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1 April 2024

**2024 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH
Videoconference
26 March 2024**

Report of the 2024 Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

1. This document has been prepared by the IAI Directorate.
2. The Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) held its 2024 Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties via videoconferencing on 26 March 2024 to review Panama's proposal to host the headquarters of the IAI Directorate.
3. The account of the proceedings and discussion of the meeting are provided in *Section I* of this report.
4. The meeting adopted one (1) Decision which is provided in *Section II* of this report.

Section I, Proceedings of the Meeting

Introduction

5. Article VIII, The Directorate, paragraph 4 of the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, states that the Conference of the Parties shall:
...Make decisions regarding the location of the Directorate;
6. The 2024 Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the IAI was held via videoconference on 26 March 2024.

7. Parties were invited to attend. The following Parties with accreditation attended the meeting: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States of America and Uruguay.
8. The list of participants is available on the IAI website at: <https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/ExCoP-2024-participants.pdf>

Opening of the meeting

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

9. Dr. Maria Uhle, the Chair of the Executive Council and national representative of the United States, opened the meeting and invited the Parties to adopt the provisional agenda to the 2024 Extraordinary Meeting (IAI/EXTRA/COP/2024/1). Parties adopted the agenda by consensus.

Agenda item 2: Election of CoP Bureau

10. Parties elected the composition of the CoP Bureau: Carlos Matsumoto, Brazil (Chair), Fernando Méndez, Paraguay (1st Vice-Chair), Jessica Bran, Guatemala (2nd Vice-Chair).

Agenda item 3: Report of the Credentials Committee

11. The Credentials Committee, composed of Panama and Paraguay, informed Parties that the 2024 Extraordinary Meeting achieved quorum with 15 Parties attending and having presented their diplomatic credentials: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States of America and Uruguay.

Agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Council

12. Reference was made to the document [IAI/EXTRA/COP/2024/3](#) describing the events related to the headquarters of the IAI Directorate and recommending the approval of the proposal submitted by Panama to host the Headquarters of the IAI Directorate in Panama.
13. Brazil highlighted the importance maintaining the headquarters operational in Uruguay until the office can be moved to Panama.
14. Ms. Beatriz Nuñez, Director of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay and representative of Uruguay to the meeting, explained that the *Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations* provides guidance regarding the transition, but does not impose a strict timeline. She highlighted that Uruguay was willing to grant the time necessary for a smooth transition of the headquarters of the IAI Directorate. The needs of the Directorate in this regard will be considered. She noted that ongoing dialogues with the Department of Immunities and Privileges of the Directorate of Protocol and Ceremony, were evolving favorably, and that the IAI Directorate could count on the full support of the Environment Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
15. The Chair thanked Uruguay and asked the IAI Directorate about the timeline for a smooth transition of the headquarters to Panama.
16. The Executive Director answered that based on the previous experiences moving the

headquarters of the IAI Directorate from the US to Brazil and then from Brazil to Uruguay, a minimum of one year would be needed. She requested that IAI operations remain active in Uruguay until July 2025. This would entail maintaining active bank accounts for the institution and staff, and diplomatic status for foreign staff based in Uruguay. She emphasized that this would not generate additional costs for Uruguay, beyond the date of completion of current commitments based on the denunciation sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay to the IAI Directorate on 31 January 2024.

Agenda item 5: Overview of the Proposal to host the headquarters of the IAI Directorate in Panama

17. The Chair invited Panama to present the proposal to host the headquarters of the IAI Directorate, detailed in [IAI/EXTRA/COP/2024/INFO/1](#). Panama designated Dr. Omar Lopez Alfano to give a brief presentation to the Parties.
18. Dr. Lopez Alfano presented the proposal and summarized the main benefits of moving the headquarters of the IAI Directorate to Panama, including the commitment from Panama to support the mission of the IAI, Panama's leadership in international and regional science-policy, the strategic location which would allow for greater connectivity across the region, greater engagement with Central America and the Caribbean, among other benefits.
19. The Chair thanked Panama for the presentation. Seeing no comments from the Parties, the Chair moved to Agenda item 6, the overview of the voting procedure.

Agenda item 6: Overview of voting procedures

20. The Chair explained that a decision could be made by consensus or by secret voting, per *Rule 56 of the Rules and Procedures of the Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* (as approved by CoP 29, June 2021):

Rule 56: The Conference of the Parties shall seek to work and especially to take action by consensus. If consensus is not achieved, the Chair or any Representative may call for a vote. Each Party is entitled to one vote.

21. Parties opted to decide by consensus.
22. The full proposal submitted by Panama to host the headquarters of the IAI Directorate was approved by consensus, in accordance with *Rule 56*.
23. The Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 2024/Extra-CoP/1, contained in *Section II* of this report.

Closing remarks

24. Panama congratulated the Panamanian team involved in the drafting of the proposal.
25. Comments were made by several Parties and the IAI Directorate thanking Uruguay for hosting the IAI Directorate over the last 10 years and congratulating Panama for the proposal.
26. Uruguay thanked the IAI Directorate and praised the work and efforts made towards achieving its important mission and highlighted the good relationship between the IAI Directorate and the Environment Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay. Uruguay congratulated Panama for a generous proposal.

27. The Chair invited the IAI Directorate to make a formal query to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay to ascertain the timeline for the transition and the next steps for the headquarters of the IAI Directorate to move to Panama, and expressed his desire that this happens in a timely manner. He congratulated Panama for its excellent presentation and the election by consensus.
28. The Chair thanked Parties for their participation and closed the meeting on 26 March 2024 at 1:00 PM (UYT).

Section II

Decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 2024 Extraordinary Meeting.

**Decision of the 2024 Extraordinary Meeting of the
Conference of the Parties to the
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
Videoconference
26 March 2024**

Approval of the Panama's proposal to host the headquarters of the IAI Directorate

Directed to Parties

2024/Extra-CoP/1. The Conference of the Parties approves the proposal submitted by Panama to host the headquarters of the IAI Directorate in Panama.