



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

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2 June 2020

**NOTIFICATION**

**Subject: New deadline for submitting nominations for representatives to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)**

Dear Madam/Sir,

Following the postponement of the CoP-28 to 19 August 2020, to be held through video conferencing systems, the new deadline for submitting nominations of qualified representatives to the SPAC is 17 July 2020.

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.*

The Conference of the Parties, at its 27th meeting (CoP-27, Brasilia, 2019), adopted Decisions XXVII/3, XXVII/37 and XXVII/38, which state:

*XXVII/3. The Conference of the Parties adopts the Rules of Procedure for the Science Policy Advisory Committee.*

*XXVII/37. The Conference of the Parties invites current SPAC members and members whose terms are expiring to continue their participation in the Committee until elections may be held.*

*XXVII/38. The Conference of the Parties agrees to reschedule elections for membership to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee to its twenty-eighth meeting.*

The *Rules of procedure for the Science Policy Advisory Committee*, as approved by the CoP-27, states:

*RULE 1. The Science-Policy Advisory Committee shall be comprised of five members elected by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to Decision XXI/13 (Montevideo, 2013).*

*RULE 2. To comply with the provision in the preceding Rule, the Parties, at the request of the Conference of the Parties, may submit the name of one candidate. Using the slate received, the Conference of the Parties shall elect the number of persons necessary to fill the vacancies that exist.*

*RULE 3. The Science-Policy Advisory Committee, at the request of the conference of the Parties, shall submit a slate no less than twice and not more than four times the number of vacancies to be filled.*

*RULE 4. All candidates nominated must provide a curriculum vitae.*

*RULE 5. The Science-Policy Advisory Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee shall hold its meetings, physical and virtual, jointly, pursuant to Decision XXVI/9 (Antigua, 2018).*

*RULE 6. The Science-Policy Advisory Committee shall perform the duties as directed by Decision XXI/13 (Montevideo, 2013) to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties and the IAI Directorate on how to use and design science for policy and decision-making.*

*RULE 7. The Chair of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee shall serve for a term of two years.*

*RULE 8. A quorum shall consist of an absolute majority of Science-Policy Advisory Committee.*

*RULE 9. Current members of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee shall not present proposals to any call by the IAI in any capacity, as Principal Investigator, co-Principal Investigator, collaborator, consultant, or advisor. This ban extends for six months after the member ceases to participate in the Science-Policy Advisory Committee.*

In June 2020, the five members of the SPAC will conclude their terms. Nominations from the Parties and the SPAC are required to fill the vacant positions, at the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The current members are eligible if nominated by a Party or the SPAC. Alternatively, new highly qualified candidates for the five vacancies can be proposed:

Brigitte Baptiste (Chair), originally nominated by the IAI Directorate  
Appointment: 2014-2015; 2015-2017; 2017-2020

Walter Baethgen, originally nominated by the SPAC  
Appointment: 2014-2015; 2015-2017; 2017-2020

Javier Gracia-Garza, originally nominated by the Parties  
Appointment: 2015-2020

Maria Netto Schneider, originally nominated by the Parties  
Appointment: 2014-2015; 2015-2017; 2017-2020

Evelia Rivera Arriaga, originally nominated by the Parties  
Appointment: 2017-2020

Each Party is invited to submit up to one nomination of qualified representatives to the SPAC at their earliest convenience but **no later than 17 July 2020**.

The SPAC should submit no less than two and not more than four nominations of qualified representatives to the SPAC at their earliest convenience but **no later than 17 July 2020**.

Nominations, accompanied by a short curriculum vitae, should be submitted to the IAI Directorate by e-mail to Ms Soledad Noya at [soledad@dir.iai.int](mailto:soledad@dir.iai.int)

The CoP-28 will be invited to follow the process of elections to fill vacancies on the Scientific Advisory Committee stated by the *Standing rules of the Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* (as approved by CoP-21, June 2013, Montevideo), for carrying the elections to fill vacancies on the SPAC:

65. *The Conference of the Parties will normally hold elections to fill vacancies on the Scientific Advisory Committee no earlier than the second (2nd) day of the Conference. In the event there is more than one vacancy to be filled, voting shall be conducted separately, starting with the vacancies for which candidates are proposed by the Parties, followed by the vacancies for which candidates are proposed by the Scientific Advisory Committee itself, and ending with the vacancy for which candidates are proposed by the Associates of the Institute.*

66. *The Parties, the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Associates, in considering potential candidates for the Committee, and the Conference of the Parties, in its election of SAC members, shall take into account the need to ensure representation within the Scientific Advisory Committee from a variety of disciplines relevant to global change research and equitable geographic distribution. The Scientific Advisory Committee Chair will make available to the Parties at least sixty (60) days in advance of each Conference of the Parties an assessment of the Committee's needs for disciplinary representation.*

It is recommended that nominees and appointments follow the high standards of scientific excellence. Moreover, SPAC members serve in their personal capacities and not as national representatives.

New appointments should have:

- strong science policy expertise in science-based decision making or science policy liaison
- expertise and ability to effectively communicate scientific information in a policy relevant manner
- experience leveraging research use.
- experience related to global change (especially climate change).
- international Committee Experience.
- knowledge and cultural awareness of the Americas.
- understanding of the role of and relationships between policy-makers, resource managers, social scientists, and natural scientists.

The SPAC recommended specifically to consider that the candidates should have the capacity to:

- link issues of biodiversity, ecosystem services governance and global change in the Americas.
- promote a view or discuss approaches such as ecosystem-based adaptation or nature based solutions as a framework for evidence based policy development.
- integrate views from multiple systems of values related to knowledge production and adaptation strategies.
- promote the use of new languages and communication approaches to link science, other knowledge systems and policy development.

The SPAC welcomes under-represented groups to be nominated.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Marcos Regis da Silva  
Executive Director