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**11 October 2022**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Fifty-fourth meeting  
Montevideo and Videoconference  
15 November 2022  
Agenda item 6**

**Feedback received from Parties responding to the  
survey on the organization of CoP-30**

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

Introduction

2. The previous two meetings of the Conference of the Parties, CoP-29 (Videoconference, 2021) and CoP-30 (Montevideo and videoconference, 2021) continued to face travel restrictions posed by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).
3. As the COVID-19 pandemic enters its fourth year, the IAI Directorate expects that future meetings may have to convene in-person and via videoconference to anticipate possible travel restrictions.

Since 2021, two previous surveys were developed by the IAI Directorate to seek feedback from Party representatives to CoP-29 and CoP-30 and from Directorate staff directly involved in the organization of and support to the meeting. The results of the survey to CoP-29 are available in document no. IAI/EC/52/5 presented at the 52nd

meeting of the Executive Council (Videoconference, 2021)<sup>1</sup>. The results of the survey to CoP-30 are presented in this document.

#### 4. Findings

##### Participation to CoP-29 and CoP-30

When compiling the results of the survey to participants at CoP-30, the first notable consequence of virtual meetings is the increase in Party participation. CoP-30 counted with the participation of 15 Parties whereas CoP-28 and CoP-29 counted with the participation of 14 Parties respectively.

5. These numbers compare favorably with the number of participants in previous physical meetings of the Conference of the Parties: CoP-28 (Videoconference, 2020) counted on the participation of 14 Parties; (CoP-27 (Brasilia, 2019) counted on the participation of 10 Parties; CoP-26 (Antigua, Guatemala, 2018) counted on the participation of 12 Parties; and, CoP-25 (Bogotá, 2017) counted on the participation of 12 Parties.
6. Hybrid meetings continue to pose limitations to hold informal discussions. Additionally, the conditions for networking between virtual and in-person participants are few or non-existent. However, videoconferencing offers the opportunity to engage with a greater number of Parties during meetings of the CoP, and improvements in technology and staff capacity to use the technology has allowed for interaction.
7. The Directorate will continue to assess the use of communication technologies with a view to enhance interaction between and among participants, and the review of documents during the sessions.

##### Response rate

8. A total of 8 out of 15 Parties participating in CoP-30 completed the survey for a response rate of 53%. This rate is a marked decrease from those of previous meetings of the CoP. The IAI Directorate will improve communication with Parties and provide more detailed information on the purpose of the surveys.

Introduction question: Which Party are you representing?

9. A total of 9 surveys were received by the IAI Directorate.,. The historical under-representation of regions such as the Caribbean indicates the need for the Directorate,

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<sup>1</sup> See: [https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/IAI-EC-52-5-en\(1\).pdf](https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/IAI-EC-52-5-en(1).pdf)

with the assistance of Parties, to engage with non-Party States with a view to encourage ratifications to the *Agreement*.

#### Analyses of responses

Question 1: *Was this is your first participation in an IAI Conference of Parties?*

10. With regard to the first question, seven Parties answered affirmatively. Of the total number of completed surveys (9), six respondents mentioned that their participation in CoP-30 was not their first participation in an IAI Conference of the Parties, and three respondents mentioned that it was. The number of participants attending for the first time is lower than last year. Nevertheless, the IAI Directorate should consider the creation of introductory materials to the IAI in general and to the procedures guiding the conduct of meetings of the CoP.

Question 2: *How familiar were you with IAI's mandate and work before attending CoP-30?*

11. Of the total number of completed surveys (9), five respondents mentioned being very familiar with the mandate and work of the IAI prior to participating in CoP-30, three respondents mentioned being somewhat familiar and one respondent mentioned not being familiar.

Question 3: *Did the organization of CoP-29 meet your expectations?*

12. Of the total number of completed surveys (9), six respondents mentioned that CoP-30 did meet their expectations, two respondents mentioned that their expectations were partially met, and one respondent mentioned that their expectations were not met. Regarding the reasons for partial fulfillment and the suggestions made by the respondents in the survey, one participant suggested that *the reports in English be presented more slowly* and *"share the PowerPoint presentations and review how the mails/emails are being sent" since "I have noticed that many of them do not reach me*. Another respondent mentioned: *we were able to understand all the accomplishments of the IAI over the past year. In addition, we have taken on new initiatives that will be good for the future*.

Question 4: *Did the format and presentation of the official CoP-29 documentation meet your expectations? If not, please list possible improvements.*

13. Again, a majority of respondents, 6 in total, replied affirmatively to question 4 with two Parties expressing only partial satisfaction, and one expressing dissatisfaction. Regarding suggestions made by participants, one of them suggested that *the approach to the topics should be more focused and the presentations should be sent prior to the meeting*. Another respondent mentioned that *all the information was available and easily accessible*.

The IAI Directorate has taken note of the suggestions for improvements and will implement changes to the organization of meetings of the CoP accordingly.

Question 5: *What was the most useful information or new knowledge that you gained from the CoP?*

a. *How could this be applied to current issues in your country or to potentially inform future decisions in your country?*

14. Seven Parties provided feedback to question 5. The responses follow below:

- *Los informes del SAC & SPAC, al igual que las acciones de generación de capacidades y acceso a recursos, resultan de mucho interés para avanzar en la agenda del IAI, y también para fortalecer la participación más activa de la región; [The SAC & SPAC reports, as well as the capacity building and access to resources actions, are of great interest to advance the IAI agenda, and also to strengthen the more active participation of the region]*
- *Los diversos informes presentados, y los planes futuros; [The different reports presented, and future plans]*
- *Los trabajos de investigación y nuevas iniciativas de IAI sobre todo en temas transdisciplinarios y cambio climático como una preocupación en salud. Quisiera felicitar la iniciativa del curso de Salud y Cambio Climático, ojalá se pudiera avanzar a la colaboración de las Escuelas de Salud Pública de las universidades de latino América y de Estados Unidos y Canadá para poder mejorar nuestras evaluaciones en Salud y Cambio Climático; [The research projects and new initiatives of IAI especially in transdisciplinary topics and climate change as a health issue. I would like to congratulate the initiative of the Health and Climate Change course, I wish we could advance in the collaboration with the schools of Public Health from universities in Latin America and the United States and Canada to be able to improve our assessments in Health and Climate Change]*
- *Conocí más al IAI - Ciencia Política e impacto en territorio es una línea que prioriza el Gobierno de México; [I became more knowledgeable about the IAI - Political Science and territorial impact is a priority for the Government of Mexico]*
- *Informe resumido de las actividades de la Dirección Ejecutiva; [Summary report of the Directorate's activities]*
- *Empezar seriamente a probar y crear oportunidades a través de un mecanismo de financiamiento multilateral para apoyar la investigación transdisciplinaria en las Américas; [Begin in earnest to test and create opportunities through a multilateral funding mechanism to support transdisciplinary research in the Americas]*
- *La información sobre la creación del Centro de Diplomacia Científica y acerca del comité de igualdad de género; [Information on the creation of the Center for Scientific Diplomacy and on the gender equality committee was provided]*

- *La información sobre el informe de la iniciativa de realizar una Evaluación Climática Nacional y el apoyo a la Adaptación y Mitigación y Formación y Capacitación. Esta iniciativa está muy en línea con los deberes y la función de nuestro Servicio y es un tema en el que estamos trabajando muy duro para aumentar nuestro conocimiento y experiencia. También nos pareció muy interesante la iniciativa de alentar a las Partes a participar en las actividades de capacitación y educación del Centro de Diplomacia Científica del IAI, como conferencistas o instructores, con el fin de proporcionar a todos los participantes experiencia y conocimiento de la interfaz ciencia-política; y en este sentido fue muy importante el ofrecimiento hecho por el representante de Panamá;* [The information about the report on the initiative to carry out a National Climate Assessment and support to the Adaptation and Mitigation and Training and Capacity Building. This initiative is very much in line with the duties and function of our Service and it is a subject in which we are working very hard to increase our knowledge and experience. Also, we found very interesting the initiative about encouraging the Parties to participate in the training and education activities of the IAI Center for Science Diplomacy, as lecturers or instructors with a view to provide all participants with experience on and knowledge of the science to policy interface; and in this respect it was very important the offering made by the representative from Panama]

15. The variety of needs and topics of interest may reflect the heterogeneity of priorities in our regions. It may also lend support to the ongoing work on Decision XXIX/16 which *Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Parties, the SAC and the SPAC, to map the domestic and international global change policy and decision-making landscape through a regional assessment, subject to the availability of external resources.*

Question 6: *What did you learn from another Party that you think could be applied in your country?*

16. Only 6 Parties replied to question 6, perhaps reflecting the open-ended nature of the information requested. The replies follow below:

- *Capitalizar sobre las oportunidades existentes para generar fortalezas regionales;* [Capitalize on existing opportunities to generate regional strengths]
- *Los avances e interés por los temas presentados;* [Progress and interest in the topics presented]
- *Cómo Panamá ha avanzado en la difusión de la ciencia, investigación transdisciplinaria;* [How Panama has advanced in the dissemination of science, transdisciplinary research]
- *Las Partes no dialogaron mucho, quizás habría que dar más tiempo para generar un debate;* [The Parties did not enter much into dialogue, perhaps more time should be given to generate a debate]

- *Nuestros colegas en Panamá jugarán un rol crítico en empujar la iniciativa de financiamiento;* [Our colleagues in Panama will play a critical role in pushing the funding initiative]
- *Fue interesante ver cómo Estados Unidos y Canadá estuvieron comprometidos a participar y unirse a los comités y otras iniciativas. Creo que Brasil tiene que mejorar su participación;* [It was interesting to see how the United States and Canada were committed to participate and join the committees and other initiatives. I think Brazil needs to improve its participation]
- *Fue muy interesante la propuesta del representante de SENACYT Panamá de que la mayoría de los países han hecho grandes esfuerzos en la realización de proyectos de investigación pero no son capaces de ir más allá en la toma de acciones específicas en relación con la interfaz ciencia-política para aplicar el proceso sistemático de los conocimientos generados en la toma de decisiones. Tal vez con el apoyo del IAI se pueda hacer la diferencia;* [It was very interesting the proposal of the representative from SENACYT Panama, saying that most countries have made great efforts in carrying out research projects; but are not able to go any further in taking specific actions regarding the science-policy interface, to apply it through a systematic process the generated knowledge into decision-making. Maybe with the support from the IAI a difference could be made]

17. The heterogeneity of the replies once again reflects the different priorities voiced by Parties. Commitment and participation from Parties appears to be highly important towards leadership in IAI initiatives supporting collaboration among Parties.

Question 7: *What further information would you like to receive regarding IAI's work?*

18. Seven Parties provided feedback to this question. The number of replies may indicate the need for the IAI Directorate to improve its communication with Parties following meetings of the CoP.

19. Many of the replies are related to requests for additional information on science-related and capacity building activities in the region and opportunities for collaboration, participation and financial support. The replies follow below:

- *Me gustaría que se puedan organizar reuniones virtuales con posibles participantes de los llamados (CRAs por ejemplo y llamados del IAI) y así captar la atención de la comunidad científica y que en dicho espacio puedan resolver dudas, consultar, etc.;* [I would like to organize virtual meetings with possible participants of the calls (CRAs for example and IAI calls) and thus capture the attention of the scientific community and in this space they can solve doubts, consult, etc.]
- *El calendario de las próximas actividades;* [The calendar of upcoming activities]
- *Sobre el rol y cómo poder aportar al comité de la Diplomacia de Ciencia, aunque que desde mi competencia como funcionario del Estado de Chile;* [On the role and

how to contribute to the Science Diplomacy Committee, although from my competence as an official of the State of Chile]

- *Recibir toda la información que genera el IAI ya que veo que no nos está llegando gracias;* [Receive all the information the IAI produces as I see that it is not reaching us, thank you]
- *La infografía mostrando las estadísticas sobre la cantidad de fellows, proyectos y distribución geográfica de las redes, etc.;* [The infographic showing statistics on the number of fellows, projects and geographic distribution of the networks, etc.]
- *Me gustaría recibir información sobre los proyectos conjuntos y las iniciativas que lleva adelante el IAI;* [I would like to receive information on joint projects and initiatives carried out by the IAI.]
- *La presentación realizada por el IAI sobre el Programa de Becas de Ciencia, Tecnología y Política (STeP) fue muy interesante ya que permite trabajar en un contexto interamericano y en varias disciplinas científicas;* [The presentation on the IAI's Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program was very interesting as it allows working in an inter-American context and in several scientific disciplines]

Question 8: How are you remaining informed of the IAI's work? Mark as many as apply.

- *Announcements sent via the IAI email listserv*
- *Newsletter*
- *Official notifications via email to the Parties*
- *Social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram)*
- *Zoom update meeting with Parties during the intercessional period*
- *Webinars*
- *IAI website*
- *Other (please specify)*

20. Eight Parties replied to question 8. The replies follow below:

- *Official notifications via email to the Parties: 7;*
- *IAI website: 6;*
- *Announcements sent via the IAI email listserv: 4;*
- *Zoom update meeting with Parties during the intercessional period: 3.*
- *Other, webinars: 2;*
- *Newsletter: 1;*
- *Social media: 1.*

21. Official notifications are the primary source of information received by Parties. However, the Website continues to be a major platform for information dissemination. Zoom update meetings have become a relevant form of dissemination, which was a request made at CoP-30.

Question 9: How would you prefer to receive information from the IAI? Mark as many as apply.

- *Announcements sent via the IAI email listserv*
- *Newsletter*
- *Official notifications via email to the Parties*
- *Social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram)*
- *Zoom update meeting with Parties during the intercessional period*
- *Webinars*
- *IAI website*
- *Other (please specify)*

22. Eight Parties replied to question 9. The replies follow below:

- *Announcements sent via the IAI email listserv: 6;*
- *Official notifications via email to the Parties: 5;*
- *Zoom update meeting with Parties during the intercessional period: 5;*
- *Social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram): 3;*
- *Webinars: 2*
- *IAI website: 4;*
- *Other, webinars: 2*
- *Newsletter: 1.*

23. The suggestion to continue with the dissemination of information via *Zoom update meetings with Parties during the intercessional period* was expected given the interest previously expressed in favor of this format and confirmation that some Parties are remaining informed of the IAI's activities during such meetings.

24. The Directorate has increased dissemination of information by email in the past period and monitored the activity of email items, which confirms that the response to further sharing of information beyond notification is appreciated by Parties.

Question 10: *Is there anything else that you would like to share about your experience in CoP-30?*

25. Only three Parties provided information under this question. The replies follow below:

- *Felicitar al equipo del IAI por su tenacidad y proactividad; [Congratulations to the IAI team for their tenacity and proactivity]*
- *Mis felicitaciones a la Directora Científica por el curso de salud y cambio climático, muy buenos los contenidos y la organización, por las iniciativas en este tema que vendrán, por todo el esfuerzo; [My congratulations to the Scientific Director for the course on health and climate change, very good contents and organization, for the initiatives on this subject to come, for all the effort]*



- *Fue muy instructivo y toda una experiencia conocer la organización del IAI, y estuvo muy bien organizado. La presentación sobre el 30 aniversario, conocer los primeros pasos para la creación del IAI en 1992; fue particularmente interesante que hayan invitado al Dr. Luis Lacalle ex presidente del IAI; [It was very instructive and an experience to learn about the organization of the IAI, and it was very well organized. The presentation on the 30th anniversary, learning about the first steps for the creation of the IAI in 1992; it was particularly interesting that Dr. Luis Lacalle, former president of the IAI, was invited]*

26. The questionnaire to staff of the Directorate focused primarily on the preparation and challenges faced in the organization of a meeting via videoconferencing.
27. Some staff welcomed the organization of administrative meetings prior to the CoP, particularly those focusing on roles and responsibilities.
28. Some staff suggested collecting materials to report throughout the year.
29. Other questions focused on whether staff felt sufficient time was provided to Parties to discuss agenda items. Staff felt time to discuss the science program was insufficient, while staff was equally divided between considering time dedicated to the capacity building was adequate and insufficient. All respondents felt sufficient time was dedicated to the Core budget.
30. Staff also suggested more interaction is promoted and supported during the CoP among Parties.

## Conclusion

31. The organization of IAI meetings, especially meetings of the Conference of the Parties and also Executive Council in a hybrid format provides many new opportunities but also challenges. However, the difficulties in establishing closer personal relations and organizing discussions in venues other than the meeting space are many and may impact on how quickly collaboration may be established by members of the IAI community.
32. At the time of writing, it is unknown whether the next CoP will remain hybrid. It is imperative, therefore, that the Directorate takes into account feedback provided by Parties to create the most receptive meeting spaces possible in this format.

## Recommendation

33. The Executive Council is invited to take note of this report.

## Annex I

Introduction question: Which Party are you representing?

1. Was this your first participation in an IAI Conference of Parties?

Yes

No

2. How familiar were you with IAI's mandate and work before attending CoP-30?

Not familiar

Somewhat familiar

Very familiar

3. Did the organization of CoP-30 meet your expectations?

Yes

Partially (please describe why and make suggestions)

No (please describe why and make suggestions)

4. Did the format and presentation of the official CoP-30 documentation meet your expectations?

Yes

Partially (please describe why and make suggestions)

No (please describe why and make suggestions)

5. What was the most useful information or new knowledge that you gained from the CoP? How could this be applied to current issues in your country or to potentially inform future decisions in your country?

6. What did you learn from another Party that you think could be applied in your country?

7. What further information would you like to receive regarding IAI's work?

8. How are you remaining informed of the IAI's work? Mark as many as apply.

Announcements sent via the IAI email listserv

Newsletter

Official notifications via email to the Parties

Social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram)

Zoom update meeting with Parties during the intercessional period

Webinars

IAI website

Other (please specify)

9. How would you prefer to receive information from the IAI? Mark as many as apply.

Announcements sent via the IAI email listserv

Newsletter

Official notifications via email to the Parties  
Social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram)  
Zoom update meeting with Parties during the intercessional period  
Webinars  
IAI website  
Other (please specify)

10. Is there anything else that you would like to share about your experience in CoP-30?

## Annex II

1. What were your expectations for the CoP-30 regarding your role in planning, organizing and carrying off?

2. Were your expectations fulfilled?

Yes

Partially

No

3. Did you feel sufficiently prepared for the CoP?

Yes

Partially

No

4. What could we improve (as an institution)?

5. Is there a skill or tool you were lacking last CoP that you acquired or was made available this CoP?

Yes (please describe)

No

6. Is there a skill you would like to gain for next time or tool you think would be useful for organizing or carrying off the CoP?

Yes (please describe)

No

7. What can be done to improve discussion with participants in a hybrid CoP?

8. Do you believe the time for discussions on budget and finances was:

Adequate

Insufficient

Excessive

9. Do you believe the time for discussions on science programs was:

Adequate

Insufficient

Excessive

10. Do you believe the time for discussions on capacity building was:

Adequate

Insufficient

Excessive