened on 5 February 2025 and remained open until 19 March 2025. Eligible applications had to include a CV, following the provided template, and a letter of recommendation issued by a Party, Associate, SAC or SPAC member, or an organization representing Indigenous Peoples.
11. At the close of the call, 14 applications were received from Canada, Colombia, Uruguay, Peru, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Panama. The profiles were diverse and included Indigenous representatives, individuals with academic training, and hybrid profiles.
12. At the end of March 2025, the EDI Committee conducted an initial review of the applications and invited the Parties and SAC and SPAC members to participate in the Ad hoc Selection Committee.
13. The Selection Committee met on 11 April 2025 to conclude the evaluation of the candidates proposed by the Parties, SAC and SPAC members, and indigenous representative organizations in the Americas.
14. The following individuals participated in the selection meeting as members of the selection committee: Margot Hurlbert and María Schmukler, Co-Chairs of the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee; Laila Sandroni; Carlos Joly; and Fanny Ramos Quispe. Alec Marcotte also attended as an observer representing Canada.
15. During the meeting, 14 profiles from Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay were evaluated. The Committee highlighted the high quality of the applications and the candidates' commitment to their communities and territories.
16. The Committee analyzed the candidates thoroughly and found that five profiles clearly met the established criteria and directly addressed key issues for the Institution's mandate.
17. The individuals selected to serve on the first Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC) are:  
  
Myrle Ballard (Canada)  
Oliva Patricia Suárez Torres (Colombia)  
Francisco Ramiro Batzín Chojoj (Guatemala)  
Cristina Elizabeth Fures Guitarra (Ecuador)  
Guipsy Katherine Alata Ramos (Peru)
18. A summary of their profiles is included in Annex 1 to this report.

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<sup>1</sup> See Notification IAIDIR2025/01 at: <https://www.iai.int/en/notifications>

### Recommendation

19. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the provisional decisions included in Annex 2 to this document.

## **ANNEX I**

### **Profiles of the candidates selected for the IPAC**

Myrle Ballard (Canada) – An Anishinaabe from the Lake St. Martin First Nation, Manitoba

She has an outstanding academic background in issues related to global environmental change (GEC) and its impact on Indigenous Peoples. She has been a key figure in promoting indigenous science in government science spaces in Canada. Her work has contributed significantly to the development and application of the “Three-Eyed Seeing” approach. She is actively involved in international governance and negotiation spaces.

Oliva Patricia Suárez Torres (Colombia) – Murui-Muina People

She has focused her career on defending the territorial, environmental, and cultural rights of Indigenous Peoples in Colombia and the Amazon region. She advises the National Organization of the Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC) on strategic issues for Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon, bridging indigenous and Western knowledge. Her work is based on constant dialogue with the knowledgeable people of her community. She has participated in the Colombian peace process and international negotiation fora. She currently promotes OPIAC’s participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). She has postgraduate training in key areas for the IAI, including transdisciplinarity.

Francisco Ramiro Batzín Chojj (Guatemala) – Maya Kaqchikel

He has over 20 years of experience coordinating a Kaqchikel indigenous organization and addresses issues related to natural resources, climate change, good living, and traditional knowledge. He has represented Indigenous Peoples in international forums addressing dialogue, governance, and negotiation. His experience provides a vision based on indigenous cosmology and knowledge systems on key issues for the IAI. He has postgraduate training and diplomas in areas relevant to the IAI’s agenda. He has strong skills in developing participatory methodologies and transdisciplinary projects with Indigenous Peoples.

Cristina Elizabeth Fueres Guitarra (Ecuador) – Kichwa nationality, Panzaleo people, San Ignacio community

A young Ecuadorian woman with field experience in Costa Rica who has broadened her perspective to include the Caribbean. She is an active defender of the native forests of the Andean Chocó and is part of youth networks defending forests at the national and regional levels. She has international support for her research, which highlights her emerging leadership. She is currently pursuing a master’s degree in tropical forests and biodiversity, and her thesis focuses on the participation of indigenous women in forest governance in

Guatemala. She has participated in and organized meetings on Indigenous Peoples, women, and environmental conservation, all key issues for the IAI.

Guipsy Katherine Alata Ramos (Peru) – Quechua, Qanchi Nation

Bilingual lawyer specializing in indigenous rights and interculturality. Her work has focused on indigenous linguistics and the promotion of actions for protecting and revitalizing native languages. She is part of the technical team promoting a national policy for Indigenous Peoples. She has worked on mainstreaming indigenous culture in various positions in the civil service. She holds a master's degree in social sciences with a specialization in interculturalism, which is relevant to the objectives of the IAI.

## **ANNEX II**

### ***Directed to the Directorate***

*XXXI/xx: The Directorate is instructed to support the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee in drafting and adopting its own rules of procedure, including standing meetings and coordination with the SAC and SPAC*

*.XXXI/xx: The Directorate is instructed to establish a Local Communities Advisory Committee, which would make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties regarding the Scientific Agenda, the Strategic Plan of the IAI, and the annual workplan of the Institute, thereby strengthening the work of the Institute and facilitating the equitable participation and contributions of local communities.*