



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

18 December 2023

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Fifty-sixth meeting
Videoconference, 14 November 2023
11:00 to 14:00 UYT**

Report of the 56th 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 56th meeting of the Executive Council was held via videoconference on 14 November 2023 and represented the second and final meeting in the year 2023.
4. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the EC, Maria Uhle, United States, Milagro Mainieri, Panama, was the First Vice-Chair and Stephanie Janetos, Canada, was the Second Vice-Chair.
5. The following Parties to the *Agreement* with membership in the Executive Council attended the meeting: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Panama, Paraguay, United States, and Uruguay.

6. The following observer Parties attended the meeting: Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru.
7. Four members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and two members of the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) attended the meeting.
8. The following observer organizations attended the meeting: International Research Centre on El Niño (CIIFEN), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) (IAI Associate), United Nations Development Coordination Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Belmont Forum.
9. The list of participants attending the meeting is provided on the EC-56 web page¹.

Opening of the meeting

Agenda item 1: Welcome by the IAI Executive Director

10. The Chair of the EC cordially welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed her gratitude to EC members for their participation in the meeting and their support of the IAI. She praised the IAI Directorate for the official documentation supporting the meeting and concluded her comments by wishing everyone a successful meeting.
11. The Chair offered the floor to the IAI Executive Director for comments.
12. The IAI Executive Director welcomed the participants to the meeting and thanked members of the Executive Council for their support of the IAI.
13. The Chair invited a round of introductions.

Agenda item 2: Election of the Executive Council Bureau

14. Three positions needed to be filled in the EC Bureau: Chair, First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair.
15. The election was held by nominations, including self-nominations.
16. Paraguay nominated Maria Uhle from the United States for the role of Chair.
17. Dr. Uhle accepted the nomination.
18. Stephanie Janetos from Canada volunteered to serve as Second Vice-Chair.
19. Milagro Mainieri from Panama offered to serve as First Vice-Chair.
20. The EC members accepted the nominations.

¹See: <https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/EC-56>

21. The Bureau of the EC was formed for a two-year term, for the period 2023-2025.

Agenda item 3: Approval of the agenda

22. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the agenda (document no. IAI/EC/56/3).

23. The agenda was approved by consensus.

Agenda item 4: Review of Decisions related to the Core Budget adopted at the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties

24. The Executive Council took note of document IAI/EC/56/4, which contains the Decisions related to the Core Budget adopted at the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Agenda item 5: Overview of the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2023-2024

25. 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.

26. 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-31 (Panama City and Videoconference, 2023). She noted that the contributions received to date represented 46% of the total budget. She explained that travel expenses had been covered, whenever possible, by resources outside the operational budget. She noted that the Director's funds were not used during this period.

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

Agenda item 6: Financial working group

28. The Chair, as a member of the Financial working group, opened this agenda item and invited other members of the Financial working group (Carlos Matsumoto, focal point from Brazil; Alexandre Mallet, SAC member; and Valeria Villamil, IAI Administration, Finance and Operations Officer) to present a summary of the activity of the working group to date.

29. Valeria Villamil explained that the committee met twice and had been working on recommendations to present at the upcoming CoP-32. She continued by noting that the committee recommended a 20% increase in the voluntary country contributions in the first year and an increase of 5% for subsequent years to account for inflation. She explained that this does not represent a significant increase for most countries.

30. She also informed that the committee proposed that the IAI Directorate send letters to all Parties informing them of the status of their contributions for the current year and that this become standard practice in future years.
31. Carlos Matsumoto recommended that the Directorate hold one-to-one meetings with Parties to understand their needs better. He suggested that the focal points can help to improve the interaction of the IAI with the different national agencies.
32. Maria Uhle commented on the recommendation from the working group to submit a report on additional contributions to the approved core budget (in-kind and monetary) and to present this to the CoP each year. She also noted that the working group recommended that the Directorate focus its efforts on encouraging Parties to submit the annual voluntary contributions due during this intersessional period rather than focusing on past dues.
33. Alexandra Mallet supported the recommendations of the other working group members and highlighted the importance of in-kind contributions and the need for monetary contributions to the core budget.
34. The Executive Director closed this agenda item by indicating that the working group would continue to meet during the intersessional period and would prepare recommendations for CoP-32. Parties interested in joining the working group were invited to contact the Directorate.

Agenda item 7: Summary report of the Directorate's activities to implement the Decisions adopted at the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties

- a. Science
35. The Science Director began his summary by stating that his report would cover the 2023-2024 intersessional period to date.
36. He spoke on the work of the new committee on oceans, coasts, and islands formed following CoP-31, as per Decision XXXI/6: *The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to establish a research and training program on the nexus of oceans, islands, coastal systems aligned with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, to support decision making by Parties, to seek extramural research funding to support these activities, and to identify partners*. He spoke on the support for the Belmont Forum's anticipated research funding call (collaborative research action) on this topic. He informed of the IAI participation in events on these topics in the Global Research Council Regional Americas Meeting and the UNFCCC COP-28.
37. He also commented on the IAI's participation in the UNFCCC LAC Climate Week in Panama in October 2023, and stressed the importance of strengthening linkages between ministries of environment, meteorological research institutes, and risk management offices.

38. He spoke about the IAI's participation in UNFCCC CoP28, which included a delegation from the [IAI Directorate and SAC and SPAC members](#), and participation in [side events](#) with the Guatemala, Ecuador, and Dominican Republic pavilions, among others.
39. He summarized the development of a Belmont Forum CRA on the Amazon and Tropical Forests in partnership with FAPESP, and an upcoming Regional Workshop on GEOMountains in partnership with Mountain Research Initiative, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), and the Humboldt Institute. Carlos Matsumoto, Brazil, asked if the funders of the Amazon and Tropical Forests funding call had been defined. The Science Director explained that funders were being invited to participate and the call would be presented at the Belmont Forum plenary in late November for approval to launch in 2024.
40. The Executive Director added that twelve seed grant projects, with participants from 15 countries, had been funded on the topic of climate, environment, and health.

b. Capacity building

41. The Director of Capacity Building began by thanking the Parties for their support of the Science Diplomacy Center and the Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) fellowship program, and activities. She highlighted the contributions and strong participation of many Parties to the work program and to the implementation of its activities.
42. She described the first activity of the SDC, a workshop on Introduction to Science Diplomacy, which was sponsored and held by SENACYT Panama (October 2023) held back to back with Climate Week. She also presented some initial results and outcomes of this activity, such as the Panama Declaration.
43. She noted that Brazil, Paraguay and Chile have expressed interest in co-organizing with the IAI Science Diplomacy Center future itinerant training workshops in 2024 and 2025.
44. She continued by speaking about the science diplomacy nodes being established and strengthened in IAI Parties, for example in Paraguay and Chile with the participation of key institutions, such as Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Research Councils (i.e. CONACYT, ANID)
45. Her presentation concluded with an update on the progress of the STeP fellowship program presented by Kim Portmess, STeP program lead.
46. Carlos Matsumoto, the focal point from Brazil, who participated in the workshop, shared the Panama Declaration on Science Diplomacy, co-authored by participants of the workshop.

c. Communications, Website, Virtual Campus

47. The IAI Strategic Advisor described the progress in communications, restructuring of the website and the virtual campus.
48. She announced that two new courses had been launched during the intersessional period, one focused on transdisciplinary approaches to climate, environment, and health research, and the other focused on science communication.
49. The Executive Director added that two new courses will be offered next year, one on transdisciplinary foundations and the other on science diplomacy.
50. She also mentioned the ongoing work to update the IAI's strategic plan would be presented at CoP-32.
51. The Executive Director closed this agenda item, indicating that presentations made under this agenda item reflected only part of the broader work by the IAI Directorate since CoP-31 and invited members of the Executive Council to take note of document no. IAI/EC/56/7, *Summary report of activities from 1 July 2023 to date by the IAI Directorate*, which contains detailed information on the activities described above.

Agenda item 8: Future meetings and venues: 32nd meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-32) and 57th Executive Council

52. The Chair reminded that the 32nd meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-32) and the 57th meeting of the Executive Council would be virtually co-hosted by Canada and Bolivia in late May 2024. She gave the floor to Stephanie Janetos, Canada, who briefed the EC on the meetings held with Bolivia in preparation for CoP-32.

Agenda item 9: Closing remarks

53. The Chair closed the meeting by noting the progress of the IAI and the strong participation of the Parties.
54. The meeting was closed at 13:00 on 14 November 2023.