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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Fifty-fifth meeting  
Panama City, Panama  
20 June 2023  
Agenda item 6(c)**

**Decision XXIX/9: Update on the *Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support on adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean***

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Executive Council.

Background

2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 29th meeting adopted Decision XXIX/9 which approved:

*... establishment a working group, in collaboration with the SAC and SPAC and the IAI Directorate, to develop and implement activities under the Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>1</sup> and to report on achievements at the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

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<sup>1</sup> New title: Initiative for enhancing capacity for climate risk assessment and catalyzing partnerships to inform decisions in Latin America and the Caribbean

3. At that same meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision XXIX/10 which instructed the IAI Directorate to:

*...disseminate information on the Initiative to Parties and partners and to encourage their participation in its activities.*

4. This report presents an update of activities by Parties and the IAI Directorate under the *Initiative for enhancing capacity for climate risk assessment and catalyzing partnerships to inform decisions in Latin America and the Caribbean (LACI)* and to report on achievements at the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. At the time of writing, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States and Uruguay have joined the initiative pursuant to Decision XXIX/9. A member of the Science Advisory Committee is also a member of the initiative. Other American countries, Canada, El Salvador, and Paraguay, are represented in LACI through their membership in AmeriGeo.

#### Report on activities

6. The goal of LACI is to provide opportunities for partnerships to strengthen climate risk assessments that support local and regional decision making to help communities mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. LACI plans to bring together researchers (e.g., IPCC assessment authors), decision makers and experts with experience in the mechanics of designing and carrying out such assessments and users of the risk assessments.
7. During the scoping and partnership building phase of the initiative, national representatives from 14 countries, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the United States identified priorities related to reaching a climate-resilient future. They also mapped existing capacities in their countries with a view to optimize possible South-South and triangular (North-South-South) partnerships.
8. The scoping phase consisted of partnership building workshops and landscape mapping activities (e.g., surveys and in-depth National Adaptation Plans analysis) to identify countries' priorities and capacities in addressing climate risk.
9. At the time of writing, the initiative is in the pilot co-design phase. Four task teams were established to co-design pilot projects, taking into account elements of feasibility and scalability. The selected pilot projects are:
  - a) Strengthening capacities in El Salvador to assess the impacts of climate change on human habitat, biodiversity, forests and water resources;
  - b) Advancing data access, usability, and interoperability for climate risk assessments in the Latin American and Caribbean region;

- c) Strengthening partnerships and enhancing capacity for climate risk assessments among user groups in Amazonia with a focus on Indigenous communities, forests and forest carbon); and
  - d) Strengthening national disaster preparedness and emergency earth observations in Jamaica.
10. The IAI Directorate co-authored the proposal leading to the selection of the pilot project *Advancing data access, usability, and interoperability for climate risk assessments in the Latin American and Caribbean region*. The Ministry of Public Health of Uruguay and RedCLARA<sup>2</sup> were the co-authors.
11. The IAI Directorate notes that a Memorandum of Understanding<sup>3</sup> (MoU) was established with RedCLARA on 24 April 2020. The development of regional services for the administration of scientific data is the first objective listed in the MoU.
12. The data pilot project addresses the need for increased data interoperability. It proposes to use new technologies and protocols such as blockchain to validate and monitor data. It proposes to create mechanisms to facilitate, as appropriate and in accordance to national legislation, integration of data held at national level to a regional level. It also aims to promote the use of data to monitor trends, contribute to national and regional assessments and to efforts to enhance resilience and adaptability more effectively.
13. LACI is planning to announce the results of the scoping process for pilot projects and other supporting activities during the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress (SRI) 2023 to be held in Panama City, Panama, on 26 to 30 June 2023. Several activities to seed new partnerships and to discuss implementation of activities under the pilot projects will be held during SRI2023 and AmeriGEO Week 2023, on 7 to 11 August 2023, in San Jose, Costa Rica.
14. The IAI Directorate will report to Parties on progress achieved under LACI during the 2023-2024 intersessional period.

### Recommendation

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

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<sup>2</sup> For information on RedCLARA see: <https://redclara.net/index.php/es/>

<sup>3</sup> See: <https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/MOU%20CLARA%20IAI%20abril%202020-signed.pdf>