



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

14 September 2020

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Fiftieth meeting
Videoconference, 19 August 2020**

Report of the 50th meeting of the IAI Executive Council

1. This document has been prepared by the IAI Directorate.
2. The Executive Council to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research held its Fiftieth meeting via videoconferencing on 19 August 2020.

Proceedings of the Meeting

Introduction

3. In accordance with *the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article IV, *The Executive Council*, paragraph 3, the 50th meeting of the Executive Council to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research was held via videoconference on 19 August 2020.
4. This meeting was held back-to-back with the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-28, Videoconference) in accordance to Article VI, paragraph 3 of the *Agreement to establish the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* and Decision XXV/19: *Joint SAC, SPAC and EC-CoP meetings*.
5. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the EC which is held by the United States of America.

6. The following Parties to the Agreement with membership in the Executive Council attended the meeting: Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, United States of America and Uruguay.
7. The list of Parties is provided in the List of participants available at: <http://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/50th-Meeting-of-the-IAI-Executive-Council>.

Opening of the meeting

Welcome by the Executive Council Chair

8. The Chair thanked the new members of the Executive Council for their participation and contributions to the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-28, Videoconference, 2020). The Chair provided a brief summary of the decisions adopted at CoP-28 (Videoconference, 2020) including the approval of the core budget for 2020-2021, the preliminary request for 2021-2023, the policy on gender, the updating of the IAI Staff handbook to include a whistleblower mechanism and the need for an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director.

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

9. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the agenda.
10. The Agenda was approved by consensus.

Agenda items 3, 4 and 5: Review of CoP-28 items for action by the Executive Council and implementation strategies for Recommendations from EC-49 and Decisions from CoP-28; Other decisions arising and Future meetings and venues

11. The Chair noted three Decisions adopted at CoP-28 (Videoconference, 2020) which require direct input from the Executive Council. The Decisions are:
 - a. XXVIII/4. *Instructs the Executive Council to exercise Article VI, The Executive Council, paragraph 4(b) of the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research to undertake an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director and report at each Conference of the Parties;*
 - b. XXVIII/5. *Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Executive Council, to revise the IAI employee handbook to include a whistleblower mechanism for consideration by the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and,*
 - c. XXVIII/6. *Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Executive Council to develop a policy on gender and IAI projects and activities.*

12. On conclusion of her introduction, the EC Chair invited the IAI Directorate to communicate with the Executive Council on the implementation of the above Decisions during the intersessional period. She also invited the IAI Directorate to speak on the issues related to organizing virtual meetings of the Conference of the Parties and on the possibility of organizing the 51st meeting of the Executive Council (EC-51) also via videoconferencing systems.
13. The IAI Directorate noted that CoP-28 (Videoconference, 2020) indicated that it is possible to organize meetings of the Conference of the Parties using videoconferencing systems. However, these virtual meetings are most effective when topics under discussion are limited and related to administrative issues. The Directorate suggested to hold such meetings on a biennial cycle so that each meeting of the Conference of the Parties can alternate between physical and virtual meetings. Members of the Executive Council were informed that a report on the possibility of virtual CoP meetings would be presented at CoP-29 for consideration.
14. On conclusion of comments, the IAI Directorate stated that it would be possible to organize EC-51 via video conferencing in late February or early March 2021 and that a Doodle poll would be sent to the Executive Council to ascertain the most convenient dates to hold the meeting.
15. In response to a request from the Chair for an email distribution list to facilitate communication among Executive Council members, the IAI Directorate stated that it would create such a list and provide information on its use.

Agenda item 6: Closing remarks and closure of the meeting

16. The Chair thanked the members of the Executive Council for their participation and wished everyone a successful intersessional period.
17. The meeting was closed by the Chair on 19 August 2020 at 2:30pm.