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11 August 2021

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-ninth meeting
Videoconference, 22-23 June 2021**

**Report of the 29th meeting of the Conference to the Parties to the
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research**

1. This document has been prepared by the IAI Directorate.
2. The Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research held its twenty-ninth meeting (CoP-29) via videoconferencing on 22-23 June 2021.
3. The account of the proceedings and discussions of the meeting are provided in section I of the report.
4. The meeting adopted 17 Decisions and these are provided in section II of this report.

Section I

Proceedings of the Meeting

Introduction

5. In accordance with *the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article V, *The Conference of the Parties*, paragraph 3, the 29th meeting

of the Conference of the Parties to Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research was held via videoconferencing on 22 to 23 June 2021.

6. Parties and the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Chair of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) were invited to attend. The following Parties to the Agreement attended the meeting: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the United States of America. The Chair of the SAC attended the meeting.
7. The list of participants, including observers, is available on the IAI website at: [https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/CoP%2029%20Final%20List%20of%20Participants\(1\).pdf](https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/CoP%2029%20Final%20List%20of%20Participants(1).pdf).

Opening of the Meeting

8. On Tuesday, 22 June 2021, Dr Maria Uhle, United States, the Chair of Executive Council opened the meeting and welcomed delegates.
9. The Chair noted that, given current events, most notably the advent of Covid-19 and the many challenges facing the Americas, the role of the IAI as a regional science-based inter-governmental organization has never been more needed. She also emphasized the importance in the development of innovative approaches to problem solving based on transdisciplinary and open science.
10. The Chair concluded by thanking Ms Milagro Mainieri, Panama, the 1st Vice-Chair and Mr. Gabriel Aintablian, Uruguay, the former 2nd Vice-Chair of the Executive Council, and invited the IAI Executive Director to make an opening statement.
11. The IAI Executive Director, Dr Marcos Regis da Silva, thanked Parties for their support and participation. He expressed thanks to Argentina for the provision of interpretation and to the United States for use of its Zoom platform.
12. He continued by noting the challenges faced by countries in the region and stressed the need for greater collaboration in the development of scientific projects and capacity building activities.
13. The opening of the meeting was concluded with a round of introductions by participants and agreement by Parties that the Chair of the Executive Council should Chair CoP-29.

Administrative and financial matters

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

14. Following the opening of the meeting, the Chair invited Parties to adopt the provisional agenda to CoP-29 (IAI/COP/29/1).
15. Parties adopted the revised agenda by consensus.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the *Report of the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties*

16. Under this item of the agenda, Parties were invited to approve the *Report of the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties* (CoP-28, 2020, Videoconference) (IAI/COP/29/2).
17. Parties approved the *Report of CoP-28*.

Agenda item 3: Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures

18. The Chair requested the IAI Executive Director to introduce this agenda item.
19. In his introduction, the Executive Director explained that the revisions met the needs arising from virtual meetings. It is likely that virtual meetings or hybrid versions may continue in the near future and that the Standing rules of the CoP should be able to accommodate such events.
20. During the ensuing discussion, an observer from Peru asked if the time allotted under paragraphs 7,8 and 10 could be revised to allow for a shorter time span under exceptional circumstances.
21. Parties agreed that such a revision could be made and requested the Executive Director to revise the Rules of procedure accordingly.
22. In the closing of this agenda item, the Chair suggested that Parties consider also adopting the draft Decision on the *Standing rules of the Executive Council (EC) of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* given that revisions to that document reflect those found in the Standing Rules for the CoP. She concluded that EC-51 recommended its adoption.
23. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision contained in annex to *document Report of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures*, document no. IAI/COP/29/3 with the understanding that the final version would include the requested revisions.
24. The Conference of the Parties also adopted Recommendation LI/1 made by EC-51 and found in the annex to the *Report from the Executive Council*, document no. IAI/COP/29/9, that CoP-29 adopt the *Standing rules of the Executive Council*.

Agenda item 4: Report of the Credentials Committee

25. The Credentials Committee, composed of Panama and Paraguay, informed Parties that CoP-29 achieved quorum with 12 Parties having presented their credentials: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, USA, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

Agenda item 5: Financial and budgetary matters

Agenda item 5(a): Annex 1: Overview of the Financial Status for FY 2020-2021; 5(b): Annex 2: Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2020-2021; and, Preliminary request 2021-2023, 5(c): Annex 3: Auditors report

26. The IAI Directorate was invited by the Chair to provide an overview of the financial status for financial year 2020-2021 and a summary of the proposal for the core budget and country contributions for fiscal year 2021-2022 and the preliminary request for 2022-2024.
27. The Executive Director began by noting that documentation on this agenda item had been reviewed by the Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC) who forwarded its recommendation of approval to the IAI Executive Council. The IAI Executive Council had forwarded its recommendation for approval to CoP-29 (see *Report of the Executive Council, IAI/COP/29/9*).
28. The IAI Executive Director stated that the non-submission of voluntary contributions by Parties is placing a serious strain on the ability of the IAI Directorate to meet its workplan. He reiterated that this situation cannot continue in the long-term. He informed Parties that the IAI Directorate is making greater use of consulting services as opposed to filling vacant posts. However, this cannot be a long-term solution.
29. He concluded by acknowledging the in-kind contributions provided by Argentina, especially interpretation services for EC-51 and CoP-29. He also acknowledged the generous support provided by Uruguay in the hosting of the IAI Directorate. He invited the IAI Administration, Finance and Operations Officer to present the Core Budget and country contributions for FY 2021-2022 and the Preliminary request 2022-2024.
30. In her presentation, the IAI Administration, Finance and Operations Officer suggested that, similar to the recommendations made during CoP-28 (2020, Videoconference) and in light of the challenging economic and social situation faced by many Parties as a result of Covid-19, no changes were made to the Core Budget and country contributions for FY 2021-2022 and to the Preliminary request 2022-2024. She informed Parties that the Directorate continues to make efforts to reduce costs and have some made savings during 2020-2021 fiscal year due to the travel restrictions resulting from the pandemic. However, these savings have not offset the lack of voluntary contributions by Parties.
31. She concluded by highlighting the positive conclusion of the Auditors. In summary, she highlighted the statement by the Financial and Administrative ad hoc Committee on the work of the IAI: *The COVID-19 pandemic presented hardship globally, and IAI is commended for maintaining operations over the past challenging year.* (see document IAI/COP/29/5d). She also presented the Recommendation made by EC-51, L1/4 inviting the Conference of the Parties to approve the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2021-2022 and the Preliminary request 2022-2024.
32. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision contained in the annex to document *Financial and budgetary matters Annex 2: Core budget and country contributions for FY 2021-2022 and preliminary request 2022-2024*, no. IAI/COP/29/5b.
33. The Conference of the Parties also adopted the draft decision contained in the annex to document *Auditors report*, no. IAI/COP/29/5c.

34. In final remarks on this agenda item, the Executive Director thanked Parties for their support.

Agenda item 6: Decision XXVIII/4: Annual performance evaluation of the IAI Executive Director.

35. The Chair requested that the IAI Executive Director and IAI staff leave the meeting temporarily during the discussion of the evaluation, with the exception of the IAI Administration, Finance and Operations Officer.
36. The Chair summarized the discussions during EC-51 under this agenda item and noted Article 4(b) of *the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* which states that the Executive Council shall: *Ensure that the Director implements the policies adopted by the Conference of the Parties.*
37. The Chair informed members that, during the 2020-2021 intersessional period, the IAI Executive Director had consistently exceeded performance expectations. Parties thanked the Chair for her evaluation and invited the Executive Director and IAI staff back to the meeting.
38. The meeting took note of the report.

Agenda item 7: Decision XXVIII/5: Whistleblower policy

39. The Chair summarized the origin of this Decision stating that normally inter-governmental organizations and other organizations benefit from such a policy. She thanked the IAI Directorate for its work in the development of the *Policy*.
40. Before requesting the IAI Director to present the Policy, the Chair noted Recommendation L1/5 made by EC-51 and found in the annex to the *Report from the Executive Council*, document no. IAI/COP/29/9 inviting the Conference of the Parties to approve the *Whistleblower policy*.
41. The Chair then invited the IAI Executive Director to present the document.
42. The IAI Director stated that the *Whistleblower policy* benefitted from the suggestions, revisions and contributions from the staff of the IAI Directorate. He highlighted that the final draft represents a team effort on the part of the IAI Directorate.
43. He continued by explaining that whistleblower policies from government departments and ministries, international organizations and the private sector were consulted for guidance and content.
44. He concluded by noting that, if the policy is approved by Parties, staff of the IAI Directorate will benefit from a transparent, confidential and secure mechanism to raise alarm on an alleged non-respect of an administrative rule or fraudulent behavior.
45. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision contained in the annex to document *Whistleblower policy*, no. IAI/COP/29/7.

46. In the closing of this agenda item, the Chair thanked the IAI Directorate for its work in the development of the *Policy*.

Agenda item 8; Decision XXVIII/6: Gender policy on IAI projects and activities

47. The Chair requested the IAI Directorate to introduce this agenda item.

48. The Director of Science thanked the members of the SAC and the SPAC for their contributions to the development of a Gender policy on IAI projects and activities. She noted that Argentina and Mexico, supported by Panama, requested the drafting of such a policy at CoP-28 (2020, Videoconference) and that the policy complements strongly the *IAI Strategic plan*¹, especially Theme I, Goal 1, Objective 2, Action b, which states:

For every call for proposals, the Directorate shall ensure that the peer-review committee is representative in terms of disciplines, regions, and gender balance, and that it includes underrepresented groups in science.

and Theme 2, Goal 1, Objective ii, which states:

Support research that enhances social-environmental justice, gender equality, and engagement of underrepresented groups from the beginning of the research process.

49. She continued by informing members that the Directorate took into account current in-force gender-related policies which could provide possible models and direction. Policies from major universities, inter-governmental organizations, national science academies, science funding agencies, and scientific associations were also consulted with a view to expand the pool of knowledge and approaches related to issues on gender and science.

50. She concluded by noting EC-51 Recommendation L1/6 the made by EC-51 and found in the annex to the Report from the Executive Council, document no. IAI/COP/29/9 inviting the Conference of the Parties to adopt the Policy but also summarizing discussion by EC members that the Policy should be expanded to include equity, diversity and inclusion.

51. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions contained in the annex to document *Gender policy on IAI projects and activities*, no. IAI/COP/29/8.

Executive Council

Agenda item 9: Report of the Executive Council

52. The Chair introduced the report and highlighted the many activities where the Executive Council provided advice and guidance noting that EC-51 Recommendations L1/2, L1/3, L1/4, L1/5 and L1/6 located in the annex to the Report have been presented to and taken into consideration by the Conference of the Parties under agenda items 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

¹ See: <https://www.iai.int/pdf/en/Strategicplan-en.pdf>

53. She continued by requesting the indulgence of Parties to present a new initiative that may provide new opportunities to the region and to take into consideration the new draft Recommendations L1/7 and L1/8² which were submitted to the meeting. Parties agreed by consensus for the Chair present this new initiative.
54. The *Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean* takes into account possible collaboration among several United States departments and agencies, Latin American and Caribbean ministries and programs and international initiatives including, but not limited to:
- a. United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP - an inter-agency program which supports START, Future Earth and through the NSF, the IAI);
 - b. United States Group on Earth Observations (which has a strong partnership with the international Group on Earth Observations (GEO));
 - c. AmeriGEO which is the regional component of GEO consisting of 20 countries and is co-chaired by Argentina, Peru and the United States; and,
 - d. the IAI through the Science, Technology, Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program.
55. The aim of the Initiative would be to develop a partnership in the Americas to enhance countries' capacity to conduct national climate assessments to support the development of national adaptation and mitigation strategies. The Chair continued by pointing to the possible role of the IAI in the coordination of the Initiative among interested Parties. She concluded by stating that the moment was opportune to engage with the Initiative as many of the activities proposed are in the very early stages of development.
56. The Chair noted that the initiative is open to Parties and only the very broad framework of the initiative has been decided on. She reiterated that Parties would most benefit through early participation as the opportunities to influence the development of activities are open. She concluded by presenting two draft Recommendations in support of the initiative.
57. The Parties voiced interest in the initiative and request the IAI to issue a notification providing information on involvement, milestones and partnerships.
58. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft Recommendations L1/7 and L1/8³.

2nd session

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

Agenda item 10: Election of SAC members

² The new draft Recommendations were: *Directed to the Conference of the Parties*

³ L1/7. Conference of the Parties approves the establishment a working group, in collaboration with the SAC and SPAC and the IAI Directorate, to develop and implement activities under the Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean and to report on achievements at the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

L1/8. The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to disseminate information on the Initiative to Parties and partners and to encourage their participation in its activities.

59. The Chair suggested moving this agenda item to the end of the meeting to provide Parties with additional time to evaluate the results from the Committee to Recommend Candidates for the SAC and the candidates' curriculum Vitæ. The Chair noted that the Committee was established at the 51st meeting of the Executive Council (2021, Videoconference) and is composed of Brazil, Mexico, Peru and the United States.
60. The meeting agreed to this suggestion.

Agenda item 11: Joint Report of the SAC/SPAC

61. The Chair invited the IAI Science Director to present the Joint report of the SAC/SPAC on behalf of the Chairs of the two Committees.
62. In her introduction, the IAI Science Director thanked members of the SAC and SPAC for their support of and contributions to the IAI. She also thanked Dr. Edwin Castellanos, from Guatemala, whose term on the SAC expired, for his contributions.
63. She continued by listing the programs and projects that benefitted from the advice and participation of the SAC and SPAC, including: The revision of the *IAI Scientific agenda*, the finalization and publication of the CRN3 special issue⁴, new opportunities for funding including grants submitted, alignment of SAC/SPAC activities with the IAI strategic plan. She also highlighted the work by the following subcommittees: climate, environment and health, COVID-19, strategic plan indicators, and the regional assessment.
64. Contributions by SAC and SPAC members as editors to the publishing of the CRN3 special issue in the peer reviewed journal *Environmental development* was highlighted. She concluded by thanking SAC and SPAC members that participated in the IAI-VKS SciTalks initiative. The SciTalks were a collaboration with Virtual Keystone Symposium (VKS) and are on-demand scientific presentations featuring research that address compelling scientific and global health questions, followed by a panel discussion with experts in science and policy. They are a product of the discussions of the IAI COVID-19 Working Group.
65. She concluded by thanking the Chairs of the SAC and SPAC, whose terms expire at the beginning of the 2021-2022 intersessional period and informed the meeting that elections for new Chairs would be held during the first meeting of the SAC and SPAC following CoP-29.
66. In the ensuing discussion, the Chair asked the Science Director to identify gaps in the science program that could be addressed by the SAC and the SPAC.
67. The Science Director replied that the SAC and SPAC working group on the regional assessment, as described in the IAI Strategic plan, may assist in the identification of such gaps.
68. At the conclusion of the Science Director remarks, the Chair invited the Executive Director to make additional comments.

⁴ See: *Environmental Development*, v. 38 (2021) (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/environmental-development/special-issue/10XLGNGJM97>)

69. The Executive Director thanked the SAC and SPAC for their work and advice. He also informed the meeting that a few Parties were attending the meetings of the SAC and SPAC and that other Parties, or their designated representatives, were also welcomed to attend.

70. The Chair closed this agenda item and the meeting took note of the report.

Agenda item 12: Recommendations by the Parties and the SAC and the SPAC on revisions to the *IAI scientific agenda*

71. The Chair invited the IAI Science Director to present this agenda item.

72. The Science Director, in her introduction of the revisions to the *IAI scientific agenda*, thanked the Parties and the SAC and SPAC for their contributions and work.

73. Argentina and Canada noted that their contributions were reflected in the *IAI scientific agenda*. Other Parties noted that additional revisions could further enhance the Agenda, including changes to the terminology used, particularly in regard to terminology related to climate research (inclusion of intra-seasonal and low frequency climate variability). An observer suggested using terminology aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity. There was also a request for greater focus on inland water pollution and its effect on indigenous peoples and local communities.

74. Responding to requests for additional revisions, the Executive Director referred to Article III, *Scientific agenda*, of the *Agreement establishing the IAI* observing that it states explicitly that *the institute shall have an evolving Scientific agenda...* He continued by suggesting that Parties may consider adopting the draft version under consideration but also instructing the SAC and SPAC, in collaboration with interested Parties, to further revise the *Agenda* in light of comments made under this agenda item.

75. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision contained in annex to document *Recommendations by the Parties and the SAC and SPAC on revisions to the IAI scientific agenda*, document no. IAI/COP/29/12 with the understanding that the SAC and the SPAC would further revise the Agenda taking into account comments and suggestions made during CoP-29.

76. Prior to consideration of the next agenda item, the Chair invited the meeting to watch a video presentation on the Small Grants Project *GovernAgua: Transforming water governance in South America*⁵ (SGP-HW 056).

Article XI: Associates of the Institute

Agenda item 13: Invitation to Mitacs to become an Associate of the IAI

77. The Chair offered the floor to the IAI Deputy Executive Director/Capacity Building Director to introduce this agenda item.

⁵ The video is available at: <https://youtu.be/oKBiknwJYVk>

78. The Capacity Building Director provided the context for the invitation by CoP-28⁶ to Mitacs to become an Associate per Article XI of the *Agreement establishing the IAI*. informed the meeting that Mitacs accepted the invitation by CoP-28 to become an Associate of the IAI on 30 April 2021 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions was signed on 11 June 2021. In her concluding remarks, she acknowledged the assistance of Canada in establishing communication with Mitacs.
79. A copy of the MoU with its agreed on initiatives under this new association is available on the IAI website at: https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/IAI-Mitacs%20Association%20Agreement_Mitacs_FINAL_June18_2021.pdf
80. The Chair closed this agenda item and the meeting took note of the report.
81. Prior to consideration of the next agenda item, the Chair invited the meeting to watch a video presentation on the Small Grants Project *Incorporating Local and Traditional Knowledge Systems: New Insights for Ecosystem Services and Transdisciplinary Collaborations*⁷ (SGP-HW 072).

Report of the IAI Directorate

Agenda item 14: IAI Summary report

Science

82. The Chair invited the IAI Science Director to report on this section of Agenda item 14.
83. In her introduction, the IAI Science Director noted that all science-related activities were in support of Decisions adopted at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties, aligned with the *IAI strategic plan* or, more generally, achieved the objectives of the *Agreement establishing the IAI*.
84. She continued by focusing on the science project proposals submitted to various agencies and ministries, including a multi-year funding proposal to the United States National Science Foundation and two transdisciplinary projects currently being implemented on vector-borne diseases with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank.
85. The alignment, as appropriate, with the Collaborative Research Actions (CRAs) of the Belmont Forum were also described, particularly the Climate, Environment and Health (CEH2) CRA. She noted that such alignments of IAI activities and active participation in CRAs has the potential of providing the Americas with many new opportunities, including the creation of a new IAI steering committee on CEH.

⁶ See Decision XXVIII/7. The Conference of the Parties invites Mitacs in Canada to become an Associate of the Institute.

⁷ The video is available at: <https://youtu.be/iO4a0sLaJy0>

86. She also described the many outreach efforts related to science including the popular SciTalks⁸ and the different presentations and speaking roles made at different science fora.
87. She concluded by explaining the two science-related draft decisions contained in the annex to document *Summary report of activities by the IAI Directorate during the 2020-2021 intersessional period*, no. IAI/COP/29/14, including a draft decision to increase the inclusion of underrepresented groups in the IAI's science and capacity building activities and another to map the domestic and international global change policy and decision-making landscape through a regional assessment.
88. In the ensuing discussion, Parties highlighted the need for capacity building particularly in the training of early career researchers to better understand the science-policy nexus. A Party emphasized the need to work on the development of adaptation indicators which may be challenging and also increase collaboration among the countries in the Americas.
89. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions related to science contained in annex to document no. IAI/COP/29/14.
90. Prior to consideration of the next section of the report, the Chair invited the meeting to watch a video presentation on the Small Grants Project *MAP-FIRE: Multi-Actor Adaptation Plan to cope with Forests under Increasing Risk of Extensive fires*⁹ (SGP-HW 016).

Capacity building

91. The Chair invited the Director of Capacity Building to report on this section of Agenda item 14.
92. The Director of Capacity Building began her report by noting the support of Parties to the initiatives currently under implementation. She also emphasized the efforts made to establish new partnerships and to secure financial support from different sources. An example presented is the regional project SISSA (Sistema de Información sobre Sequías para el sur de Sudamérica)¹⁰, which will be funded by Euroclima+ and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID) and will involve six La Plata basin countries. The SISSA project will be administered by the IAI Directorate with funding of approximately 1.3 million Euros and led by Argentina's National Meteorological Service on behalf of the South of South America Regional Climate Center (CRC-SAS) during 2021-2024.
93. She described the implementation of two pilots under the Science, Technology, Policy Fellowship Program (STeP) with the public and private sectors in Argentina and Mexico. She spoke on the development of professional development training with fellows from four Parties (Argentina, Mexico, Canada and the USA). She noted the contributions arising from key partnerships with IAI Associates, such as the AAAS and Mitacs. She thanked the Parties for their interest and participation in this initiative. Stressing that the STeP and other initiatives are open to all Parties and ministries, she invited Parties not involved in IAI activities to consider their participation. The Directorate hopes to expand STeP to several

⁸ The SciTalks are on-demand scientific presentations featuring research that address compelling scientific and global health questions, followed by a panel discussion with experts in science and policy.

⁹ The video is available at: https://youtu.be/_wQ0I3RkU4w

¹⁰ Drought Information System for Southern South America

other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean given the interest in the initiative voiced by Parties.

94. The initiative to establish a transdisciplinary training academy under the aegis of the IAI was also presented. She noted the plans to begin activities under the transdisciplinary academy in 2021. Such a training resource would enhance the capacity of Parties to undertake urgently needed transdisciplinary research and generate scientific information necessary to meet the increasingly complex and inextricably linked challenges in the Americas.
95. She presented two additional initiatives involving the IAI: a) the EPIC Model for university-community partnership to be implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean; and, b) the Stanford University-Future Earth's Earth Leadership Program project on Transdisciplinary Training Collaboratory: Building Common Ground.
96. EPIC-N and the IAI Directorate are in discussions with the United States National Science Foundation on the possibility of expanding the program in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Epic Model brings together resources in academia and develops joint programs to find solutions for challenges faced by local communities.
97. The Stanford University-Future Earth's Earth Leadership Program project on *Transdisciplinary Training Collaboratory: Building Common Ground* will develop materials and products for transdisciplinary training in different regions and languages. The IAI Directorate has partnered with this Program for the development of the activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.
98. The representative from the United States concurred that the IAI would be an ideal agent to expand the EPIC-N in Latin America and the Caribbean. She was of a similar view with regard to the Stanford University Future Earth's Earth Leadership Program project on Transdisciplinary Training.
99. The Director of Capacity Building also reported on the IAI-PAGES (Past Global Changes) International Mobility Research Fellowship Program for Latin American and Caribbean early career scientists launched in June 2021. The Directorate has signed a Letter of Agreement with PAGES and will administer the fellowship program during an initial period of 2-3 years.
100. She continued by outlining the efforts to build capacity to allow IAI Parties to support the development and strengthening of international networks of scientists and decision-makers interested in climate, environment and health (CEH). The IAI Directorate will organize two Professional Development Seminars (PDS) to support the development of transdisciplinary research project proposals on CEH. These proposals will in turn be considered by the Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action (CRA) on Climate, Environment and Health 2 (CEH2).
101. She concluded by informing the meeting that an information session for IAI Parties and other invitees on the Belmont Forum CRA CEH2 will be held on 11 August 2021.
102. In the ensuing discussion, Brazil expressed interest in the possibility of hosting one of the IAI's transdisciplinary professional development seminars on CEH and thanked the IAI Directorate for its efforts.

103. Following the discussion, the Chair invited the meeting to watch a video presentation on the STeP program.

104. The Chair closed discussion and Parties took note of this section of the report.

Data and information

105. The Chair invited the Executive Director to present on this section of the report.

106. He began by introducing the special issue on CRN3 published in the peer reviewed journal *Environmental development*¹¹. He thanked those members of the SAC and SPAC who participated in the production of the special issue as editors and noted that the issue was published as an open publication.

107. He continued by speaking on the IAI Directorate's participation in a high-level group coordinated by the Inter-Academy Partnership to examine the impact of predatory publishing and conferences on science. Latin America and the Caribbean region has experienced lower rates of predatory publishing than other regions as a result of its culture of public support for scientific publishing. However, predatory publishing is placing tremendous pressure on the publication model used by the region.

108. He concluded by inviting Parties to consider the draft decision on predatory publishing contained in the annex to document *Summary report of activities by the IAI Directorate during the 2020-2021 intersessional period*, no. IAI/COP/29/14.

109. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions related to Data and information contained in annex to document no. IAI/COP/29/14.

Report on implementation of the IAI strategic plan

110. The Chair requested the IAI Executive Director to introduce this section of the report.

111. The Executive Director spoke on the alignment of the *Strategic plan* with the *IAI scientific agenda*. The Plan was conceived to undergo a review on a triennial cycle, so as to coincide with the three-year term of the Executive Director.

112. Given that the term of the current Executive Director ends with the 2022-2023 intersessional period, it was suggested to consider delaying the revision of the plan to coincide with the term of the new Executive Director during the 2023-2024 intersessional period, per the draft decision contained in the annex to document Report on implementation of the IAI Strategic Plan, no. IAI/COP/29/14(e).

113. The Executive Director concluded by requesting a consultant to the IAI Directorate to speak on the indicators to the IAI Strategic Plan Success Indicators and Metrics.

¹¹ See: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/environmental-development/special-issue/10XLGNGJM97>

114. In her presentation, she referred specifically to Theme I, Goal 1, Objective iii, Action A, of the *Strategic plan* which states: By mid 2020, the Directorate with the support of the SAC and SPAC will develop indicators to measure the success of objectives.
115. She thanked the SAC and the SPAC for their contributions in the development of indicators which are contained in the annex to document no. IAI/COP/29/14(e). She invited Parties to consider the draft decision on the indicators contained in the annex to document no. IAI/COP/29/14(e).
116. On completion of her presentation, the Chair invited the IAI Science Director to speak on topics also relevant to this agenda item.
117. The IAI Science Director presented an update on the IAI's communication strategy, highlighting that the *IAI newsletter* would be launched in the month following CoP-29. These actions aim to better inform the Parties of the work of the IAI.
118. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions related to the Strategic plan contained in annex to document no. IAI/COP/29/14(e).

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

Agenda item 10: Election of SAC members

119. The Chair informed Parties on the results of elections for membership to the SAC.
120. She explained that Dr. Anahi Verónica Josefina Urquiza Gómez, Chile, was elected to one of the available vacancies in the SAC, there was a tie between Dr. Omar R. López Alfano, Panama, and Dr. Wilson Alfredo Suarez Alayza, Peru. On the subsequent round of votes, Dr. Omar R. López Alfano was elected.
121. The Chair thanked the candidates for their willingness to serve on the SAC and Parties for their consideration of new members.

Agenda item 15: Determination of the time and venue of the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties

122. The Chair opened this agenda item by inviting Parties to contact the IAI Directorate should they have interest in hosting the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-29), assuming travel restrictions have been lifted in the Americas to be held in June 2022.
123. The IAI Directorate informed Parties that it would be communicating with its focal points to ascertain interest in hosting CoP-30.

Closing remarks

124. The Chair thanked Parties for their participation and support of the IAI during a particularly challenging time. She stated that she hoped to meet face-to-face at CoP-30.
125. The IAI Executive Director also thanked Parties for their participation and that the IAI Directorate will continue to do its utmost to implement the Agreement and the decisions adopted this meeting.
126. The meeting was closed on 23 July at 2:15PM (UYT).

Section II

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-ninth meeting

**Decisions of the 29th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
Held via video conferencing
22-23 June 2021**

STANDING RULES OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP) OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXIX/1. The Conference of the Parties approves the revised *Standing rules of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*.

STANDING RULES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC) OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXIX/2. The Conference of the Parties approves the revised *Standing rules of the Executive Council (EC) of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*.

CORE BUDGET AND COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FY 2021-2022 AND PRELIMINARY REQUEST 2022-2024

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXIX/3. The CoP accepts and approves the Core Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022.

XXIX/4. The CoP accepts and approves the Core Budget preliminary request for fiscal year 2022-2024.

AUDITORS REPORT

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXIX/5. The Conference of the Parties approves the independent auditors report.

WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXIX/6. The Conference of the Parties approves the *Whistleblower policy* and the *IAI employee handbook*.

GENDER POLICY ON IAI PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXIX/7. The Conference of the Parties approves the *Gender Policy on IAI scientific projects and activities*.

Directed to the IAI Directorate, the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science Policy Advisory Committee

XXIX/8. The Conference of the Parties 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 Conference of the Parties.

INITIATIVE FOR CONDUCTING A NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT IN SUPPORT OF ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION: TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXIX/9. Conference of the Parties approves the establishment a working group, in collaboration with the SAC and SPAC and the IAI Directorate, to develop and implement activities under the *Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of*

adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean and to report on achievements at the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXIX/10. The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to disseminate information on the *Initiative* to Parties and partners and to encourage their participation in its activities.

IAI SCIENTIFIC AGENDA

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXIX/11. Conference of the Parties adopts the revised *IAI Scientific Agenda*.

Directed to the IAI Directorate, the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science Policy Advisory Committee

XXIX/12. The SAC and SPAC, in collaboration with the IAI Directorate, are instructed to revise the *IAI Scientific Agenda* taking into consideration comments and suggestions made by the Executive Council, Parties and partners for consideration by the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

IAI STRATEGIC PLAN

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXIX/13. The Conference of the Parties approves the indicators to the *IAI Strategic plan*.

XXIX/14. The Conference of the Parties approves the delay of the revisions to the *IAI Strategic plan* until the 2023-2024 intersessional period.

SCIENCE

Directed to the IAI Directorate, the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science Policy Advisory Committee

XXIX/15. Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Parties, the SAC and the SPAC, to increase the inclusion of underrepresented groups in the IAI's science and capacity building activities, as appropriate and subject to the availability of external financial resources.

Directed to the IAI Directorate, the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science Policy Advisory Committee

XXIX/16. Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Parties, the SAC and the SPAC, to map the domestic and international global change policy and decision-making landscape through a regional assessment, subject to the availability of external resources.

DATA AND INFORMATION

Directed to the IAI Directorate, the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science Policy Advisory Committee

XXIX/17. Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the SAC and the SPAC, to work with national and international academies of science, scientific publishers, universities and other relevant partners to raise awareness of and prevent the growth of fraudulent and predatory publishing in the Americas.