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3 May 2022

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Thirtieth meeting  
Montevideo and Videoconference  
14-15 June 2022  
Agenda item 8**

**Joint Report of the Science-Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science-Policy Advisory  
Committee (SPAC)**

1. This document has been prepared by the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) with the assistance of the IAI Directorate.

Background

2. The *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article VII, the Scientific Advisory Committee, paragraph 1, stipulates that the SAC:  
  
*...shall be the principal scientific advisory organ of the Institute.*
3. Additionally, Article VII, paragraph 4(a) directs the SAC, among other actions, to:  
  
*Make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties regarding the Scientific Agenda, long-range plans and annual program of the Institute.*
4. The Conference of the Parties, at its 21st meeting (CoP-21, Montevideo, 2013), adopted Decision XXI/13, which states:

*The CoP approved the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Science-Policy Liaison. The committee will provide advice to the CoP and the IAI Directorate on how to use and design science for policy and decision-making.*

## Membership

5. The current membership of the SAC includes: Omar Lopez (Chair), Reynaldo Victoria, Anahi Urquiza Gómez, Elena Abraham, Tereza Cavazos, Joshua Tewksbury, Ines Camilloni, Alexander Turra, Jean Paul Metzger, Mercy Borbor and two alternate members: Michelle Scobie and Mariana Meerhoff Scaffo.
6. In June 2022, two SAC members nominated by the Parties, Elena Abraham from Argentina and Joshua Tewksbury from the United States, will conclude their second terms.
7. One SAC member nominated by the Parties, Reynaldo Victoria from Brazil, will conclude his second term.
8. Notification no. IAIUYDIR/2021/18 was issued in 8 April 2022 inviting Parties to submit nominations for these vacancies.
9. Membership to the SAC requires expertise in a number of critical areas relevant to the Scientific Agenda of the IAI and to reflect an appropriate balance among the biogeographical areas of scientific importance to the Americas and also an integration of natural and social science.
10. The current membership of the SPAC includes: Evelia Rivera-Arriaga (Chair), Brigitte Baptiste, Walter Baethgen, Javier Gracia-Garza, Karen de Oliveira Silverwood Cope, and David Smith.
11. In June 2022, two SAC members nominated by the Parties, Walter Baethgen from Uruguay and Vaughan Turekian from United States, will have concluded their terms.
12. The Conference of the Parties shall elect 2 SAC and 2 SPAC members from nominations received from Parties and 1 member for the SAC from nominations received from the SAC itself.

## Activities

13. In accordance with Decision XXVI/9, meetings of the SAC and SPAC were held jointly on the first Tuesday of every month, during the intersessional period. The joint meetings have been successful, resulting in enhanced communication and participation, and increased exchange of knowledge between the SAC and the SPAC.
14. Nine teleconferences were held (or will be held) during the intersessional period: 6 July 2021, 3 August 2021, 7 September 2021, 5 October 2021, 7 December 2021, 1 February 2022, 1 March 2022, 5 April 2022, 3 May 2022, as of this writing. Issues discussed included: revision of the scientific agenda; alignment of SAC/SPAC activities with the IAI strategic plan; the climate, environment, and health working group; the regional assessment working group; strategic funding opportunities through Belmont Forum,

Wellcome Trust, and other global entities; selection of consulting teams to develop curriculum on science diplomacy and transdisciplinary science for the IAI (under the new NSF grant).

15. SAC and SPAC contributed to the revision of the IAI's scientific agenda per Decision XXIX/12: *The SAC and SPAC, in collaboration with the IAI Directorate, are instructed to revise the IAI Scientific Agenda taking into consideration comments and suggestions made by the Executive Council, Parties and partners for consideration by the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
16. The revised draft IAI Scientific Agenda is available as an annex to document no. IAI/COP/30/10: Decision XXIX/12: *Recommendations by the Parties and the SAC and SPAC on revisions to the IAI Scientific Agenda.*
17. The SAC and SPAC contributed to the implementation of the recently awarded NSF project, *Building Capacity for Science-Informed Policy in the Americas through Regional Collaboration, Global Change Science Synthesis, Science Diplomacy, and Transdisciplinary Networks*. The proposal addresses Decisions XXVII/15 (Fourth Round of Collaborative Research Grants), XXVII/17 (Transdisciplinary Science), XXVII/20 (Seed Grant Programs), XXVII/30 and XXVII/30 (Establishment of a Flexible Funding Mechanism for the Americas).
  1. Members of the SAC and SPAC participated in the peer review process for the selection of the consulting teams for the *Consultancy to develop training materials on transdisciplinary science related to global environmental change in the Americas*. A total of 34 teams submitted an expression of interest, 6 teams were invited to submit a full proposal, and 1 team was selected for the consultancy.
  2. Members of the SAC and SPAC participated in the peer review process for the selection of the consulting teams for the *Consultancy to develop training materials on science diplomacy related to global environmental change in the Americas*. A total of 25 teams applied and 1 team was selected for the consultancy.
  3. Members of the SAC and SPAC participated in the review and selection process for the Science Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellows. A total of 40 candidates applied from across the Americas. The fellows who were selected to join the IAI Directorate and the Belmont Forum come from Jamaica, Bolivia, Brazil, and Argentina.
18. Members of the SAC and SPAC participated in a working group for the regional assessment. They provided feedback on the survey instrument that was developed to gather data from Parties, and they participated in initial listening sessions with IAI Parties, held in August 2022.
19. Members of the SAC and SPAC participated in the working group on Climate, Environment, and Health (CEH), which met every 2 weeks during the intersessional period.
  1. The working group led efforts to scope regional (Latin America and Caribbean) research priorities on the topic of CEH, through a participatory workshop held in conjunction with AmeriGEO Week in August 2022. These results will be used to guide

- research and training activities at the IAI and will inform the development of the Belmont Forum CRA on CEH2.
2. The working group guided the creation of the *Climate and Health Responders Course for Latin America* in partnership with PAHO and Columbia University. To date over 2200 people have registered for the course, which will be held virtually in April and May 2022.
  3. The working group also guided strategic engagement with the climate and health sectors across the Americas, for example, through meetings with WMO focal points for health in national meteorological institutes across the region, and engagement with UNICEF.
  4. The working group is currently planning a series of professional development seminars and seed grants on the topic of CEH, to be held in August and December 2022.
20. Members of the SAC and SPAC also participated in science and science policy knowledge dissemination activities hosted by the IAI including:
1. The webinar on academic publishing and editing, in alliance with PLOS Climate and National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation of Panama, moderated by Dr. Omar López Alfano on October 13, 2021.
  2. The webinar on academic best practices, in alliance with PLOS Climate, moderated by Dr. Evelia Rivera on November 24, 2021. The webinar on migration and health in a context of global change, in alliance with Universidad del Desarrollo, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and Fundación Octaedro, moderated by Dr. Anahi Urquiza on March 24, 2022.
  3. The webinar on the instrumentalization of science moderated by Dr. Tereza Cavazos on May 25, 2022.
  4. The presentation of the IPCC 6th report in two separate events planned for April 26 and 28, 2022, with the participation of Dr. Edwin Castellanos (former SAC Chair), Dr. Mercy Borbor and Dr. Inés Camilloni.
  5. The webinar on perspectives on predatory publishing for Latin America and the Caribbean, moderated by Dr. Michelle Scobie in alliance with InterAcademy Partnership, Latindex and PLOS Climate.
  6. The Climate and Health Responder Course for Latin America from April 19 to May 19, 2022, in alliance with the Pan American Health Organization and The Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education, with the participation of Dr. Mercy Borbor.
21. Members of the SAC and SPAC drafted and adopted Standing Rules for the SAC and SPAC available here:  
SAC: <https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/SAC%20rules-en-format.pdf>  
SPAC: <https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/SPAC%20rules-en-format.pdf>

### Recommendation

22. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of this document.