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8 December 2022

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Fifty-fourth meeting
Montevideo and Videoconference, 15 November 2022
11:00 to 14:00 UYT**

Report of the 54th meeting of the IAI Executive Council

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

Introduction

2. Article VI, paragraph 3 of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)*, states:

The Executive Council shall meet at least twice a year and shall strive to hold its meetings in different locations among the Parties.

3. In accordance with Article VI, paragraph 3, of the *Agreement*, the 54th meeting of the Executive Council was held in Montevideo, Uruguay and via videoconference on 15 November 2022 and represented the second and final meeting in the year 2022.
4. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the EC, Dr. Maria Uhle, United States. Ing. Milagro Mainieri, Panama, was the Vice-Chair.
5. The following Parties to the *Agreement* with membership in the Executive Council attended the meeting: Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and the United States of America.
6. The following observer Parties attended the meeting: Colombia and Peru.

7. Two members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and two members of the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) attended the meeting.
8. The following government agencies attended the meeting: Uruguay Ministry of Health and United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP).
9. The following observer organization attended the meeting: Belmont Forum.
10. The list of observer Parties and other observers attending the meeting is provided in the List of participants available on the EC-54 web page¹.

Opening of the meeting

Welcome by the Chair Executive Council

11. The Chair expressed her gratitude to EC members for their participation in the meeting and for their support of the IAI. She praised the work of the IAI during the 2022-2023 intersessional period, and referred to the successful conclusion of the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-30, Montevideo and Videoconference, 2022). She praised the IAI Directorate for the official documentation in support of the meeting and concluded her comments by wishing everyone a successful meeting.
12. The Chair offered the floor to the IAI Executive Director for comments.
13. The IAI Executive Director thanked members of the Executive Council for their support of the IAI. He thanked the staff of the IAI for their work and for their dedication to the IAI. He concluded his comments by referring to the number of projects and capacity building initiatives implemented or under implementation by the Directorate highlighting their benefits to the region.
14. The Chair cordially welcomed the participants to the meeting and invited a round of introductions.

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

15. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the agenda (document no. IAI/EC/54/1).
16. The agenda was approved by consensus.

Agenda item 2: Review of Decisions adopted at the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

¹See: <https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/EC-54#contenido4>

17. The Chair opened this agenda item by introducing the decisions requiring participation and input by the Executive Council.

Decision XXX/4: Recruitment for the post of Executive Director

18. The Chair began by providing a description of the process to recruit the new IAI Executive Director. She noted notification no. 2022/33, published on 13 September 2022, which provided Parties with information on the vacancy announcement. She also referred to the dedicated password protect webpage hosting the nominations submitted by Parties. She concluded by stating that the deadline to receive nominations was 1 November 2022 and that the Selection Committee is composed of Parties, the Chairs of the SAC and the SPAC and the Director of the Belmont Forum. The Deputy Director of the IAI was invited to attend the meetings as an observer and the IAI Administration, Finance and Operations Officer will be available to answer questions related to administration and benefits.

Decision XXX/6: The Conference of the Parties is invited to establish a Gender and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, in collaboration with the SAC, SPAC and Associates and with the support of the IAI Directorate to develop and implement activities under the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy for IAI Scientific Projects and Capacity Building Activities and to report on achievements at the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties

19. With regard to Decision XXX/6, the Chair stressed the importance of this Committee and thanked the participation of Parties, members of the SAC and the SPAC, Associates and others in the IAI community. She wished the Committee successful deliberations and looked forward to receiving the report to be submitted at CoP-31 (Panama City, 2023). She concluded by offering the floor to the Executive Director.
20. The Executive Director noted that the *Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy for IAI Scientific Projects and Capacity Building Activities* was developed at the request of Parties, namely Argentina and Mexico. He applauded the Parties for their support of the policy and thanked the Committee for its work and investment in time.

Decision: XXX/9: The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to establish, on its behalf, a steering committee, with the participation of Parties, the SAC and the SPAC, Associates, and experts on science diplomacy, to assist in and advise on the design and development of the IAI Center for Science Diplomacy and its programs and activities

21. The Chair introduced Decision XXX/9 by informing members that the Steering Committee's first meeting was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay from 11-13 November 2022. She continued by noting that the Committee is composed of Parties (Brazil, Chile and the United States), members of the SAC and the SPAC, Associates and renowned experts on the subject of science diplomacy.

22. She concluded by stating that an oral report on the meeting would be given under agenda item 4(b).

Agenda item 3: Overview of the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2022-2023

23. The Chair opened this agenda item by inviting the IAI Directorate to present a summary of the Core Budget and country contributions received to date.

24. The IAI Administration, Finance and Operations Officer began her presentation by summarizing expenses and receipts related to the Core Budget since its approval by CoP-30 (Montevideo and Videoconference, 2022). She noted that the contributions received to date were sufficient to maintain the functioning of the Directorate. However, the non-submission of Party contributions continues to affect negatively the capacity of the Directorate.

25. She continued by explaining that the advent of Covid-19 impacted many activities by IAI staff, primarily travel and physical meetings. However, these expenses are expected to increase significantly during the 2022-2023 intersessional period given that restrictions on international travel have decreased.

26. With regard to Party contributions, she noted that communication to Parties will be sent in mid-January 2023.

27. She concluded by noting the efforts of the IAI Directorate to create an emergency fund, which, at the time of writing, totals USD400,000 and is sufficient to maintain operations by the Directorate for approximately 3 months.

28. The Chair thanked the Directorate for its summary and concluded this agenda item.

Agenda item 4: Summary report of activities to date by the IAI Directorate

29. On the conclusion of agenda item 3, the Chair invited the IAI Executive Director to present the Summary report of activities to date by the IAI Directorate.

30. The Executive Director gave a brief summary of activities to date by acknowledging the exceptional work of the Directorate noting the development and implementation of many innovative scientific programs and capacity building activities.

31. He stressed the interest of many Parties to participate in these activities and stated that the Directorate would continue its efforts to secure extra-ordinary financial support for new projects and activities that are Party-driven and in alignment with the IAI *Scientific agenda* and *Strategic vision*.

32. He continued by stating that in its summary, the Directorate would not repeat the content found in document no. IAI/EC/54/4 but would instead focus on targeted elements found in the report.
33. Prior to the presentation of the summary report, the Executive Director requested permission from the Chair to invite the STeP Fellows to the meeting and to introduce themselves and to speak on their participation in the STeP Program.
34. The Chair agreed to this request and invited the STeP Fellows to the meeting.
35. The Fellows introduced themselves to members of the Executive Council and observers and highlighted their roles in the program.
36. Following the introductions, the Chair invited the Science Director to first present her section of the report.

- a. Science

37. The Science Director began her summary by stating that her report would cover the 2022-2023 inter-sessional period to date. She referred to the framework guiding science in the IAI, namely the *Scientific agenda* and *Strategic vision*. Within this context, she continued by acknowledging the important work and contributions to the science program of the IAI by the SAC and the SPAC. At the time of writing the SAC and the SPAC have held four joint meetings where the decisions adopted at CoP-30 (Montevideo and videoconference, 2022) were discussed and where their contributions and advice were requested.
38. She also described the establishment of thematic working groups which have the participation of Party representatives, members from the SAC and the SPAC and other experts. These groups include: a) the Working Group on Gender, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; b) the Working Group on Development of a Curriculum on Transdisciplinary Science; c) the Working Group on Climate, Environment and Health; and d) the Science Diplomacy Center Advisory Board.
39. Research funding for IAI Parties was the next item described. This included the three Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Actions (CRA): a) *The Amazon and tropical forests: its global implications and needed urgent actions* co-led with the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), currently in the scoping phase; b) *Integrated approaches to human migration/mobility in an era of rapid global change*, currently in the final selection of funded projects; and, c) *Climate, environment and health II*, which is anticipated to be launched in early 2023.
40. She continued by describing an initiative to build the capacity of IAI member states to engage in transdisciplinary (TD) research at the nexus of climate, environment and health. Next steps include an in-person regional training workshop on climate, environment and health in the Americas to be held in San Martín de los Andes, Neuquén, Argentina with the support of the state government of Neuquén, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the Global Consortium on Climate & Health Education, and Conéctate A +,

Cluster of Cooperation in the Tropical Andes and Central America Region. It is anticipated that this effort will lead to the funding and implementation of 12 to 15 transdisciplinary research projects.

41. A description of the partnership with the Belmont Forum and the government of Panama to organize the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress 2023 (SRI2023) was made. The IAI will be supporting financially the participation of students and early career researchers from Latin America and the Caribbean in the event.
42. With regard to the Caribbean region, she introduced the project on early warning systems for climate sensitive diseases, currently being implemented with the Caribbean Public Health Agency in Barbados, St. Lucia and Grenada.
43. She also spoke on efforts to strengthen science communication and provide science-based information to support decision-making in the region through the publication of the following reports: the *IAI Compendium on Climate Change Impacts in Latin America and the Caribbean* and the *Latin America and Caribbean Climate, Environment and Health (CEH) Scoping Report*.
44. In concluding her remarks, she thanked the Parties for their support and gave the floor to the Executive Director to speak on other science-related events.
45. The Executive Director spoke about the launch of the Emerging Issues program at the IAI to raise awareness with Parties on new trends and innovations in science. The first topic introduced under this program was the organization of the *Americas Conference on Solar Radiation Modification: Science, Governance and Implications for the Region*, which was held from 24 to 25 August 2022 in Kingston, Jamaica. The event was a collaborative effort by the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs (C2G), the Degrees Initiative (formerly the SRM Governance Initiative), the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), and the University of the West Indies (UWI), with the support of the United States National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NAS).
46. The objectives of the meeting were to introduce the concept of Solar Radiation Modification (SRM), present current and possible science, including research in the Americas, offer views from other regions, and describe efforts at establishing governance at the international level.
47. A webinar on cloud computing and science will be the next event presented to Parties in February 2023. The event is being organized with Amazon Cloud Services and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
48. The Executive Director concluded by giving an update on the progress of work under the *Initiative for Enhancing Capacity for Climate Risk Assessment and Catalyzing Partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LACI) and inviting an IAI STeP Fellow to give an update report on Decision XXIX/16, adopted at CoP-29 (Videoconference, 2021), which directed the Directorate to conduct the Regional Assessment with IAI Parties.

The information collected during this first Assessment will be used to better understand how to serve the needs of Parties, to inform the IAI's near-term priorities, and to help the IAI facilitate collaboration among the Parties.

49. He began by providing a summary of steps taken to date and continued by discussing the priorities identified by Parties. He concluded by describing the next steps which include: a) More in-depth analysis of data compiled from the regional survey and sub-regional sessions; b) a literature review of documents describing policies and decisions related to global environmental change; c) a survey of the scientific community of IAI member states to understand their perceptions of key policies and decisions related to global environmental change; and d) presentation of results at CoP-31 (Panama, 2023); and, integration of information and drafting of the final report.
50. The Executive Director concluded by inviting members of the Executive Council to take note of document no. IAI/EC/54/4/a/i, *Progress on the Regional Assessment*, which provides a full description of work achieved to date.

b. Capacity building

51. The Chair invited the Director of Capacity Building to speak on achievements to date.
52. The Director of Capacity Building began by thanking the Parties for their support to the different capacity building programs. She noted the contributions of many Parties to the program of work and to the implementation of its activities.
53. She began her summary by introducing the establishment of the Science Diplomacy Advisory Board per Decision XXX/9. The first meeting of the Board was held in Punta del Este from 11 to 13 November 2022.
54. The meeting discussed the vision, mission, and ideas for the Science Diplomacy Center 3-year plan. It also focused on regional priority topics, relevant capacity building activities, potential audience, expected impact, and raising awareness. Equally important were discussions on the development of a funding strategy to sustain the Center in the long term. The draft 3-year implementation plan will be submitted for consideration by Parties at CoP-31 (Panama, 2023).
55. She continued by speaking about a consultancy supported by the Wellcome Trust on *Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Landscape and Opportunities Analysis* (October 2022-March 2023). This consultancy will strengthen IAI's role in climate and health, including mental health.
56. The call for papers for a special issue of the *Journal of science, policy, and governance* with an emphasis on development policy and global change science to achieve the vision of a sustainable Americas was described. The special issue, supported by the IAI, targets early-career researchers as prospective authors and will be published by CoP-31 (Panama, 2023).

57. Her presentation concluded with an update on the Science Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program. The Program has exceeded expectations and counts on the strong support of Parties.

58. In her closing remarks, she invited members of the Executive Council to take note of document no. IAI/EC/54/4, *Summary report of activities to date by the IAI Directorate*, which contains detailed information on the activities described above.

Agenda item 5: Decision XXIX/16: Regional assessment

59. Agenda item 5 was discussed under agenda item 4(a), Science.

Agenda item 6: Feedback received from Parties responding to the survey on the organization of CoP-30

60. The Chair requested the Executive Director to report on this item.

61. The Executive Director began by explaining the purpose of the survey, namely, to improve on the organization of official and related meetings. He continued by stating that comments were generally positive and that the Directorate would analyze carefully the responses with a view to organize future meetings in light of comments and suggestions made.

62. He invited members of the Executive Council to take note of document no. IAI/EC/54/6.

Agenda item 7: Other decisions arising

63. There were no other decisions arising.

64. The Executive Director requested the floor to update Executive Council members on collaboration between the IAI Directorate and the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Korea through the Korea Environment Corporation.

65. He stated that this collaboration has resulted in the placing of interns and early career researchers from the Republic of Korea in the Directorate. These interns have contributed to the successful outcome of many activities, meetings and projects.

66. He also mentioned the interest of the Republic of Korea to collaborate with targeted countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on issues related to achieving carbon neutrality. The Directorate will contact interested countries and provide more information.

Agenda item 8: Future meetings and venues

67. The Chair gave the floor to the Executive Director who stated that the 55th meeting of the Executive Council would be in person in Panama City, Panama in June 2023.

Agenda item 9: Update on the recruitment for the new IAI Executive Director

68. This agenda item was presented under agenda item 2: Review of Decisions adopted at the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Agenda item 10: Closing remarks and closure of the meeting

69. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to make closing remarks.

70. Panama thanked the outgoing Executive Director for his contributions to the IAI and for his successful two-term mandate. She wished him much success in his future endeavors.

71. The Chair also thanked the Executive Director and offered him the floor.

72. The Executive Director informed members of the Executive Council that this would be his last IAI official meeting and thanked the Parties for their support for his work during his mandate.

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

74. The meeting was closed at 14:00 on 15 November 2022.