



**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**14 July 2023**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Fifty-fifth meeting  
Panama City and Videoconference  
20 June 2023**

**Report of the 55th meeting of the IAI Executive Council**

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

Introduction

2. The Executive Council of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research held its fifty-fifth (EC-55) in Panama City and videoconferencing, on 20 June 2023.
3. The account of the proceedings and discussions of the meeting are provided in section I of the report.
4. The meeting made 3 recommendations, which are provided in section II of the report.

Section I

- I. Proceedings of the Meeting

Introduction

5. *By the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, Article IV, The Executive Council, paragraph 3, the 55th meeting of the Executive Council (EC) to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research was held on 20 June 2023 in Panama City and via videoconference.*
6. This meeting was held back-to-back with the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-31, Panama City and videoconference, 2023) and the joint SAC and SPAC meeting in accordance with Article VI, paragraph 3 of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* and Decision XXV/19: *Joint SAC,*

*SPAC, and EC-CoP meetings.*

7. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the EC, Dr. Maria Uhle, United States, Eng. Milagro Mainieri, Panama, was the Vice-Chair.
8. The following Parties to the Agreement with membership in the Executive Council attended the meeting: Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, and the United States of America.
9. The following observer Parties attended the meeting: Peru.
10. The following members of the Scientific Advisory Committee attended the meeting: Dr. Omar López (Chair), Dr. Barry Warner, Dr. Jean-Paul Metzger, Dr. Alexandra Mallet, and Dr. Anahí Urquiza.
11. The following members of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee attended the meeting: Dr. Evelia Rivera-Arriaga (Chair), Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza, Dr. Margot Hulbert, Dr. David Smith, Dr. Carol Franco, and Dr. Amparo Martinez.
12. The following observer organizations attended the meeting: CAF and FAPESP.
13. The list of observer Parties and other observers attending the meeting is provided in the List of participants available on the EC-55 web page: <https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/EC-55>

Opening of the meeting

Welcome by the Chair of the Executive Council

14. The Chair opened the meeting by cordially inviting the participants to the meeting for a round of introductions.
15. The Chair continued by thanking EC members for their attendance and their support of the IAI. She praised the work of the IAI during the intersessional period, noting many successful projects and programs. She continued by praising and thanking the former Executive Director, Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva, for an exceptional mandate. She wished everyone a successful meeting and offered the floor to the IAI Executive Director, Dr. Anna Stewart-Ibarra, for comments.
16. The IAI Executive Director thanked members of the Executive Council for their strong support of the IAI. She noted that the IAI Directorate was able to develop and implement many new initiatives, projects and activities. She also thanked the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee for their contributions to the work achieved during the 2022-2023 intersessional period and for their in-person participation at EC-55. She also praised and thanked the former Executive Director for an exceptional mandate and offered him the floor.
17. The former Executive Director thanked the Parties for their support and praised the IAI staff. He spoke on the governance framework provided by the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and on the role of international civil servants in supporting Parties. He concluded by stating that the Agreement is visionary and that the IAI has a vital role in assisting countries in the region to meet the challenges related

to global change. In conclusion, he thanked the Parties, members of the SAC and SPAC, and Directorate staff.

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

18. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the agenda.
19. An item to present on the Regional Assessment was added to the agenda.
20. An item to present on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee was added to the agenda.
21. The agenda was approved by consensus.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the Reports of the 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> meetings of the EC

22. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the reports of the 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Executive Council.
23. The reports were approved by consensus.

Agenda items 3 and 4: Financial and Administrative Committee report and Auditors report and approval of Financial status report and Financial items to be forwarded to the CoP-31.

24. In the opening of agenda items 3 and 4, the Chair invited the Administration, Finance and Operations Officer to introduce agenda items 3 and 4.
25. The IAI Administration, Finance, and Operations Officer began her introduction by summarizing the Financial status report and the Financial items to be forwarded to the CoP-31.
26. The IAI Administration, Finance, and Operations Officer continued her presentation by stating that the Financial and Administrative Committee, in its report, *reviewed the IAI's core budget request for the coming fiscal year and recommended that the Executive Council forward it to the Conference of the Parties for approval.*
27. She informed the Parties that no increases are requested in the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2023-2024.
28. She noted that contributions for most Parties have not increased since the coming into force of the *Agreement* in 1992.
  1. Comments were made by Canada, Panama, Guatemala, the SAC and the SPAC regarding the need to develop a plan to consider increasing Parties' voluntary contributions to the IAI. Core budget has not been increased since 1992. This is a vital issue for the work of the IAI Directorate and the financial health of the Institution. The plan should also explore mechanisms to secure external funding through joint grant writing and alignment of the priorities of national science funding agencies, and to increase non-financial contributions to the IAI, including in-kind contributions and secondment of staff.

29. The Executive Council recommended that the Conference of the Parties approve the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2023-2024 and the preliminary request for 2024-2025.
30. The Executive Council recommended to the CoP to establish a working group to develop a plan to: 1) increase Parties' annual voluntary contributions to the IAI core budget over the next 1-3 years; 2) define other types of contribution to the IAI core/program budgets (i.e. secondments, etc); 3) define other financial and in-kind contributions to the IAI program budgets (science and capacity building programs and projects).

Agenda item 5: Establishment of a committee to recommend candidates for the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science Policy Advisory Committee elections, on the second day of CoP-31

31. The Chair opened this agenda item by offering the floor to the IAI Executive Director.
32. The Executive Director spoke on the current membership of the SAC and the SPAC and on the need to constitute a committee to advise CoP-31 on elections.
33. Canada, Panama and Paraguay joined the Committee.

Agenda item 6: Report of the Executive Council

Agenda item 6a: Welcome to the new Executive Director: Presentation of the new Executive Director to the Executive Council

34. In the opening of agenda item 6a, the Chair welcomed Dr. Anna Stewart Ibarra as the new Executive Director and noted that she would make a presentation during CoP-31.

Agenda item 6b: Decision XXX/4: Report on recruitment for the Executive Director

35. In her introduction of agenda item 6b, the Chair reminded that the Conference of the Parties, at its 2023 Extraordinary meeting (2023, Videoconference), elected Dr. Anna Stewart Ibarra as the IAI's Executive Director, by Decision 2023/Extra-CoP/1.
36. She continued by noting that the account of the proceedings and discussions of the 2023 Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties were provided in the meeting report of the 2023 Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (IAI/COP/31/3(a)).
37. In her concluding remarks, she described the processes leading to the selection of the new Executive Director, also provided in the document IAI/EC/55/6/b.

Agenda item 6c: Decision XXIX/9: Report on Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean

38. The Chair introduced agenda item 6c by recalling Decision XXIX/9 which approved the establishment of a working group to develop and implement activities under this initiative. She thanked members of the Executive Council and the members of the SAC and the SPAC participating in the initiative. She noted that a detailed description of the meetings held to date and future activities would be presented during CoP-31. She recalled the aim of the initiative, which is to establish partnerships in the Americas to enhance countries'

capacity to conduct national climate assessments to support the development of national adaptation and mitigation strategies.

39. She continued by describing the role of other partners in the initiative. She referred to the upcoming meeting of AmeriGEO Week 2023, to be held in San José, Costa Rica, from 14 to 19 August 2023, where the initiative will be presented during a hybrid side event.
40. In her conclusion of this agenda item, the Chair reminded Executive Council members that participation was open and invited interested members to contact her or the IAI Directorate.
41. EC Members took note of the report.

#### Regional Assessment

42. The IAI Directorate presented a summary of the findings of the Regional Assessment of IAI Parties' priorities relating to global change policy decisions. Activities and methodology were also described.
43. Comments were made by Chile, the USA, the SAC, and the SPAC.
44. The SPAC suggested adding to the Regional Assessment a summary of the activities supported by the IAI in each country as a way to visualize and systematize the scientific contributions of the IAI.
45. The Executive Director commented on the finding from the assessment that there were country groups with shared priorities, such as climate, biodiversity, and water, and she added that the SAC had suggested adopting a nexus approach when considering science priorities in the revisions to the IAI's Strategic Plan.
46. The Chair suggested developing systems-based approaches in science initiatives to address the barrier of insufficient cross-sectoral collaboration.

#### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

47. The Vice-Chair presented the advances of the Gender and EDI committee during the 2022-2023 intersessional period. She thanked the members of the committee and she noted that a detailed presentation would be made during the CoP-31.

#### Selection of the IAI Science Director

48. The Executive Director described the selection process of the IAI's incoming Science Director. She announced that the new Science Director will be Dr. Edwin Castellanos, a distinguished scientist from Guatemala, who will begin his post on 17 July 2023.

#### Agenda item 7: Discussion on the election of Executive Council members and Bureau at CoP-31

49. The Chair explained the process for the election of the new Executive Council during CoP-31.
50. Canada, Chile, Guatemala and Paraguay expressed their interest in continuing to serve on the Executive Council.

## Agenda item 8: Closing remarks and closure of the meeting

51. The Chair closed the meeting by praising and thanking Panama for hosting the meetings. She continued by noting the progress of the IAI and the strong participation of the Parties.
52. The Vice-Chair expressed the importance of the work of the IAI in her country, Panama, and the region and also thanked the IAI Directorate.
53. The IAI Executive Director expressed gratitude for the support of the Executive Council to the IAI and its work. She thanked the IAI staff for their achievements during the intersessional period.
54. The meeting was closed at 11:30 a.m. on 20 June 2023.

## Section II

Recommendations adopted by the Executive Council at its fifty-fifth meeting.

Recommendations

Recommendations made at the 55th meeting of the IAI Executive Council.

## **Approval of the Reports of the 53rd and 54th meetings of the EC**

LI/1. The Executive Council approves the reports of its 53rd and 54th meetings

## **Core Budget and Country Contributions**

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

LI/2. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2023-2024 and to consider the Preliminary request for 2024-2026.

LI/3. The Executive Council recommends that the Conference of the Parties consider the following draft decision:

## **Contributions to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research**

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXXI/xxxInvites the Conference of the Parties to establish a working group to develop a plan to:  
1) increase Parties' annual voluntary contributions to the IAI core budget over the next 1-3 years;  
2) define other types of contribution to the IAI core/program budgets (i.e. secondments, etc); 3) define other financial and in-kind contributions to the IAI program budgets (science, capacity building programs and projects).