



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

14 March 2024

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

Videoconference

26 March 2024

Agenda item 3

**Headquarters of the Directorate of the
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research**

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Executive Council in conjunction with the IAI Directorate.

Background

2. On 29 November 2023, during a meeting held with the Director of the Environment at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Mrs. Beatriz Nuñez Rivas, the IAI Directorate was verbally informed of the Uruguayan Government's intention to denounce the Host Country Agreement due to financial constraints.
3. On 6 December 2023, Panama, sent a communication to the Chair of the IAI Executive Council, Dr. Maria Uhle, expressing its interest in hosting the IAI Directorate. Parties may recall discussions during the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2023, Panama City, Panama), to establish a regional office in Panama to increase visibility of IAI science projects and capacity building activities and promote accession by States not parties to the Agreement.
4. On 11 December 2023, the IAI Directorate sent the notification IAIUYDIR/2023/36 informing Parties about the informal dialogues between the Government of Uruguay and the IAI Directorate on issues related to the headquarters of the IAI Directorate in Montevideo and the communication received on 6 December by the EC Chair from Panama. The notification invited Parties interested in submitting an expression of interest to host the IAI Directorate to contact the Chair of the Executive Council by 10

January 2024. Following the receipt of expressions of interest, Parties would be invited to submit proposals to host the IAI Directorate.

5. On 24 January 2024, the IAI Directorate sent the Notification IAIUYDIR/2024/02, informing that Panama was the only country to submit an expression of interest to host the headquarters of the IAI Directorate and had been invited to submit a proposal to host the IAI Directorate by 23 February 2024. The Notification also invited the Parties to the 2024 Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to review the proposal from Panama and vote to accept or refuse it. Reference was made to Article VIII, *The Directorate*, paragraph 4, incise j), of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*¹, which states that the Conference of the Parties shall: "Make decisions regarding the location of the Directorate." The 2024 Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) was scheduled for 26 March 2024 from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Montevideo time (UTC-3), via the videoconferencing system Zoom.
6. On 31 January 2024, the IAI Directorate received an official letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay notifying of the denunciation of the Host Country Agreement between the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, in accordance with the provisions of Article XVIII of the aforementioned instrument. Accordingly, the Host Country Agreement will terminate on 31 July 2024, 6 (six) months from the date of receipt of the letter.
7. On 14 February 2024, Panama formally requested an extension of the deadline for submitting its proposal to host the headquarters of the IAI Directorate in Panama. The communication was addressed to the Chair of the IAI Executive Council. Subsequently, on 15 February 2024, Panama received confirmation from the Chair that their request had been approved. The deadline for submitting the proposal was extended, with the new deadline set for 8 March 2024.
8. On 8 March 2024, Panama submitted the proposal to host the headquarters of the IAI Directorate.

Recommendation

9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to approve the proposal submitted by Panama to host the Headquarters of the IAI Directorate in Panama.

¹ https://www.iai.int/pdf/es/agreement_establishing_the_iai_en.pdf