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

31st meeting

Panamá City

14-15 June 2022

Agenda item 10

**Joint Report of the Science-Advisory Committee (SAC) and the
Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)**

1. This document has been prepared by the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) with the assistance of the IAI Directorate.

Background

2. The *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article VII, the Scientific Advisory Committee, paragraph 1, stipulates that the SAC:

...shall be the principal scientific advisory organ of the Institute.

3. Additionally, Article VII, paragraph 4(a) directs the SAC, among other actions, to:

Make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties regarding the Scientific Agenda, long-range plans and annual program of the Institute.

4. The Conference of the Parties, at its 21st meeting (CoP-21, Montevideo, 2013), adopted Decision XXI/13, which states:

The CoP approved the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Science-Policy Liaison. The committee will provide advice to the CoP and the IAI Directorate on how to use and design science for policy and decision-making.

Membership

5. The current membership of the SAC includes Omar Lopez (Chair), Anahi Urquiza Gómez, Tereza Cavazos, Ines Camilloni, Alexander Turra, Jean Paul Metzger, Mercy Borbor, Barry Warner, Jenifer Silva, Alexandra Mallet and Michelle Scobie and one alternate member: Mariana Meerhoff Scaffo.
6. In June 2023, two SAC members nominated by the Parties, Tereza Cavazos and Ines Camilloni, will have concluded their terms. Ines Camilloni is eligible to be re-elected for a second term, and Tereza Cavazos will conclude her second term.
7. One SAC member nominated by the SAC, Alexander Turra and one SAC member nominated by IAI Associates, Jean Paul Metzger, will conclude their first term and are eligible to be re-elected.
8. The current membership of the SPAC includes Evelia Rivera-Arriaga (Chair), Javier Gracia-Garza, Karen de Oliveira Silverwood Cope, David Smith, Margot Hurlbert, Carol Franco, and Maria Amparo Martinez Arroyo, and two alternate members: Jorge Rucks and Nathalie Flores.
9. In June 2023, four SPAC members nominated by the Parties, Evelia Rivera-Arriaga, Javier Gracia-Garza, Karen de Oliveira Silverwood Cope, and David Smith, will have concluded their terms. David Smith is concluding his first term and is eligible for re-election.
10. Notification no. IAIUYDIR/2023/11 was issued on 29 March 2023, inviting Parties to submit nominations for these vacancies, noting the names of those that could be re-elected, and including recommendations from the SAC and SPAC regarding the profile of nominees.
11. The Conference of the Parties shall elect 4 SPAC members from nominations received from Parties, 2 SAC members from nominations received from Parties, one SAC member for nominations from the SAC, and one SAC member from nominations from associates.

Activities

12. Per Decision XXVI/9, the SAC and SPAC meetings were held jointly during the intercessional period on the first Tuesday of every month. The joint meetings have been successful, resulting in enhanced communication and participation and increased knowledge exchange between the SAC and the SPAC.
13. Eight teleconferences were held (or will be held) during the intercessional period: 2 August 2022, 6 September 2022, 4 October 2022, 6 December 2022, 7 February 2023, 7 March

2023, 11 April 2023, 2 May 2023, as of this writing. Issues discussed included: the selection of the new IAI Executive Director; the committee to develop and implement the new Gender and EDI Policy adopted at CoP 30 (Montevideo and Videoconference, 2022); the launch and initial activities of the Science Diplomacy Center; the steering committee to advise the work of the consultancy developing the transdisciplinary curriculum; the working group on the regional assessment; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) policy briefs with key messages for the Latin American and Caribbean region; updates on Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Actions; a new project on the integrated management of sargassum; activities on the nexus of climate environment and health; among other topics.

14. The SAC and SPAC Chairs, Dr Omar Lopez and Dr Evelia Rivera-Arriaga, participated in the committee and 2023 Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Videoconference, 2023) to elect the new Executive Director of the IAI. Dr. Anna Stewart Ibarra was elected and will begin her mandate on 1 June 2023 as reported in Notification IAIUYDIR/2023/016.
15. SAC and SPAC members participated in the Gender Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee according to Decision XXX/5, which approved the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy for IAI Scientific Projects and Capacity Building Activities, and Decision XXX/6 that invites the CoP to establish the Gender and EDI Committee in collaboration the SAC, SPAC, and Associates and with the support of the IAI Directorate, to develop and implement activities under the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy for IAI Scientific Projects and Capacity Building Activities and to report on achievements at the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties. SAC member Dr Tereza Cavazos and SPAC members Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza and Dr. Margot Hurlbert, participated in the monthly meetings and in developing the Gender and EDI policy implementation plan described in IAI/COP/31/13/a/i¹.
16. The SAC and SPAC contributed to implementing the NSF project, *Building Capacity for Science-Informed Policy in the Americas through Regional Collaboration, Global Change Science Synthesis, Science Diplomacy, and Transdisciplinary Networks*. The proposal addresses Decisions XXV11/15 (Fourth Round of Collaborative Research Grants), XXVII/17 (Transdisciplinary Science), XXVII/20 (Seed Grant Programs), XXV11/30 and XXV11/30 (Establishment of a Flexible Funding Mechanism for the Americas).
 1. Members of the SAC and SPAC Dr. Anahi Urquiza, Dr. Jean Paul Metzger, and Dr. Alexandra Mallet participated in the steering committee to advise the *Consultancy to develop training materials on transdisciplinary science related to global environmental change in the Americas*, which met monthly from November 2022 and is expected to continue to meet until the end of the consultancy. They have advised the consultancy team on the scope of the training materials and compendium of transdisciplinary case studies from the LAC region.
 2. Members of the SAC and SPAC participated in the establishment and first meetings of the IAI Science Diplomacy Center Advisory Board Meeting. A summary of the first meeting, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 11 to 13 November 2022, can be found here: <https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/Science-Diplomacy-Center-Advisory-Board-Meeting>

¹ See: <https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/IAI-CoP-31-13-a-i-en.pdf>

3. Members of the SAC and SPAC participated in the review process for two new Science Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellows. A total of 26 candidates applied from across the Americas. The fellows selected to join the IAI Directorate and the Belmont Forum come from Colombia, Panamá, and Argentina.
17. Members of the SAC and SPAC participated in a working group for the regional assessment described in IAI/COP/31/13/d/i². They provided feedback on the methodology to analyze the gathered data from Parties and revised initial results.
18. The IPCC lead author and former SAC member Edwin Castellanos, SAC/SPAC members – Dr. Evelia Rivera-Arriaga, Dr. Ines Camilloni, and Dr. Mercy Borbor - have worked to produce a policy brief on water security based on the IPCC six assessment report for LAC region, to be launched in the next intercessional period.
19. SAC member Dr. Mercy Borbor and SPAC member Dr. David Smith participated in a small working group to plan a project on integrated sargassum management with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF). In the previous intercessional period, Dr. Smith and the focal point from Mexico had recommended that the Directorate seek external resources to address the growing threat of sargassum.
20. SAC and SPAC members were informed and contributed to the scoping workshops to refine the text of the Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action entitled “Amazonia and Tropical Forests: global implications and urgent needed actions.” To be launched in 2024, described in IAI/COP/31/13/e³.
21. SAC and SPAC members participated in the implementation of the training program on transdisciplinary (TD) research entitled “Climate, Environment and Health Responders in the Americas” in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE) at Columbia University. Twenty-six transdisciplinary teams from across the Americas and approximately 70 individuals from government agencies have been selected to participate in a 7-week virtual training program focused on TD research and science communication, held from September to November 2022. SAC and SPAC members offered insights into the case studies presented at the virtual training. From the initial twenty-six, thirteen teams were selected to participate in an in-person workshop in San Martin de los Andes, Neuquen, Argentina from 13-17 of March 2023. SAC and SPAC chairs Dr. Omar Lopez and Dr. Evelia Rivera-Arriaga participated in the entire workshop, including the opening session. SAC member Dr. Mercy Borbor led a session and was also present. SAC and SPAC members also participated in the peer review process of resulting project proposals for seed grants.
22. SAC and SPAC members participated in the Climate, Environment, and Health (CEH) working group, which met every 2 weeks/monthly during the intercessional period.

² See: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

³ See: <https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/IAI-COP-31-13-e-en.pdf>

1. The working group supported the strategic planning for the in-person workshop “Climate, Environment and Health responders in the Americas” training program
 2. The group contributed to strategic engagement and dissemination on the Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action on “Climate Environment and Health” (CEH2) launched in April 2023.
 3. The group discussed the health implications of Solar Radiation Modification at the SRM Conference held in Kingston, Jamaica in August 2022 (see below)
23. Members of the SAC and SPAC also participated in science and science policy knowledge dissemination activities hosted by the IAI, including:
1. The Americas Conference on Solar Radiation Modification: Science, Governance and Implications for the Region⁴, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, August 24-25, 2022, chaired by SPAC member Dr. David Smith. The following SAC and SPAC members participated: Dr Anahi Urquiza, Dr Ines Camilloni, Dr Michelle Scobie, Dr Omar Lopez, Dr Javier Gracia-Garza, and Dr Maria Amparo Martinez Arroyo.
 2. SPAC Chair Dr Evelia Rivera-Arriaga participated in the Science Summit of the United Nations General Assembly (SSUNGA), videoconferencing, in September 2022.
 3. Virtual side events were held during the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27), on 11-13 October, 2022, with the participation of Dr Ines Camilloni, Dr Evelia Arriaga and Dr Mercy Borbor on the panel entitled “Key messages from the IPCC AR6 for the UNFCCC CoP27.”
 4. Dr. Omar Lopez is the Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Sustainability, Research and Innovation Conference (SRI2023) to be hosted with Belmont Forum, SENACYT Panama, and Future Earth on 26-30 June 2023 in Panamá City.

Recommendation

24. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decisions in the Annex to the present document.

⁴ The report of the meeting is available as CoP-31 information document no. IAI/COP/INFO/2. See: https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/IAI%20Conference%20Report_Eng.pdf

Annex

Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXXI/xx: The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to establish a research and training program on the nexus of climate, environment and health to support decision making by Parties, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education, and other regional and global partners, to seek extramural research funding to support these activities, and to identify new partners.

XXXI/xx: The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to participate in the Hydro-Climate Research Program of the Andes (ANDEX) under the umbrella of the Global Energy and Water Exchanges Project (GEWEX) of the World Climate Research Programme, to communicate the advances of ANDEX to the Parties, and to seek extramural research funding to support these activities.

XXXI/xx: The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to engage with IAI Parties during international multilateral science-policy convenings, such as the UNFCCC CoP, CBD CoP, and Science Summit of the UN General Assembly, among others, and to seek extramural funding to sponsor an IAI delegation comprised of senior and early career scientists to disseminate relevant research with a global community, to strengthen engagement with decision makers, and to increase the capacity of the region to participate in international negotiations.

Directed to Parties

XXXI/xx: The Conference of the Parties is encouraged to meet in-person biennially and via videoconferencing during the intervening years, to increase equitable participation of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee and Parties, to begin the implementation of a sponsored delegates program for the provision of financial assistance to facilitate the participation of Parties at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and to reduce the carbon footprint of the Conference of the Parties.