



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

## SCIENCE DIPLOMACY CENTER FIRST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

### Summary Report

**25 January 2023**

At the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) the following decisions were adopted:

*XXX/8. The Parties are encouraged to participate in the training and education activities of the IAI Center for Science Diplomacy as lecturers or instructors with a view to providing participants with experience in and knowledge about the science-to-policy interface.*

*XXX/9. The Directorate is instructed to establish a steering committee, with the participation of Parties, the SAC and the SPAC, Associates, and experts on science diplomacy, to assist in and advise on the design and development of the IAI Center for Science Diplomacy and its programs and activities.*

The IAI Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) Advisory Board held its first in-person board meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay from 11 to 13 November 2022. The SDC Advisory Board currently consists of 11 professionals from the Americas and abroad, including IAI Parties, IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)/ Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) members, science diplomacy experts, and representatives from policy, academia, and the private sector. The full list of Advisory Board members can be found here: <https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/Science-Diplomacy-Center-Advisory-Board-Meeting>

The Meeting had the attendance of sixteen (16) professionals including the Advisory Board members, the Center's Senior Advisor, the IAI Directorate, and representatives from the Belmont Forum. Unfortunately, four (4) of the Board members (Carol Franco, Frances Colon, Marcelo Mena and Maria Uhle) were unable to attend this meeting due to scheduling conflicts with events such as the UNFCCC CoP 27 in Egypt. However, in order to include their participation in the co-creation of a tailored plan to guide the Center's ongoing design and implementation, they were engaged in bilateral virtual meetings held on 25, 26, 31 October 2022 and 11, November 2022. The convening of the bilateral virtual meetings provided an opportunity for these individuals to share their insights, experience, and knowledge about the Center's potential scope, priorities, and ambitions for the region.

## Virtual Summary Report & Recommendations

### Dr. Carol Franco

#### Main programs/activities for the Center (short term)

- Training in negotiation (a current gap in the IAI)
- Train new generation of negotiators
  - integrate in STeP
  - offer as a separate program (added revenue)
- Strengthen the value of IAI training programs and STeP Fellows with governments to drive impact and the government's agenda, promote collaboration
- Thematic areas: Agriculture, Climate & Health, Water and Biodiversity (who are the key players, implementers and funders)

#### Expected deliverables/outputs/results

- Increase IAI's visibility at UNFCCC side events, promote our initiatives, have access to vast governments, NGOs, private sector, banks, researchers, and scientists.
- Cohort of STeP delegation to COP annually.

10 - Nov - 2012



### Dr. Carol Franco (cont'd)

#### Measuring Impact

- Both at the individual/cohort level such from the trainings, and at the institutional level such as in ministries
- COP debriefing at the cohort level, and from policy-makers to their ministries

#### Challenges & Opportunities

- South-South cooperation and collaboration
- Broad areas of interest to countries: technology transfer, capacity building, and finance.
- Use of the IAI Regional Assessment to identify priorities within the region
- How can the results of the COP be translated to the national level? How can the IAI identify regional opportunities?
- Strengthen the capacity of professionals to manoeuvre both worlds of policy and science.

10 - Nov - 2012



### Dr. Frances Colón

#### Main programs/activities for the Center (short term)

- Climate Action is a current major challenge for countries/governments. They require assistance in putting together concrete, evidence-based plans.
- Holistic programmatic outlook that combines visibility with capacity building, training, tangible outputs and impact/value to governments
- SDC can provide:
  - Actionable training
  - Connections
  - Leadership development
  - Concrete expertise that countries can draw upon (eg one on one consultations, trainings, events etc.)

10 - Nov - 2012



### Dr. Frances Colón (cont'd)

#### Expected deliverables/outputs/results

- Narrow the scope to regional priorities; focus on goals and activities that are pragmatic, realistic and achievable in a set time (short, medium and long-term output).

#### Challenges & Opportunities

- Increase branding and outward facing activities to showcase the IAI benefit package. Use key moments at global and regional events to showcase the IAI.
- Very little science capacity within government. Even though there is a desire to use science in decision-making, it has been challenging.
- Develop partnerships with key organizations across the region to remain up-to-date with current conversations, concerns and activities to identify existing and new opportunities.
- The International Climate Politics Hub- has the involvement of organizations from the Americas:
  - lots of intel and knowledge flowing
  - broaden the visibility
  - networks with diverse influence and linkage to governments and other stakeholders

10 - Nov - 2012



### Dr. Marcelo Mena

#### Main programs/activities for the Center (short term)

##### Increase research on:

- Climate change cost of inaction across the Americas.
- GDP/macroeconomic impacts of mitigation

##### Activities to elevate the voice of Latin America and the Caribbean in global forums:

- Workshops with focal points and high-level ministers
- Have sub-groups at these events to discuss topics such as climate action, conservation etc.
- Be more strategic with the limited amount of funding that we have (Regional Assessment).
- Participate in regional climate week

##### Strengthen bridge between science and policy

Political and Technical focal points (foreign affairs and environment respectively)

10 - Nov - 2012



### Dr. Marcelo Mena (cont'd)

#### Challenges & Opportunities

- Lack of awareness and lack of capacity to respond.
- Limited evidence-based research on the economic impacts of climate change and the cost of inaction. We need a strong economic case for LAC concerning the economic impacts.
- Scientists are doing science that are not necessarily aligned for the decision-makers/policy-making (operate on different timescales)
- Disconnect within and across ministries; they don't necessarily speak the same language, even though they may have similar concerns.
- How do we increase linkage with the foreign ministries, especially since they manage the delegations to the COPs? Currently, no STeP fellows in foreign ministries.

10 - Nov - 2012



### Dr. Maria Uhle

#### Main programs/activities for the Center (short term)

##### Vision: Nexus of Science (knowledge), Policy and Action (decision-making)

- Inclusive definition of Science Diplomacy (common ground to solve challenges with stakeholders from public, private sector and civil society)
- Center as a robust mechanism for facilitating collective action to tackle current and emerging challenges (both science and policy)
- Show value to high level government authorities by helping to solve specific problems they are facing
- Integrate SD into solving needs presented by Parties to the UNFCCC COP
- Climate Action is a current major challenge for countries/government
- Building capacity of policy makers (national, provincial, municipal) in science and decision-making of a targeted and common issue, challenge or need
- SDC: Convener of stakeholders, facilitate cooperation, collaboration and co-design
- Directly linking STeP SD Projects to policy at the regional and trans-national scale to meet needs in the Americas = visibility for the IAI SDC and impact for the Parties

10 - Nov - 2012



---

## SDC Advisory Board Meeting Attendance

### Advisory Board Members

Carlos Matsumoto, International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Brazil (focal point)

Javier Gracia-Garza, former Agriculture and Food Canada, Canada (SPAC representative, former SPAC chair and former Canada's focal point)

Kimberly Montgomery, Director of International Affairs and Science Diplomacy at AAAS, USA (Associate)

Carmen Claramunt, Deputy Director of the Diplomatic School at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica

Janina Onuki, professor at the Institute of International Relations of the University of São Paulo and Principal Investigator of the consultancy team developing the initial training materials for the SDC, Brazil

Nathan Hotaling, Senior Data Scientist at National Institutes of Health & SVP Data Science Axle Informatics, USA

### SDC Senior Advisor

Marga Gual Soler, Head of Science Diplomacy Capacity Building, Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) Switzerland, founder of SciDipGLOBAL, former Senior Project Director at the Center for Science Diplomacy of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

### IAI Directorate

#### Marcos Regis da Silva, Executive Director

Marcella Ohira, Deputy Executive Director & Director of Capacity Building

Anna Stewart, Director of Science

Kim Portmess, Program Coordinator of the Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program

Anne-Teresa Birthwright, Science, Technology & Policy Fellow at IAI Directorate

Fatima Castaneda, Science, Technology & Policy Fellow at IAI Directorate

Dain Jeong, Intern at IAI Directorate

### Belmont Forum

Nicole Arbour, Executive Director

Rebecca Barnes, AAAS Science, Technology & Policy Fellow at NSF

Brian Leung, AAAS Science, Technology & Policy Fellow at NSF

---

The main goals of the IAI Science Diplomacy Center Advisory Board Meeting were to:

- Co-develop the Center's implementation plan by defining its mission, vision, goals and objectives, as well as advising on the design and development of the Center's programs and activities, including the relevant content, training materials and timeline for building science diplomacy capacities in the region.
- Explore sustainable funding options and strategies to secure resources for the Center's medium and long-term operation.
- Explore ways of strengthening partnerships and collaborations with other key national and international organizations to support the SDC and its programs.
- Provide guidance, insight and ideas on strengthening diplomatic relations across the Americas in the area of global change

This report provides a high-level summary of the Meeting's major discussion items, activities, recommendations and outputs.

## DAY 1

### Plenary Sessions Summary (A)

The session began with introductory remarks and welcome by the Executive Director, highlighting the IAI's role as an inter-governmental organization (IGO) in the Americas and an instrument of regional collaboration. The

genesis of the Science Diplomacy Center as a mechanism to strengthen science-policy ecosystems among Parties and the broader region, as well as to advance the mandate of the IAI was also highlighted. The Deputy Executive Director expanded on these statements by sharing the IAI's extensive work in the Americas over the last three decades, contextualizing the need for a SDC. The IAI has a broad engagement with decision-makers and policy makers, a robust science community/network, and has generated a wealth of scientific knowledge and training methodologies and approaches in relation to transdisciplinary research in global change on topics such as climate change, oceans, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and water resources, among others. However, there remains a need to strengthen the science-policy interface among the 19 member Parties in the Americas; providing policy makers with sound scientific information to support their decision-making processes to address the complex challenges facing the region that cannot be solved by a single country due to limited scientific, technological, financial, human, institutional and other resources. Hence, the IAI is uniquely positioned to bring together diverse knowledge, expertise and experience to serve the member countries and the wider region. There is an opportunity for the Science Diplomacy Center to be an instrument that enables and facilitates this process, particularly targeting policy and decision-makers.

The discussion was also complemented by the SAC/SPAC representative (Javier Gracia-Garza), reiterating that the IAI has been robust in generating scientific knowledge. However, a more informed decision-making process is required to tackle the complex challenges facing the region and the globe. Also, in acknowledging the insights gleaned from prior bilateral virtual meetings with Board members who were unable to attend the in-person meeting, it was recognized that there was a need to translate the science into knowledge relevant for decision-making.

All Board members present were provided an opportunity to share how their individual experiences shaped their view of science diplomacy, as well as the opportunities and challenges they've encountered in operationalizing science diplomacy. This exercise was done to set the tone and context for future discussions on defining the Center's vision, mission, programmatic activities, collaborative partnerships and sustainable funding approaches.

The Center's Senior Advisor presented a general overview of the concept of science diplomacy, and its evolution in the Americas, particularly Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting the gaps, opportunities and needs across the region. The USA and Canada have had the longest tradition in operationalizing science diplomacy mechanisms, while within Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the maturity of these instruments remains at a nascent stage. However, in recognizing the value of a strong science-policy-diplomacy interface, capacity-building initiatives and training programs within the science diplomacy field began to emerge across the region. Panama was the first country to launch a science diplomacy strategy (co-created by their foreign ministry and SENACYT). Costa Rica has a strong tradition in science diplomacy, though not initially under the label or umbrella of science diplomacy; likewise Brazil has a strong trajectory in the field (eg. Sao Paulo, InnScid). However, for some countries challenges remain, such as to create and/or sustain these science diplomacy instruments, particularly with changing government administrations (eg. Colombia). Hence, there is a need for innovative science diplomacy instruments and mechanisms that may not necessarily reflect standard examples of the Global North, but instead are suited to the context of the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

The IAI STeP Fellowship Program Coordinator presented an overview of the program and the synergies it may have with the SDC. STeP developed as a pilot program in 2020, it provides a unique joint- professional development training in Leadership, Communication and Science Diplomacy for STeP Fellows, together with fellows from partner organizations such as AAAS and Mitacs Canada. The program began with 17 participants from four countries and has since grown to include 46 participants from eight countries and 14 nationalities. It serves early-career researchers (ECRs) and policymakers who are assigned to host institutions throughout the Americas where they fill a science-policy gap and/or need within these organizations. Fellows are currently working on science diplomacy projects addressing a transboundary issue, some at the request of their host institutions. These projects have the potential to be piloted on a larger scale and serve as the SDC's initial initiatives. The program's vision is to grow effectively and sustainably, while strategically leveraging this inter-American network of fellows' knowledge, experience and training to become future SDC ambassadors.

The IAI Science Director also shared some of the organization's other existing initiatives aimed at strengthening the science-policy collaboration. The IAI identified the nexus of climate, environment and health (CEH) as an emerging priority area for the region and has been collaborating with various global and regional organizations to align the regional agenda in this area. In April and May 2022, training to over 1500 professionals from 17 IAI member countries and others from outside the region was provided through the launch of a 5-week online multilingual course, co-developed by PAHO, IAI and the Global Consortium of Climate and Health Education at Columbia University in the USA. A CEH training and seed grant program was also launched as a result of this online course, with 26 transdisciplinary teams from 17 countries selected (social scientists, bio-physical scientists, and non-academic partners such as government and/or civil society). Mentors assisted teams in ensuring that seed projects aligned with policy needs such as national adaptation plans, health sector adaptation plans, and/or other policy documents. In March 2023, teams will gather in Patagonia (a territory shared by the countries of Chile and Argentina) to receive additional guidance on their project proposals and to pitch them to regional funders.

*Main Comments:*

- One of the SDC's goals is to serve as a platform or hub for countries to share their experiences in using scientific knowledge and information to support policies, as well as to share with neighbouring countries. By not prescribing solutions and instead serving as a venue for countries to use the information and knowledge provided, the IAI SDC aims at facilitating the exchange of information and best practices among countries.
- There needs to be a balance in the target audience. Generally, most Science Diplomacy (SD) training programs are occupied by scientist and ECRs. Though open to a broad audience, the SDC and its programs intends to cater particularly to policy makers.
- There is an opportunity to strengthen and expand the reach of STeP through the SDC in order to nurture the expertise that countries require, particularly in the area of science diplomacy.
- There is an opportunity for the SDC to leverage the ongoing work of the IAI transdisciplinary approach to CEH training, communities of practice and seed grant programs to further science diplomacy engagement across the region, as well as attract policy-makers, funders, and establish partnerships.
- There is an opportunity for the SDC to expand its reach on the global stage, such as the UNFCCC COP.

*Recommendations:*

- The learning experiences being created by the SDC must be contextualized by and for the region. This aligns well with the SD Curriculum being developed by the IAI where context-specific science diplomacy ideas, concepts, experiences and case studies are being generated for the STeP program and for training activities under the SDC.
- The SDC should aim to strengthen capacities at the national level (eg. pairing scientists with diplomats).

### Defining Science Diplomacy for the IAI SDC

This session also provided the opportunity to discuss the three pillars (science for diplomacy, diplomacy for science and science in diplomacy) under which the goals of Center will operate. In the context of the IAI, science diplomacy is the establishment of international relations through the foreign policy of the state for national interest. It also includes using science diplomacy instruments and mechanisms to arrive at a common ground to solve transboundary challenges, while taking into account the voice of stakeholders from the public and private sector, as well as the civil society.

Using the IAI's mission, vision and core values as a guide, the draft development of the SDC's vision, mission and goals are shared below:

**Vision:** The Science Diplomacy Center shall contribute to the maintenance of a peaceful and sustainable Americas through innovative transdisciplinary collaborations to address the region's shared challenges and safeguard the livelihoods and well-being of future generations and the planet.

**Mission:** The Center shall enhance the capacity of Parties to meet the objectives of the IAI Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals by developing a science diplomacy knowledge hub and open, just, and equitable programs and activities for the Americas to meet the challenges of global change.

**Goals:**

1. Strengthen the interface between science and policy
2. Build and sustain capacity
  - a. Offer regional training
  - b. Identify and foster a skill set necessary to develop an effective science diplomacy community
3. Develop a science diplomacy knowledge hub
  - a. Provision of Science Diplomacy information
4. Convene relevant communities
5. Raise awareness of current and emerging global change issues
6. Facilitate regional and international collaboration
7. Foster strategic communication
8. Promote open, just, and equitable science
9. Facilitate inclusion of traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities with prior and informed consent

### Breakout Group Summary

#### Group 1 (SD Thematic Focus + Strategic Initiatives)

*Main Comments:*

- IAI SDC should focus on Global Change and related areas where the IAI has extensive expertise and experience. The IAI SDC should not compete with other organizations that are already doing a good job in the field and for the region.
- The initial implementation of initiatives under the SDC should focus on a common ground among Parties, in order for activities to be targeted, executed in a short period of time, and achievable. Based on the IAI's Regional Assessment, 'Climate Action' was identified as a local and regional priority among Parties. Possible sub-focus areas under 'Climate Action' may be food security, ocean, and disaster risk reduction and management, and others.

*Recommendations:*

- The SDC should aim to achieve the 3 dimensions of SD through capacity building initiatives.
- Policy officials and decision-makers require targeted reports that are not laden with scientific jargon, but are understandable, and digestible, as well as locally and regionally relevant. A recommended activity for the SDC is to synthesize information from the IPCC that is relevant to the region and that is of value to the Parties (i.e. 1-2 page briefing memos for countries and region).
- Investment needs to be made in communicating this synthesis of information in various ways, as one product or output will not be useful for all 19 Parties, but will need to be country specific. Therefore, understanding the context of the 19 Parties will be important in order for SDC products/outputs to be useful.

*Other Relevant Information (i.e., timeline, budget, key partners, themes, regions, approaches, etc)*

- The IAI SDC currently does not have the capacity to prepare briefing reports that synthesizes scientific information relevant to specific areas of interest to the Americas. The participation of STeP fellows may be required to fulfil this.
- Given the IAI's limited financial and human resource, it may need to partner and/or collaborate with national and regional organizations to support the Center's activities.
- A strategy of measuring impact needs to be developed.

## Group 2 (Capacity Building + Sustainable Funding Strategy)

### *Main Comments:*

- Story-telling is key in communicating shared values. The Center can play an important role in facilitating diverse communication channels to establish dialogue within and between countries across the region.
- Scientists need to be trained in communication to advise decision-makers in a way that is specific and aligns to the needs of decision-makers. Likewise, policy makers should be trained to be more capable of understanding and digesting scientific information and reports. The main goal is to ensure that the impact of these trainings transcend political regimes/presidential terms, so as to sustain progress.
- The IAI may need to map how other regions are doing similar work; whether they have collaborative projects, their own programs to present the needs of their region, where they procure funds for international collaboration etc. (presence of a South Korean intern shows good interest by collaborating with another region).
- Stable funding strategies include foundations and philanthropy organizations where partnerships can be established over a longer period of time. Likewise, long term sustainability of the SDC depends on the support of the Parties where the value of the SDC is recognized and Parties are willing to co-fund and provide financial resources to support the Center's training efforts. For example, Brazil's Ministry of Science and Technology may be able to provide resources to support training activities for its government officials.

### *Recommendations:*

- Include the media and journalists in the training programs with diplomats, policy-makers and scientists. For example, FAPESP has funded the training of scientific journalists.
- Invest in economics training for scientists, especially since stakeholders and policy-makers are interested in the economic costs of decision-making. These trainings can occur 1-2 years pre-COP to facilitate the engagement in scientific discussions.
- A strategic communication plan is required before approaching new partners or funders. This entails using words that will appeal to the potential funder or partner in order to pique their interest in the Center's objectives. Having a strategic communication plan/brief can help the Center successfully diversify its funding base. For example, even though the Center focuses on Global Change (GC), having bilateral discussions with a potential funder necessitates starting with the funder's mission and then identifying commonalities in aligning the Center's and the funding organization's focus.
- The Center could provide consulting services to a broad range of organizations as another form of strategic funding.

## Plenary Sessions Summary (B)

### *Recommendations:*

- The IAI has an established capacity-building program, and diverse partners from the scientific research and policy communities, private sector, and civil society across the Americas in the areas of climate, health, biodiversity conservation and water security. These are also priority areas for the region, therefore, it is recommended that the SDC strengthens synergies with these existing programs.
- There are several activities where the SDC may capitalize on the knowledge, expertise and experience of its STeP fellows to make its programs more unique and valuable. These include:
  - Conducting a scoping exercise on who is already synthesizing 'Climate Action' information for the Americas, how it's being done and disseminated. Are they focusing on the priority areas identified by IAI Parties (food security, agriculture, ocean, water, disaster risk reduction and management)? And is this being done in the context of the Americas?

- Conduct a landscape analysis on how information is trafficked or communicated through the various arms of government, and how a nation converts scientific information into policy. This will be context specific for each country within the region. This information will be relevant to the Center having a significant impact in the region. For example, how would a SDC debrief or synthesis document on food security from the UNFCCC COP reach the relevant officials in government?
- Conduct a scoping exercise on the organizations in the Americas and abroad that operate in the Center's priority areas, so as to tailor a strategic communications plan to foster collaboration and access funding.

## DAY 2

### Breakout Group Summary

#### Group 1 (SD Thematic Focus + Strategic Initiatives)

##### *Main Comments:*

- The trainings provided by the Center will need to accommodate diverse experts that can communicate across boundaries of knowledge.
- It will be important for the Center to ensure that its initiatives and activities are framed by actionable justice, equity, diversity and inclusivity. Likewise, the Center should be able to track and communicate this progress.

##### *Recommendations:*

- The Center could develop several training courses for policy makers that focuses on: a) science diplomacy; b) negotiation best practices (how to be sensitive to the negotiation process within a multi-lateral setting, how to diplomatically defend a position etc.); c) priority areas (agriculture, food security, water, oceans, DRR/DRM, others). These trainings may also have a 'scaffolded structure' where participants are trained according to their level of experience.
- It may be possible to consider the mobility of the SDC where Parties host trainings sessions, further strengthening relationships.
- The Center could develop a mechanism that synthesizes technical information to non-technical audiences that is of value to the Parties, such as a one page briefing memo for countries and applicable to the region.
- The Center needs to invest in developing a Strategic Communications Plan, including the use of IAI focal points to ensure that the Center's value is communicated and known, so as to attract engagement of the governments. For example, focal points may invite the IAI to present the SDC initiative to departments and potential funders, explain the benefit of the Center and promote programs to attract their participation.

#### Group 2 (Capacity Building + Sustainable Funding Strategy)

##### *Main Comments:*

- As an IGO catering to 19 governments, the Center may not be able to adopt a services model as a fundraising approach. However, a service contract may be done with foundations, private sectors, and think tanks, and other similar organizations. The Center may need to seek the advice of legal experts on this approach.

*Recommendations:*

- Key activities for the Center's capacity building are to develop an internal and external strategic communication plan, such as creating policy briefs to targeted audiences. A cohort of STeP fellows may be leveraged for this activity via the Center's 2-3 year implementation plan.
- It will be critical for the Center to conduct a landscaping analysis that covers its potential activities, country/countries of interest, theme/s, funding required, stakeholder mapping, and their areas of interest. This would also help to shape the Center's financial plan and how potential partners, funders, and collaborators are approached and communicated with strategically.
- In establishing synergies with the STeP program, the Center may need to consider elements of training, education and mentorship. Therefore, collaborating with universities to provide training and education may be an opportunity to explore. The Center must define its mentorship scope (vertical and/or lateral), whether for career guidance of STeP fellows or for mentorship activities embedded in larger Center initiatives. For example, the Center's mentorship plan may include a focal point/ministry officer sponsoring a STeP fellow and/or providing guidance to a STeP Science Diplomacy project.
- The Center could create a standard workshop for government/ministry officials at various levels. Once designed, the workshop content and structure can be reused and customized to be country-specific as needed. There may be options where a cohort of these officials meet several times for 1 week to work on a continuing project; or the structure may consist of three different cohorts of officials each meeting for 1 week to work on a continuing project. Incentives for participation could include making the training diploma-based, free, and/or project-based in relation to ongoing work. This will not only benefit the participating cohorts, but will also strengthen the network between IAI and regional decision-makers.
- The Center could collaborate with FAPESP Sao Paulo (an IAI Associate) to fund STeP fellows and other activities such as developing a comprehensive communications training curriculum that can be implemented in blocks/segments (training for diplomats curriculum; training for scientists; training in economics language; training for journalists).
- Another 'low hanging fruit' for the Center is to partner, align and collaborate with ongoing initiatives in the region. For example, a Party may be hosting an oceans training with universities and government ministries, the Center may have an opportunity to collaborate for more regional awareness.
- The Center may consider requesting funds from IAI Associates and Parties through grants, contracts, donations, and/or an endowment fund. A matching fund structure, which is a cost-sharing contribution to the Center's initiatives, projects, trainings, or activities that will benefit multiple Parties throughout the region may also be considered as an alternative funding strategy. For example, if a Party has several officials who need training in science diplomacy, the Party could fund the Center to carry out this training. The Center could also suggest to Parties that they support representatives from other countries participating in these capacity-building initiatives, thereby strengthening regional integration and collaboration.

*Other Relevant Information (i.e., timeline, budget, key partners, themes, regions, approaches, etc):*

- A consortium led by the University of Sao Paulo (USP) has submitted a Letter of Intent to FAPESP to fund a Research Innovation and Dissemination Center that will also provide capacity building in science diplomacy. The request is for USD\$2 million in funding over 11 years. If approved, the program would hire personnel to oversee its operations. As a USP international partner, the IAI SDC may be able to align with this program in which STeP fellows can direct research to policy needs and strengthen science policy mechanisms, as well as incorporate the skills of scientific journalists to manage its communication plan.

## Plenary Sessions Summary

### *Main Comments:*

- The Center's initiatives/activities must be aligned with the needs of the Parties, and the IAI must have the internal capacity to deliver.
- Considering that 'Climate Action' was the main priority highlighted by Parties in the Regional Assessment, its cross-cutting nature provides flexibility for the Center to venture into preparing communication materials from existing projects and programs under areas of natural disasters (hurricanes, floods and droughts), disaster reduction and resilience, and climate, environment and health (CEH).

### *Recommendations:*

- The Center should consider leveraging STeP fellows to conduct a pathway to policy landscape analysis. This pathway analysis will inform the Center of how to present information to Parties and reach its target audience, as well as shape the structure of the Center's human and institutional capacity-building initiatives.
- The Center should develop a strategic communications plan for both internal and external audiences. This includes aligning topics with the results of the IAI's Regional Assessment, as well as developing a sustainable internal mechanism and/or capacity to create region-specific and/or country-specific communication materials (e.g., policy briefs, one-page synthesis of scientific information, etc.) to be distributed to Parties and decision-makers.
- The Center should consider how the impact of its initiatives and the role of STeP fellows will be measured and linked to its goals.
- It is suggested that funding for IAI's internal fellows be separate from funding for external fellows hosted in government institutions.

## DAY 3

### Plenary Sessions Summary

The SDC Advisory Board meeting coincided with the STeP 'Leadership in Science Diplomacy Workshop,' which was the first in-person meeting of Generation 1 (2020-2022) and Generation 2 (2022-2024) STeP fellows from various regions in the Americas. The Advisory Board members were able to interact and network with STeP fellows, as well as facilitate the mutual exchange of knowledge and experiences. STeP fellows were also given the opportunity to present their group science diplomacy projects to the Board members for feedback.

The group science diplomacy topics include:

- ✓ Circular economy Approaches to Wastewater Treatment
- ✓ Hydrogen for the Americas
- ✓ Stakeholder Engagement for Sharing Data at the Global Health-Climate Change Nexus
- ✓ "30 X 30" conservation ambition in the Americas and the Science-Diplomacy opportunity for collective implementation
- ✓ Lifecycle of clean Transportation and Energy/ Mineral sources for climate change mitigation and public health improvement
- ✓ Microplastic pollution and behaviourally aligned global action
- ✓ Assessment of Green Infrastructure in Cities for Climate Change Resilience across LAC
- ✓ Towards a Climate Solidarity? Strategies for Knowledge-Sharing on Climate Justice

### *Main Comments:*

- Based on the presentations of the science diplomacy projects, STeP fellows may need to improve how they communicate the problem that their project is addressing, as well as ensure clarity on their project's target audience.
- The STeP fellows' science diplomacy projects can serve as a model or resource for how science diplomacy can deliver tangible results quickly. However, interaction with some fellows, revealed a mentorship gap and a lack of clarity on key science policy concepts, and products, even within their own group projects. The SDC capacity building initiatives could help to improve the experience and knowledge of fellows on science-policy products.
- The Board was informed about the context in which the group science diplomacy projects were created. The project topics were selected using a bottom-up approach, while also ensuring that groups were multinational and transdisciplinary. Despite the IAI's limited interaction with STeP host institutions, project topics were chosen based on the host institution's priorities, fellows' interests, and alignment with the IAI's Science Agenda. Participants from Generation 1 and Generation 2 formed groups that included fellows who started the program 2 months, 6 months, or even 1.5 years ago. As a result, groups were comprised of members with varying levels of expertise and experience in the field of science-policy. STeP fellows are not considered experts in science diplomacy; rather, the program serves as a professional development opportunity. The goal is to introduce them to the field and encourage their participation in the science-policy space in order to positively advance their country's interests and address transboundary issues.
- The strategic impact of STeP is for the policy host institutions to recognize the value of ECRs in strengthening the human and institutional capacities, as well as strengthening the science-policy interface.
- The Center's mentorship plan may provide an opportunity for increased interaction between the SAC/SPAC and the STeP fellows.
- Leveraging the IAI's formal relationship with the University of Sao Paulo and forming a partnership with InnSciD may provide opportunities to strengthen the educational aspects of the STeP Fellowship Program. For example, this collaboration could provide fellows with in-depth formal training on the role of IGOs and their operation/function within a multilateral space, knowledge of IGO documentation, communication processes and protocols, delegation operation, and negotiation best practices, among other things.
- The Advisory Board was reminded that the STeP program is still in its pilot phase and is growing at an exponential rate. As a result, discussions on defining a sustainable, effective, and manageable growth structure and plan that preserves the program's quality continues.

### *Recommendations:*

- Establish a mentorship program under the SDC to strengthen synergy with SAC/SPAC members and STeP fellows.
- The Center's mentorship plan should leverage their expertise and experience, as well as ensure that a concerted effort is made in their growth within the policy space, as they expand their knowledge and experience in government processes, documentation, and operations.
- The Center should avoid conflating 'education' and 'mentorship' in planning its initiatives. The Center's overarching mentorship structure should be specific, with clear expectations for the mentor, STeP fellow, and the host institution. Similarly, the host institution could also provide their plan (one-page with scope and timeline) of mentoring a STeP fellow.
- With more structured engagements between trainers and fellows (less passive), the STeP training model and group project development may improve and become more productive.
- Establish a formal relationship between the SDC and InnSciD to provide the academic context on the concepts of SD, the operation of the multilateral process etc. in relation to the STeP program.

- To manage expectations as STeP continues in its pilot phase, it is critical to clearly frame the program as a learning experience that connects ECRs and policymakers across the region.

### Next Steps

- Share the completed SDC first in-person advisory board meeting report with the Advisory Board, and the SAC/SPAC members. The report will also be presented at the 31st IAI Conference of Parties meeting in Panama 2023.
- Draft the SDC Implementation Plan which will be shared with the Advisory Board and the SAC/SPAC for review, comments, and feedback. The final document will be submitted for consideration by IAI Parties at its 31st meeting in Panama, 2023.
- Develop a monitoring mechanism to keep account of the expected role, time commitment and effort contributed by Advisory Board members. For example, the time commitment of Board members in reviewing the Science Diplomacy Curriculum and Training Materials; reviewing the SDC Implementation Plan; participation in virtual and in-person meetings etc. This will also set the stage for the next cohort of Advisory Board members.
- Host virtual calls with Advisory Board members to determine the location of the next in-person meeting.

### Conclusion

The discussions at the SDC first in-person advisory board meeting reiterated the unique position of the IAI and its extensive reach across diverse communities in the Americas. The value to the SDC and its initiatives lies in defining its communication strategies, establishing collaborative partnerships and strengthening synergies between existing programs in the IAI. The contributions and recommendations shared by Advisory Board members will be used to guide the drafting of the Center's Implementation Plan which will detail its activities, timeline, metric for monitoring and evaluation, as well as budgetary allocation. In maintaining the co-creation and co-design process for the Center's initiatives, board members will participate in virtual and in-person meetings to finalize the Implementation Plan which will be submitted for consideration by Parties at its 31st meeting in Panama, 2023.

# Annex

## SDC Advisory Board Membership (2022-2025)

### IAI Parties

#### Carlos Eduardo Higa Matsumoto



General Coordinator of Multilateral Cooperation  
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation  
Brazil  
@gov\_mcti

**Academic/Professional Background:**  
BSc and MSc in International Relations (University of Brasilia).  
Science and Technology Analyst (public service), since 2013.

**Role/engagement with the IAI:**  
Brazilian Focal Point to the IAI

**Science Diplomacy Experience:**  
As General Coordinator of Multilateral Cooperation at MCTI, I advise the Minister of State, Vice-Ministers and the Head of the Office of International Affairs in the Ministry's relationship with International Organizations, Regional and International Mechanisms and Multilateral forums. In this sense, science diplomacy is a core element of my daily work and my attributions at the Brazilian Federal Government.

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



#### Carlos Eduardo Higa Matsumoto (cont'd)



**IAI SDC Board Motivation:**  
To contribute to the development of Science Diplomacy and its benefits in the region and add the experience of Brazil to the Center.

**Potential importance of the IAI SDC:**  
I think the most important contribution that SDC can give is the formation of personnel in Science diplomacy, focusing in its conceptual and theoretical framework. Many of our scientists and government officials already practice science diplomacy in their daily activities, but sometimes they do not know about that. A theoretical approach could complement their understanding on the subject and improve their actions towards a broader goal that involves scientific and foreign policy purposes.

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



#### Dr. Marcelo Mena



CEO, Global Methane Hub  
Professor of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso  
Chile  
@marcelomena  
@Gmethanehub

**Academic Background:**  
MS and Ph.D. degrees in Environmental Engineering (The University of Iowa), focusing his research on estimating the externalities of biofuels, power generation, transportation, and residential heating. He used his research to advocate for renewable energy and push for more stringent regulations to stop dirty coal power generation in Chile. He has received awards from UNEP, National Geographic, Oceans Unite, NASA, and the EPA, as well as fellowships from MIT and the Fulbright Commission.

**Professional Background:**  
Former Environment Minister for Chile under the Michelle Bachelet government (2014 to 2018).  
Practice Manager at the World Bank, where he led the team that created the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action.

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



#### Dr. Marcelo Mena (cont'd)



**Science Diplomacy Experience**  
As a minister, he spearheaded multiple international environmental initiatives including helping craft a landmark agreement to phase out coal power generation, South America's first carbon taxes for power generation and new car sales, creating 45,000 square kilometers of national parks, and protecting 1.3 million square kilometers of ocean.

**IAI SDC Board Motivation:**  
I am honored to be nominated. I am happy to contribute my experience in using science to improve policy design. I think the group that has been put together will be influential in this agenda, and I am glad to be part of it.

**Potential importance of the IAI SDC:**  
I am convinced this new center will provide a new means to increase the contribution of science in policy design. Countries in Latin America have contributed to improve their human capital by investing in higher education and advance studies. We need to channel these new capacities to improve our policies. Also in the context of political polarization, science based decision making provides the opportunity for agreements for the common good.

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



#### Dr. Maria Uhle



Program Director for International Activities  
Directorate for Geosciences  
National Science Foundation  
USA

**Academic/ Professional Background:**  
I have worked at the forefront of inter- and transdisciplinary research to positively impact the lives of people, communities and the environment – first through academia, then at the science/policy interface with the National Academies, and in civil service with National Institute for Standards and Technology and the National Science Foundation.

**Science Diplomacy Experience:**  
I develop mechanisms and agreements to foster international research collaboration primarily through the Belmont Forum, the Governing Board of Future Earth, the IAI and with 13 other US federal agencies through the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP).

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



#### Dr. Maria Uhle (cont'd)



**IAI SDC Board Motivation:**  
Developing and sustaining networks that incorporate science diplomacy to solve critical issues not only in the Americas, but also across the world is what motivated me to become part of this tremendous effort. I am truly honored to be part of this.

**Role/engagement with the IAI:**

- Chair of the Executive Council of the IAI
- US Permanent Representative to the IAI

**Potential importance of the IAI SDC:**  
A sustainable and equitable world cannot be achieved by any single person, organization, country, field of study, or technology. Collaboration is at the heart of science diplomacy. We can address and solve issues we all face more effectively when we respect one another, embrace our differences, and form true and equitable partnerships. Only through science diplomacy will we be able to use knowledge from culture, tradition, science, research, and innovation to overcome today's challenges and capitalize on opportunities.

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



## SAC and SPAC Representatives

### Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza



Senior Advisor: Climate Change, Agriculture, Environment and Forestry  
Retired from Government of Canada (GoC)  
Canada

**Academic/Professional Background:**

- PhD Agriculture (Plant Pathology)
- Over 15 years as Director General S&T on various organizations of Government of Canada (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service, and Environment and Climate Change Canada).

**Science Diplomacy Experience:**

- Science Advisor to Ministers and high officials in the GoC
- Head of delegation of many scientific international missions.
- Many years working on the Science-Policy interface

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



### Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza (cont'd)



**Role/engagement with the IAI:**

- Focal Point for Canada from 2011 to 2013
- Chair of the Science Policy Advisory Committee from 2015 to 2017
- Current member of the Science Policy Advisory Committee 2017 to present

**IAI SDC Board Motivation:**

- Contribute to refining our understanding of Science Diplomacy.
- Helping build scientific diplomacy capacity in the Americas.
- Improved science-based decision making throughout the Americas.

**Potential importance of the IAI SDC:**

An excellent example of a diplomatic effort in the Americas. The IAI continues to focus on creating knowledge when needed, but it is going beyond by making that knowledge useful to decision makers throughout the region. A well position organization in the Americas, with the capability through internal and external capacity (i.e. collaborators) to support Parties build capacity on Science Diplomacy.

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



### Dr. Carol Franco



Climate advisor to the Ministry of the Environment of the Dominican Republic,  
Dominican Republic/USA

**Academic Background:**

B.S. in Biology from the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, M.S. in Forest Resources Management from SUNY- College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and a Ph.D. in Ecological Economics and Environmental Policy from SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

**Professional Background:**

Senior Research Associate  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, USA

**Role/engagement with the IAI:**

Current member of the Science Policy Advisory Committee

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



## IAI Associate Representative

### Dr. Kimberly Montgomery



Director of International Affairs and Science Diplomacy at AAAS,  
USA

Twitter: @aaas, @SciDip, @montgomery\_kj

**Academic Background:**

I was a RWJF Health & Society Scholar at Columbia University, have a Ph.D. in psychology and neuroscience from Princeton University, and a bachelor's degree in cognitive science from Northwestern University.

**Professional Background:**

More than a decade working in science policy and international affairs in the U.S. and Austria, including at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), U.S. House of Representatives, and U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF).

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



### Dr. Kimberly Montgomery (cont'd)



**Role/engagement with the IAI:**

AAAS is an associate of IAI; helps select the AAAS STPF Fellows that participate in the STeP program; the IAI Deputy Executive Director is a member of the AAAS David and Betty Hamburg Award for Science Diplomacy Selection Committee

**Science Diplomacy Experience:**

I advise on bilateral and multilateral relationships and manage the Center for Science Diplomacy, which is focused on elevating the role of science in foreign policy to address national and global challenges.

**IAI SDC Board Motivation:**

It's a privilege to help shape and direct the SDC so that it will be successful in its objective of connecting and strengthening the science, technology, and innovation ecosystems in Latin America and the Caribbean through international collaboration.

**Potential importance of the IAI SDC:**

Science diplomacy is facing an increasingly complex context and massive geopolitical challenges. To help navigate this changing landscape, the IAI SDC can help foster and facilitate the much-needed exchanges, interactions, and cooperation within Latin America, the Caribbean, and beyond.

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



## Science Diplomacy Experts

### Dr. Frances Colon



Senior Director of the International Climate Center for American Progress,  
United States of America

**Academic Background:**

Ph.D. in neuroscience in 2004 from Brandeis University and her B.S. in biology in 1997 from the University of Puerto Rico.

**Professional Background:**

Former deputy science and technology adviser to the Secretary of State, where she promoted integration of science and technology into foreign policy dialogues, global advancement of women in science, and climate policy for former President Barack Obama's Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas. Currently co-chairs the academies' Global Science Diplomacy Roundtable.

10 - Nov - 2022

IAI Science Diplomacy Center



**Ambassador Carmen Claramunt**



**Career Diplomat**  
 Deputy Director of the Diplomatic Academy Manuel María de Peralta  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship  
 Costa Rica  
 @CRcancilleria

**Academic Background:**  
 Doctorate in International Law (Costa Rica & France)

**Professional Background:**  
 Former advisor to:  
 • The Office of the Minister,  
 • Head of the Diplomatic Department,  
 • General Director of the Foreign Service,  
 • Deputy Director of International Cooperation,  
 • Deputy Representative to the United Nations' Office in Geneva and Specialized Agencies  
 • President of the Costa Rican Commission for International Humanitarian Law

**Ambassador Carmen Claramunt (cont'd)**



**Science Diplomacy Experience:**  
 Promoting a rapprochement between sectors to achieve a common understanding, identifying the roles of each other, and making visible the spaces of synergistic complementation offered by science and diplomacy for the benefit of the national community, but also of Humanity.

**IAI SDC Board Motivation:**  
 To share experiences, identifying policies, instruments, new roads and forms of cooperation in the field of scientific diplomacy and mainstreaming the findings.

**Role/engagement with the IAI:**  
 The commitment with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research must consist of contributing to exchanges with intellectual honesty and a constructive critical spirit as well as promoting the circulation of thought and contact between people and institutions.

**Potential importance of the IAI SDC:**  
 Given the immeasurable planetary challenges that we must address, Science Diplomacy becomes a cross-cutting tool at the service of global society. A SDC for the region can become a vehicle to support assertiveness and directionality to advance on the national and regional path of sustainable development and to contribute to the international community to which we aspire.

**Professor Janina Onuki**



Professor Janina Onuki  
 Department of Political Science  
 University of São Paulo  
 Brazil

**Academic Background:**  
 PhD in Political Science, USP  
 Former Director of the Institute of International Relations, USP (2018-2021)

**Science Diplomacy Experience:**  
 Member of the Executive Committee, Innovation and Science Diplomacy School (InnScid SP)

**Role/engagement with the IAI:**  
 PI of the consultancy team that is leading the development of the initial training material for the SDC

**Professor Janina Onuki**



**IAI SDC Board Motivation:**  
 Strengthen the relationship between USP and IAI, in order to become a reference in Science Diplomacy in the Americas and in the Global South.

**Potential importance of the IAI SDC:**  
 The IAI SDC has potential to be leader institution on consultation and training in the area of science diplomacy and innovation diplomacy for Latin American countries, acting also as a hub in the Global South for a worldwide network.

**Dr. Nathan Hotaling**



Senior Vice President of Data Science - Axle Informatics  
 Senior Data Scientist - National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS), National Institutes of Health (NIH) - Information Technology Research Branch (ITRB) - United States of America

**Academic Background:**  
 Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering  
 Masters in Clinical and Translational Science

**Professional Background:**  
 Senior Vice President and Founder of Data Science Division at Axle Informatics  
 Post-Doctoral Research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)  
 Post-Doctoral Research at the National Eye Institute (NEI)

**Dr. Nathan Hotaling (cont'd)**



**Science Diplomacy Experience:**  
 Actively involved in scientific communication and advising on SARS-COV2 variants to the White House, equitable dissemination and access to data, and the impact of Artificial Intelligence on organizations for the last decade.

**IAI SDC Board Motivation:**  
 I believe training scientists, communication of science to funders, and making scientific data broadly accessible are the most important endeavors we can engage in as professionals. Doing so in an ethical, equitable, and sustainable manner is challenging and I am excited to participate in an organization that is focused on this mission using these foundational principles across the hemisphere.

**Potential importance of the IAI SDC:**  
 To effect change at the global scale, policy makers need to be provided with the tools to change the status quo. The IAI SDC can serve as the tool provider for current and future policy makers to create real, sustainable, and enduring change. Thus, impacting and transforming the quality of life and well being of not only its members' nations but the entire world.

Member TBC, Geneva  
 Science and Diplomacy  
 Anticipator (GESDA)  
 Switzerland