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12 August 2022

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Fifty-third meeting
Montevideo and Videoconference
14 June 2022**

Report of the 53rd meeting of the IAI Executive Council

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

Introduction

2. The Executive Council of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research held its fifty-third (EC-53) in Montevideo and via videoconferencing, on 14 June 2022.
3. The account of the proceedings and discussions of the meeting are provided in section I of the report.
4. The meeting made 4 recommendations, which are provided in section II of the report.

Section I

- I. Proceedings of the Meeting

Introduction

5. *By the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, Article IV, The Executive Council, paragraph 3, the 53rd meeting of the Executive Council to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research was held on 14 June 2022 in Montevideo and via videoconference.*

6. This meeting was held back-to-back with the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-30, Montevideo and videoconference, 2022) in accordance with 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, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay (in person), and the United States of America.
9. The following observer Parties attended the meeting: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.
10. The following members of the Scientific Advisory Committee attended the meeting: Dr. Omar López (Chair), Dr. Elena Abraham, Dr. Mercy J. Borbor, Dr. Inés Camilloni, Dr. Michelle Scobie, Dr. Anahí Urquiza, Dr. Reynaldo Victoria.
11. The following members of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee attended the meeting: Dr. Evelia Rivera-Arriaga (Chair) and Dr. Javier Gracia Garza.
12. The following observer organization attended the meeting: the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).
13. The following government ministry attended the meeting: Ministry of Public Health, Uruguay.
14. The former Chair of the Executive Council, Mr. Gabriel Aintablian, attended the meeting as an observer.
15. The list of observer Parties and other observers attending the meeting is provided in the List of participants available on the EC-53 web page¹.

Opening of the meeting

Welcome by the Chair Executive Council

16. The Chair opened the meeting by thanking EC members for their attendance and their support of the IAI. She praised the work of the IAI during the intersessional period, noting many successful projects and programs. She wished everyone a successful meeting and offered the floor to the IAI Executive Director for comments.
17. The IAI Executive Director thanked members of the Executive Council for their strong support of the IAI. He noted that the IAI Directorate was able to develop and implement

¹ <https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/CE-53-List%20of%20Participants.pdf>

many new initiatives, projects and activities. He continued by also thanking the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Committee for the contributions to the work achieved during the 2021-2022 intersessional period and for their in-person participation at EC-53.

18. The Chair cordially invited the participants to the meeting for a round of introductions.

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

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

20. The agenda was approved by consensus.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the Reports of the 51st and 52nd meetings of the EC

21. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the reports of the 51st and 52nd meetings of the Executive Council.

22. The reports were approved by consensus.

Agenda items 3 and 4: Financial and Administrative Committee report and Auditors report and approval of Financial status report and Financial items to be forwarded to the CoP-30.

23. In the opening of agenda items 3 and 4, the Chair invited the Executive Director to introduce agenda items 3 and 4.

24. The Executive Director began his introduction by stating that the Financial and Administrative Committee, in its report, *reviewed the IAI's core budget request for the coming fiscal year and recommended that the Executive Council forward it to the Council of the Parties for approval.*

25. He continued by noting that the Auditors' report covering the fiscal year 2021-22 gave an unqualified opinion that the IAI's financial statement presented fairly in all material respects the financial position of the IAI.

26. He then passed the floor to the IAI Administration, Finance, and Operations Officer. He requested that she summarize the Financial status report and the Financial items to be forwarded to the CoP-30.

27. She informed the Parties that, in recognition and sensitivity to the social and economic environment faced by many countries due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there are no increases requested in the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2022-2023 and Preliminary request for 2023-2025.

28. She noted, however, that this situation was not sustainable in the long-term, especially as contributions for most Parties have not increased since the coming into force of the *Agreement* in 1992. She continued by stressing that the dollar value from 1992 to the current time has lost 50% of its purchasing power.
29. In her conclusion, she requested that those Parties that are late in submitting their voluntary contributions due so at their first possible opportunity.
30. At the conclusion of her presentation she opened the floor for comments. Members of the SAC and the SPAC spoke on the need for Parties to submit their contributions in a timely manner.
31. the Executive Council recommended that the Conference of the Parties approve the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2022-2023 and the preliminary request for 2023-2025.

Agenda item 5: Establishment of a committee to recommend candidates for the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science Policy Advisory Committee elections, on the second day of CoP-30

32. The Chair opened this agenda item by offering the floor to the IAI Executive Director.
33. The Executive Director spoke on the current membership of the SAC and the SPAC and on the need to constitute a committee to advise CoP-30 on elections.
34. Canada and the United States joined the Committee.

Agenda item 6: Report of the Executive Council

Agenda item 6a: Decision XXVIII/4: Annual Performance Evaluation of the IAI Executive Director

35. In the opening of agenda item 6a, the Chair requested that the IAI Executive Director, IAI staff, members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC), and observers leave the meeting temporarily during the discussion of the evaluation, with the exception of the IAI Administration, Finance, and Operations Officer.
36. The Chair 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 2021-2022 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.

Agenda item 6b: Article VIII, Paragraph 4 of the Agreement: Recruitment for the post of Executive Director

38. In her introduction of agenda item 6b, the Chair recalled Article 8, paragraph 4 of the *Agreement*, which states: *The Director shall be elected by a two-thirds majority of the Conference of the Parties from nominations submitted by the Parties and for a three-year term with eligibility for a single additional term.* She also recalled paragraph 6 which states: *The Director shall not be a citizen or permanent resident of the Party hosting the Directorate.*
39. She continued by noting that on 31 May 2023, the current Executive Director will reach the end of his second mandate, with no possibility of renewal, per paragraph 4 of the *Agreement*.
40. Accordingly, the recruitment process for the new Executive Director would begin during the 2022-2023 intersessional period as described in document IAI/EC/53/6b.
41. In her concluding remarks, she requested that Executive Council members consider the recommendation to the Conference of the Parties contained in the annex to document IAI/EC/53/6b to: *request the Executive Council with the support of the IAI Directorate to begin the recruitment process for the new Executive Director of the IAI.*
42. The Executive Council approved the recommendation.

Agenda item 6c: Decision XXIX/9: Report on Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean

43. The Chair introduced agenda item 6c by recalling Decision XXIX/9 which approved the establishment of a working group to develop and implement activities under this initiative. She thanked members of the Executive Council and the member of the SAC participating in the initiative and described the meetings held to date. She recalled the aim of the Initiative which is to establish partnerships in the Americas to enhance countries' capacity to conduct national climate assessments to support the development of national adaptation and mitigation strategies.
44. She continued by describing the role of other partners in the initiative and referred to the upcoming meeting of AmeriGEO Week 2022, to be held in Asuncion, Paraguay, from 14 to 19 August 2022, where the initiative will be presented during a hybrid side event.

45. In her conclusion of this agenda item, the Chair reminded Executive Council members that participation was open and invited interested members to contact her or the IAI Directorate.

46. EC Members took note of the report.

Agenda item 7: Closing remarks and closure of the meeting

47. The Chair invited members to make closing remarks.

48. Executive Council members thanked the Chair for her guidance during the meeting and the IAI Directorate for its preparation of documents and organization of the meeting.

49. The IAI Directorate expressed gratitude for the support of the Executive Council to the IAI and its work and thanked Secretariat staff for their achievements during the intersessional period.

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

51. The meeting was closed at 12:30 on 14 June 2022.

Section II

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

Recommendations

Recommendations made at the 53rd meeting of the IAI Executive Council

Directed to the Executive Council

Approval of the Reports of the 51st and 52nd meetings of the EC

LI/1. The Executive Council approves the reports of its 51st and 52nd meetings

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

LI/2. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the IAI Auditors Report and IAI Financial Status Report.

LI/3. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2022-2023 and to consider the Preliminary request for 2023-2025.

LI/4. Invites the Conference of the Parties to request the Executive Council with the support of the IAI Directorate to begin the recruitment process for the new Executive Director of the IAI.