



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

AND

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

This Memorandum of Understanding is made on the 4 day of Dec. 2023

Between

THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH, through its Executive Directorate with registered address at Av. Italia 6201, Ed. Los Tilos, Montevideo, Uruguay, and represented by the Executive Director, Dr. Anna Stewart Ibarra, is an intergovernmental organization supported by 19 countries in the Americas, dedicated to pursuing the principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation, and the full and open exchange of scientific information to increase the understanding of global change phenomena (planetary-scale changes in the Earth system) and their socio-economic implications, (hereinafter referred to as the IAI Directorate).

And

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, a regional institution duly constituted by Royal Charter and represented by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles with the Vice-Chancellery situated in Kingston, Jamaica. The University comprises the Mona Campus situated at Mona in Kingston, Jamaica; the Cave Hill Campus situated in Barbados; the St. Augustine Campus situated in St. Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago; the Five Islands Campus situated in Antigua and Barbuda and a Global Campus, which serves seventeen countries within the Caribbean region inclusive of the four

countries noted above, (hereinafter referred to as The UWI). This Agreement will be implemented by and through the Office of Global Affairs.

Individually each party may be referred to as “Party” and collectively as “Parties”

RECOGNIZING that the Parties are interested in strengthening the exchange of information, knowledge, and cooperation in relevant work areas;

RECOGNIZING that The UWI was invited to be an Associate of the IAI at the 31th meeting of the IAI Conference of the Parties (Panama City, Panama, 2023) per Article XI (1) of the Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research which expresses:

“Associates of the Institute

The Conference of the Parties may invite States outside the region, regional or international intergovernmental organizations, and industries and other nongovernmental and private organizations interested in supporting the Scientific Agenda and programmatic activities of the Institute to become Associates of the Institute”.

IT IS NOTED THAT The UWI is committed to its mission *“To advance learning, create knowledge and foster innovation for the positive transformation of the Caribbean and the wider world.”*

RECALLING THAT 12 nations of the American continent met in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1992 to establish the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). The 12 governments, in the Montevideo Declaration, asked the Institute to develop the best possible international coordination of scientific and economic research on the scope, causes, and consequences of global change in the Americas. To date, 19 countries are Parties to the IAI: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

RECOGNIZING THAT The UWI and the IAI Directorate value the need and importance of strengthening national and regional capacities to address the challenges posed by global change and promote compliance with obligations related to national frameworks, the Sustainable Development Goals, relevant United Nations conventions, among others.

RECOGNIZING THAT there is a possibility for successful collaboration between The UWI and the IAI Directorate in the areas of health, climate change, indigenous peoples and local communities, biodiversity and ecosystems, transdisciplinary approaches, science diplomacy, and other related topics.

RECOGNIZING THAT the IAI is the host of the Belmont Forum, a partnership of funding organizations, international science councils, and regional consortia committed to advancing transdisciplinary science, established in 2009. The Belmont Forum is committed to international transdisciplinary research, providing knowledge for understanding, mitigating, and adapting to

global environmental change through international calls for proposals and transdisciplinary training and network building.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties, in accordance with Article XI (4) of the Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, which states:

“Each Associate shall conclude with the Institute, through the Director, an Agreement of Association which shall specify the area or areas of the Scientific Agenda that will be supported by the Associate, and the modalities of such support”.

agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 OBJECTIVE

The Parties agree to enhance collaboration and information exchange on activities and initiatives on health, climate change, indigenous peoples and local communities, biodiversity and ecosystems, and other topics related to transdisciplinary science, science diplomacy, global change, and sustainable development.

ARTICLE 2 AREAS OF INTEREST AND COOPERATION

The Parties share an interest in improving information exchange and collaboration to:

- a. Strengthen collaboration mechanisms and information exchange between the IAI community of transdisciplinary practitioners, scientists, and decision-makers and scientists working with The UWI to facilitate the fulfillment of the IAI's mission and that of The UWI;
- b. Exchange information and share knowledge with the IAI community and scientists working with The UWI about regional and global activities to enhance scientific and other technical capacities related, but not limited to, the aforementioned priority topics;
- c. Share technical information from projects and activities related to indigenous and local communities that incorporate relevant traditional lifestyles for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and other technical information on priority topics determined by the Parties;
- d. Exchange information and collaborate, as appropriate, on open data and open science projects and initiatives;
- e. Share information on the development of capacity-building programs, fellowship programs, and virtual training courses and curricula;
- f. When appropriate, jointly contribute to the co-development, dissemination, and support for regional and global transdisciplinary research funding opportunities on priority topics under the Belmont Forum and other flexible science funding mechanisms.
- g. Develop communication mechanisms, as appropriate and within the programmatic areas of the institutions, to facilitate and promote South-South cooperation.

- h. Develop joint proposals of mutual interest and, as appropriate, seek funding and promote financial resources.

**ARTICLE 3
MEETINGS ON COMMON INTEREST ISSUES**

The UWI and the IAI Directorate will invite each other's representatives to participate in meetings that allow observer participation as long as common interest topics are discussed.

The UWI will be invited to participate in IAI's annual Conference of the Parties in its capacity as an Associate to the IAI.

The UWI will be invited to nominate candidates for the IAI's Science Advisory Committee, Science Policy Advisory Committee, and other standing or ad hoc advisory committees.

**ARTICLE 4
STATUS OF THE PARTIES**

- a. In this MoU, nothing shall be construed or interpreted as creating, or having been created, a partnership, joint venture, employment, or agency relationship between the Parties.
- b. No provision of this MoU shall be construed in a way that interferes in any way with the respective decision-making processes of the Parties concerning their respective affairs and operations.

**ARTICLE 5
CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

In the event of a dispute, controversy, or claim arising from or related to this Memorandum of Understanding, The UWI and the IAI Directorate will do their utmost to immediately resolve the dispute through direct negotiation.

**ARTICLE 6
ENTRY INTO FORCE, TERM, RENEWAL AND TERMINATION**

- a. This MoU will enter into force on the date of signature by both Parties. It will remain in force for five (5) years unless canceled by written notice with ninety (90) days advance given by one to the other.
- b. Notwithstanding the foregoing, measures will be taken to ensure that the termination of this MoU is not detrimental to any activity or program carried out or being carried out under the MoU.
- c. This MoU may be renewed for a further period by mutual written consent of the Parties.

**ARTICLE 7
MODIFICATION**

This MoU may be modified through mutual written agreement, without altering the main objective of the Agreement.

**ARTICLE 8
LEGAL ADDRESS**

For the purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding, The UWI and the IAI Directorate declare the following legal addresses:

The UWI:

The University of the West Indies
Vice-Chancellery
The UWI Regional Headquarters
2A Hermitage Road
Kingston 7
Jamaica

The IAI Directorate:

Av. Italia 6201
Ed. Los Tilos, Office 102
11500 Montevideo,
Uruguay

**ARTICLE 9
FINANCIAL COSTS**

Each Party will assume its own costs incurred in implementing its responsibilities under this MoU.

**ARTICLE 10
DATA PROTECTION**

The Parties undertake to adopt security measures to deal with the risks inherent in the processing of personal and technical data obtained under this Agreement, in order to:

- i. prevent any unauthorized person from having access to computer systems processing personal and technical data;
- ii. guarantee that authorized users of a computer system can only access the personal and technical data to which their right of access relates;
- iii. respect at all times the principles of the institutional policies of the two Parties.

**ARTICLE 11
COMMUNICATION AND NOTIFICATION**

In order to facilitate the implementation of the working arrangements to be established by the Parties to this Agreement, the communication channel for the Parties is as follows:

- i. For The UWI: Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Studies and Research,
pvcgradstudies@uwimona.edu.jm +876-977-0655

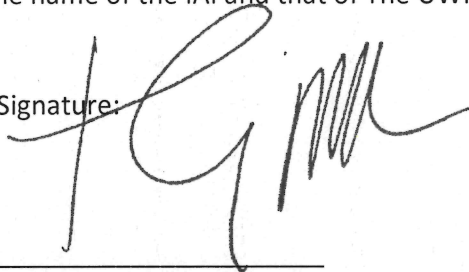
- ii. For IAI: Executive Director, IAI Directorate, astewar@dir.iai.int / soledad@dir.iai.int; +59826060126.

**ARTICLE 12
LIABILITY OF SIGNATORIES**

Unless otherwise specified in this Agreement, none of the signatories will be legally or financially responsible in any way for activities developed jointly or independently within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding.

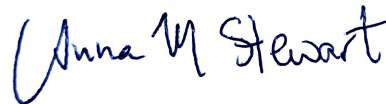
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement is signed in four original copies, in the English language, in the name of the IAI and that of The UWI, by their respective authorized signatories.

Signature:



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles
Vice-Chancellor
On behalf of The UWI

Signature:



Dr. Anna Stewart Ibarra
Executive Director
On behalf of the IAI Directorate