



**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**11 August 2021**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Fifty-first meeting  
Videoconference, 22 June 2021  
10:00 to 13:00 UYT**

### **Report of the 51st meeting of the IAI Executive Council**

1. This document has been prepared by the IAI Directorate.

#### Introduction

2. The Executive Council to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research held its fifty-first (EC-51) via videoconferencing, on 22 June 2021.
3. The account of the proceedings and discussions of the meeting are provided in section I of the report.
4. The meeting made 9 recommendations and they are provided in section II of the report.

#### Section I

- I. Proceedings of the Meeting

#### Introduction

5. In accordance with *the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article IV, *The Executive Council*, paragraph 3, the 51th meeting of

the Executive Council to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research was held on 22 June 2021 via videoconference.

6. This meeting was held back-to-back with the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-29, Videoconference, 2021) in accordance to Article VI, paragraph 3 of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* and Decision XXV/19: *Joint SAC, SPAC and EC-CoP meetings*.
7. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the EC, Dr. Maria Uhle, United States. Dr. Milagro Mainieri, Panama, was the Vice-Chair.
8. The following Parties to the Agreement with membership in the Executive Council attended the meeting: Canada, Chile, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, United States of America.
9. The following observer Parties attended the meeting: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru.
10. The following members of the Science Policy Advisory Committee attended the meeting: Dr. Karen de Oliveira Silverwood Cope and Dr. David Smith.
11. The following observer organizations attended the meeting: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University.
12. The list of observer Parties and other observers attending the meeting is provided in the List of participants available on the EC-51 web page<sup>1</sup>.

### Opening of the meeting

#### Welcome by the Chair Executive Council

13. The Chair expressed her gratitude to EC members for their attendance and for their support of the IAI. She praised the work of the IAI during the intersessional period, particularly in light of the challenges posed by Covid-19. She concluded by wishing everyone a successful meeting.
14. The Chair offered the floor to the IAI Executive Director for comments.
15. The IAI Executive Director thanked members of the Executive Council for their support of the IAI. He mentioned that an organization such as the IAI is needed more than ever given the difficulties many countries in the region are facing as a result of Covid-19. He emphasized the positive role that open science and transdisciplinary research can offer countries when dealing with new global changes as posed by Covid-19. He concluded by thanking the Government of Uruguay for the hosting of the Directorate.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/51st-Meeting-of-the-IAI-Executive-Council#contenido4>

16. The Chair cordially invited the participants to the meeting and invited a round of introductions.

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

17. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the agenda.

18. The Agenda was approved by consensus.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the revisions to the *Standing rules of the Executive Council (EC) of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*

19. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the draft *Standing rules of the Executive Council (EC) of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* noting that the revisions take into account the need to organize and hold virtual meetings.

20. The recommendation LI/1 on the revisions to the *Standing rules of the Executive Council* were approved by consensus.

Agenda item 3: Approval of the reports of the 49th and 50th meetings of the Executive Council

21. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the reports of the 49th and 50th meetings of the Executive Council.

22. The reports were approved by consensus.

Agenda item 4: Establishment of a Committee to Recommend Candidates for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) elections

23. The Chair invited Parties to join the Committee to Recommend Candidates for the Scientific Advisory Committee.

24. Brazil, Mexico, Peru and the United States agreed to serve on the Committee and to report on recommendations during the second session of CoP-29.

Agenda item 5: Report of the Executive Council

25. Prior to introducing the Report of the Executive Council, the Chair spoke on the *Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of adaptation and mitigation*:

*Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean.* She noted that this new initiative 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.
26. 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.
27. Several Parties express interest in participation and were supportive of the idea. Questions were posed on the expected time-frame for implementation and opportunities to assist Parties to participate.
28. 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.
29. She invited members to submit recommendation in support of the Initiative to CoP-29. The recommendations LI/7 and LI/8, on the *Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of adaptation and mitigation*, are located in Section II of this document.
30. The recommendations were approved by consensus.

#### Agenda item 6: Financial and Administrative Committee report

31. The Chair requested the IAI Directorate to summarize the findings of the report of the Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC).
32. The Directorate informed EC members that the FAC *found the budget request to be responsive to the evolving nature of IAI operations, and the proposed expenses reasonable and appropriate.* It also noted the commendation in the FAC report that *IAI staff are commended for again receiving an unqualified audit opinion.*

33. The Directorate also took the opportunity to introduce the IAI Financial status report noting the need for Parties to consider the timely submission of the voluntary contributions.
34. EC Members took note of the reports.

Agenda item 7: Auditors report, approval of Financial status report and Financial items to be forwarded to CoP/29

35. The Chair proposed approval of draft recommendations LI/3 and LI/4, located in Section II of this document, which invited the Conference of the Parties to approve the IAI Auditors Report, IAI Financial Status Report and the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2021-2022 and the Preliminary request 2022-2024.
36. EC members approved recommendations LI/3, on the IAI Auditors Report and IAI Financial Status Report, and LI/4, the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2021-2022 and the Preliminary request 2022-2024, by consensus.

Agenda item 8: Annual performance evaluation of the IAI Executive Director.

37. 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.
38. The Chair informed members that, during the 2020-2021 intersessional period, the IAI Executive Director had consistently exceeded performance expectations. EC members thanked the Chair for her evaluation and invited the Executive Director and IAI staff back to the meeting.
39. EC Members took note of the reports.

Agenda item 9: *Whistleblower policy*

40. In her introduction to this agenda item, the Chair thanked the IAI Directorate for its work. She requested the IAI Executive Director to present the document.
41. The IAI Director stated that the *Whistleblower policy* benefitted from the suggestions, revisions and contributions from the staff of the IAI Directorate. Moreover, several whistleblower policies from government departments and ministries, international organizations and the private sector were consulted. He concluded by noting that, if the policy is approved at CoP-29, 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.

42. EC members approved recommendation LI/5 on the *Whistleblower policy* by consensus.

Agenda item 10: Gender policy on IAI projects and activities

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

44. 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 requested the drafting of such a policy at the beginning of the 2020/2021 intersessional period and that the policy complements strongly the IAI Strategic plan.

45. She continued by informing members that the Directorate took into account current in-force policies which could provide possible models and direction. Current 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.

46. In the ensuing discussion, Parties commended the and stressed the need for a gender policy but also asked if it could be expanded to include equity, diversity and inclusion.

47. The Director of Science stated that this recommendation could be made to Parties at CoP-29.

48. Recommendation LI/6 on the *IAI Gender Policy on IAI Projects and Activities* was approved by consensus with the understanding that the Chair of the EC, in her report to CoP-29, would request that the gender policy be adopted but also revisions would continue to expand the policy to include equity, diversity and inclusion.

Agenda item 11: Closing remarks and closure of the meeting

49. The Chair invited members to make closing remarks.

50. EC members thank the Chair for her support of the meeting and the IAI Directorate for its preparation of documents and organization of the meeting.

51. The IAI Directorate expressed gratitude for the support of the EC to the IAI and its work and thank Secretariat staff for their achievements during the intersessional period.

52. The Chair closed the meeting by noting the progress of the IAI and the strong participation of Parties.

53. The meeting was closed at 12:30 on 22 June 2021.

## Section II

### Recommendations adopted by the Executive Council at its fifty-first meeting.

#### Recommendations

#### **Recommendations made at the 51st meeting of the IAI Executive Council**

##### **Directed to the Conference of the Parties**

LI/1. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the revisions to the *Standing rules of the Executive Council*.

##### **Approval of the Reports of the 49th and 50th meetings of the EC**

LI/2. The Executive Council approved the reports of its 49th and 50th meetings

##### **Directed to the Conference of the Parties**

LI/3. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the IAI Auditors Report and IAI Financial Status Report.

LI/4. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2021-2022 and to consider the Preliminary request 2022-2024.

LI/5. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the IAI Whistleblower Policy.

LI/6. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the IAI Gender Policy on IAI Projects and Activities.

LI/7. Invites the Conference of the Parties to establish 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.

LI/8. Invites the Conference of the Parties to instruct the IAI Directorate to disseminate information on the Initiative to Parties and partners and to encourage their participation in its activities.

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

LI/9. Invites the Conference of the Parties to instruct the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the SAC and SPAC to continue to revise during the 2021/2022 intersessional period 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.