FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH (IAI/CoP)

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

Day One
December 12, 1994

Inaugural Session

Ambassador Manuel Tello, Minister of Foreign Relations, officially opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP).

Eng. Carlos Rojas Gutiérrez, Mexico's Minister of Social Development, gave the following welcoming message:

"On behalf of the Mexican Government, I bid you a warm welcome to our country. We hope this first meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research achieves its goals, and crowns the efforts of the past three years to form this organization from among the countries of the American continent.

Mexico has participated enthusiastically from the outset in the formation of the Institute, and has participated in the meetings and workshops that have given shape to the Institute. We have done this because we are convinced of the necessity of confronting the causes of those environmental processes that transcend our borders and affect us as a region in a coordinated manner, through cooperation. We must act in this way, in addition, to respond to the effects of such processes, in order to understand them well, and to advance as far as possible in mitigating them.

As a signatory country of the Institute, we wish to continue contributing to its formation, cooperating not only through the knowledge resulting from the efforts of our scientists, but also through contributing to the institutional coordination and development experiments carried out to be part of the global change processes."

The Minister then made reference to Mexico's progress in areas that are central to global change, chiefly the preservation of biodiversity, climate change research, the conservation of the ozone layer, the efficient use of energy, and others.

Dr. Robert W. Corell, Chairman of the IAI Implementation Committee (IAI/IC), then discussed the strategy for an international global change research effort and the importance of regional activities. He also reviewed the IAI's founding principles, history and development.

Start of the Work Sessions
Morning Session

Juan Antonio Mateos, Coordinator-General for International Affairs at Mexico's Ministry of Social Development, was elected Chairman of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Dr. Robert W. Corell, Head of the United States Delegation, was elected Vice Chairman of the meeting, and Professor Lorena San Román, Director of Research at the "Heredia" National University of Costa Rica, was elected Secretary of the meeting.

BREAK

The session began in accordance with the items on the agenda.

The Chairman proposed a few changes to the agenda as agreed at the informal meeting of the Heads of Delegation. The Chairman proposed that the wording in the Spanish version of the section concerning affiliations with the IAI be modified to read, "Lineamientos para la Designación de Instituciones de Investigación Afiliadas al IAI."[1]

Discussion of the Rules of Procedure was postponed, and a Work Group composed of the representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Canada and Mexico was appointed to conduct a preliminary review of the document and submit recommendations to the meeting. The Chairman expressed his wish that the meeting continue normally in good faith, even though the formal rules had not yet been approved.

The Chairman of the meeting then proposed that the Report of the IAI/IC be submitted for approval during the first day of the conference.

On behalf of the Implementation Committee (IAI/IC), the Vice Chairman formally presented the Report and other documents validating the Implementation Committee's work to the Conference of the Parties, as follow:

The IAI/IC Report;
The Rules of Procedure;
Transition Issues;
Financial Issues;
The Science Agenda.

The Implementation Committee was established by the Declaration of Montevideo to organize and set up the IAI pursuant to the Agreement. The Implementation Committee was to remain in existence until the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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[1]["Guidelines for Naming IAI-Affiliated Research Institutions."]

The report of the fifth meeting of the IAI/IC will be sent separately to the Parties for approval after September 30, 1994; the delay is due to the fact that it still needs to be reviewed by the Secretariat.

The floor was opened for General Debate (Country Presentations). Presentations were made by the following delegations:

Mexico;
Brazil;
Uruguay;
Canada;
Chile;
Panama;
Colombia;
Cuba;
United States; and
Costa Rica.

All the countries thanked the Government of Mexico for hosting the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and expressed their appreciation to the Implementation Committee for its efforts in organizing this event. They renewed their commitment to the IAI and acknowledged the importance of this regional initiative in support of research on global change. The delegations reported on their respective countries' activities in the areas of global change research, sustainable development, science and technology, biodiversity, and the El Niño phenomenon. It was generally recognized that a spirit of cooperation and commitment was needed to address regional problems. All the delegations envision the IAI as a mechanism that could aid in the formulation of national and international policy in these areas.

In this context, Brazil, Costa Rica and Uruguay expressed their wish to host the IAI Directorate.

It was also reported that Chile, Colombia and Cuba expect to present their ratification to the IAI before the end of the year.

LUNCH

Afternoon Session

The Chair of the Conference recommended that the meeting continue with the presentation of the three proposals for the headquarters of the IAI Directorate. Following discussion it was agreed to break in order to determine whether to continue according to the planned agenda or to modify it.

BREAK

The Chairman reconvened the CoP and, pursuant to the Conference's decision, asked Dr. Corell, Chairman of the Implementation Committee, to present the analysis of the IAI/IC Report.

Dr. Corell reviewed the most important aspects of the Report, drawing special attention to the sections on "Structure of the Institute" and "Ways and Means." He noted that procedural matters differed from the proposed Rules of Procedure in several cases. The floor was opened to discussion of the Report.

Costa Rica acknowledged the importance of the IAI/IC Report, and recommended that it be adopted with the understanding that changes could be proposed reflecting the spirit of the IAI and international law. Costa Rica also stated its desire that the IAI/IC Report be approved in order to guarantee that, prior to the approval of the Rules of Procedure, the CoP could work within an appropriate framework and ensure that the requirements of the Agreement were fulfilled.

Costa Rica then presented a motion that, in the spirit of the IAI, proposals for hosting the Directorate be accepted up to one day before the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and requested that the CoP revise section 4.8 of the Agreement.

Following the presentations by Panama, Brazil and Uruguay, Costa Rica's motion was approved as follows, paragraph 4: "Parties interested in hosting the IAI Directorate must submit their final proposals to the Secretariat of the IC one day prior to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties." Paragraph 5: "Only Parties that have ratified the Agreement prior to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties may submit their proposals." Paragraph 7 was deleted.

Panama requested an explanation of the voting procedures, since the CoP had not yet approved the formal rules. The Chair made reference to his earlier statement regarding the good faith of the countries. The recommendations were approved.

The CoP then proceeded with the presentation of the proposals for hosting the IAI Directorate. It was decided that they would be presented in alphabetical order.

Brazil. Mrs. Tania María Sausen, an INPE researcher, made the presentation for Brazil. She expressed that country's concern for the environment and global change, as well as its long-term commitment to the goals of the IAI and the seven areas of the Science Agenda. Following a video describing Brazil's proposal and, among other things, showing the geographic location where the IAI headquarters could be housed, Mrs. Sausen summarized the proposal and the financial commitment.

Costa Rica. Dr. Rose Marie Ruiz, Rector of the National University, presented a brief history of Costa Rica's 50 years of commitment to environmental issues and the country's 100 years of democracy. Dr. Ruiz emphasized the importance of the strategic position Costa Rica holds in the Americas and its function as a "bridge" and filter between the North, South

and the Caribbean. In presenting the Costa Rican proposal, she laid special emphasis on the fact that the IAI Directorate would be located within the university, with all such facilities entail.

Uruguay. Eng. Federico García Brum, Chairman of the National Commission on Global Change, presented Uruguay's proposal. Eng. García highlighted his country's reputation as a secure and stable democracy, as well as the fact that all the presidential candidates os his country support the IAI locating to Uruguay. He also emphasized the National Commission on Global Change's commitment to the IAI and the government's financial commitment. Although the Uruguayan proposal did not specify the location for the headquarters of the Directorate, he stated that arrangements would be made to prepare whatever facilities the IAI considered appropriate.

The Chairman asked the Vice Chairman to consult informally with the delegates regarding the proposals for the headquarters of the IAI Directorate and report back to the Conference the following morning.

The Chairman moved on to the consideration of the last item on the agenda, the Rules of Procedure, and thanked the members of the Work Group for their effort. All the articles, except 23, 46, 55 and 63 were approved without criticism. Articles 23 (meetings will be public unless the Conference decides otherwise); 46 (all documents will be drafted in the four official languages of the IAI); and 63 (the membership of the Science Advisory Committee must by fairly distributed geographically) were approved with modifications. Article 55 was finally approved unamended.

Due to time constraints, the Rules of Procedure were not approved in their entirety, and the pending issues were left for the morning session of Tuesday, September 13, 1994.

Day Two
September 13, 1994

Morning Session

The Vice Chairman, acting as Chairman, opened the morning session with the announcement that the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure would review Article 46. Consideration of the Rules of Procedure was proposed for later in the morning.

The next item for discussion was the election of the Executive Council (EC). Uruguay requested an explanation of the nomination process. Brazil introduced a motion to formalize the process, which was approved: the Executive Council will be composed of the eight countries that have ratified the IAI. It was decided that the vacant seat on the EC would be occupied by the ninth country to ratify the Agreement. The names of the possible country representatives were to be submitted to the Conference during the afternoon.

Uruguay then requested an explanation of the process for the Science Advisory Committee (SAC). Brazil proposed that a Nominating Committee be appointed to study the SAC

nominations. The Nominating Committee meeting was opened to all the delegations. The Vice Chairman explained that the nominations could only come from the countries that had ratified the IAI, but the individuals could be of any nationality. The election of the Science Advisory Committee was scheduled for the morning of September 14.

The Vice Chairman then reopened the floor to discussion of the Rules of Procedure. Article 46, regarding the number of official languages, was discussed. Brazil withdrew its proposal that "working documents" be drafted in two languages and "official documents" in four languages, and agreed to reconsider the proposal that all documents be drafted in the four official languages. The Vice Chairman acknowledged that this is a sensitive issue that required further consideration.

BREAK

When the session was reconvened the Chairman asked the Vice Chairman to review the IAI/IC Report to clarify several points. The following sections were discussed: Section 3, *Institutional Issues*, Section 4.11, *Guidelines for Naming IAI Associates*, and Section 4.12, *Guidelines for Naming IAI-Affiliated Research Institutions*. Section 4.13, *IAI Ways and Means*, was reviewed, and the IAI/IC White Paper on Financial Issues was presented, together with its addendum. The following three issues were discussed and approved:

I. **Scale of Contribution**. The "Suggested Voluntary Contributions from the Countries for IAI Core Financial Support" was approved, with the understanding that the countries are under no financial obligation prior to ratification.

II. **Level of Contribution**. The budget presented in the addendum was approved, with the understanding that once the Directorate is established, the Director will present a formal budget to the Conference of the Parties for approval.

III. **Financial Management Mechanisms During the Transition Period**. There was extensive discussion on how such issues are to be handled. The Vice Chairman made reference to the "Transition Issues" document. It was felt that it was important to continue with the IAI's current state of affairs during the transition period until the Director is named, but there was uncertainty as to whether the IAI/IC should be replaced by the Executive Council or continue its duties as a "Transition Committee." The latter option was approved. The Chairman of the conference asked the Chairman of the IC to make the necessary changes to the "Transition Issues" paper, including the calendar of events.

The Chairman asked that the offer of the United States to provide the necessary funds as a bridging mechanism during the transition process be noted with the CoP's appreciation.

LUNCH

Afternoon Session

The Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council were introduced for discussion and approval. Modifications to Articles 2, 7, 8, 12, 14, 26, 50 and 51 were recommended. Final approval was deferred to the next day, when the English version of the document would be available.

The Chairman then asked the Vice Chairman to report to the Conference of the Parties regarding the selection of the site for the IAI Directorate. The Vice Chairman had met collectively with the five countries that did not submit proposals, and individually with the Heads of Delegation of the three countries that had submitted proposals. In this regard it was stated that no agreement had been reached on the selection process, the amount of time allowed for it, and other aspects of the decision. The Vice Chairman presented three conclusions based on his consultations:

1. It would be to the IAI's advantage to resolve this issue before the conclusion of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the voting must be by secret ballot; and

3. It was recommended that the selection be postponed and rescheduled as the first item on the agenda for Wednesday, September 14.

It was decided that the selection of the site for the IAI Directorate would be the first item on the agenda for Wednesday, September 14, and that the meeting would convene at 8:00 a.m., rather than 9:00 a.m. as planned

The Vice Chairman next presented two additional items for approval: "Transition Issues" and "The Procedure for Naming the Director." The revised "Transition Issues" document was distributed for review. It includes a schedule for initial IAI activities and a provision under Section 2.2 that the IAI/IC will be available to assist the Executive Council until the EC is fully operational.

The Vice Chairman also noted that under Section 3.1 on Finances, the United States of America will provide "bridging" support.

As part of the discussion related to the Transition Issues, a question regarding the length of the terms of the Executive Council members was raised. Since there are currently only 8 countries on the EC, these members will be appointed for two years until such time as ten or more countries have ratified the IAI. At the first Conference of the Parties following the tenth ratification, the Conference will readdress the issue of staggered terms. It was noted that three countries expect to ratify the IAI before the end of the year.

The Chairman submitted the following members of the Executive Council for consideration:

Argentina	--	Mario Enríque Burkún
Brazil	--	Marcio Nogueira Barbosa
Canada	--	Gordon McBean
United States	--	Robert W. Corell
Panama	--	Arístides Lorlesse Gómez
Costa Rica	--	Patricia Ramírez
Mexico	--	Julia Carabias Lillo
Uruguay	--	Federico García Brum

The Chairman and Vice Chairman told the Conference that they would accept offers from the delegations to host future EC and CoP meetings, in accordance with the schedule set forth in the "Transition Issues" document. Costa Rica announced that it had submitted a written offer to the Chairman to host the next Conference of the Parties.

The "Transition Issues" document was approved.

The session was adjourned with the announcement that the Nominating Committee for the Science Advisory Committee would meet immediately following this session of the CoP.

Summary of the Meeting of the CoP
Final Day
September 14,1994

Morning Session

The Chairman called the meeting to order. The first item of the agenda was the selection of the site for the IAI Directorate. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the delegates from Panama and the United States were designated as Tellers.

The three proposals under consideration were, in alphabetical order:

Brazil;
Costa Rica; and
Uruguay.

Eight ballots, each signed by the Chairman, were distributed to the Parties by the Tellers, with the instruction from the Chairman that the Parties were to write the name of only one country candidate on each ballot.

The Parties deposited their ballots in the ballot box in alphabetical order. The Tellers counted the votes and reported to the Chairman, who announced the results of the first vote: Brazil: 3 votes; Costa Rica: 2 votes; Uruguay: 2 votes; and one abstention.

The ballots were destroyed, and a second vote was called in accordance with Rules of Procedure Nos. 50 and 51, due to the tie between Costa Rica and Uruguay.

Following another secret ballot vote, the Tellers counted the votes and reported the results to the Chairman, who announced the results of the second ballot: Uruguay: 5 votes; Costa Rica: 3 votes. Costa Rica was thus eliminated from the competition and the ballots were destroyed.

The Chairman called a final vote. After the third vote, the Tellers counted the votes and reported the results to the Chairman, who announced the results of the final vote: Brazil: 5 votes; and Uruguay: 3 votes. The IAI Directorate will be located in Brazil.

The delegate from Brazil made a statement thanking the Parties for their confidence in Brazil and its proposal. He assured the CoP that Brazil would work with the IAI to ensure the IAI Directorate's success, and thanked his colleagues from Costa Rica and Uruguay for their contribution to the process.

The delegate from Costa Rica congratulated the delegation from Brazil for having won the honor and responsibility of hosting the IAI Directorate, and emphasized that the voting process had been conducted democratically.

The delegate from Uruguay thanked the Chairman for the clean election and congratulated Brazil for having won the competition. He reiterated Uruguay's commitment to the IAI and its desire to work with the Directorate. He also thanked the Parties that had voted for Uruguay.

The next item on the agenda was the selection of the Science Advisory Committee (SAC). The Chairman asked the Chairman of the Nominating Committee to present the results of the Committee's meeting.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee reported on the criteria that had been used to evaluate the nominations, which were based on the guidelines set forth in Article VII of the Agreement.

The Conference of the Parties received 14 candidates, distributed as follows:

Argentina	2
Brazil	3
Canada	2
Costa Rica	2
United States	2
Mexico	2
Uruguay	1

The Nominating Committee forwarded seven of these nominations to the CoP for final approval of only six positions:

Martín Dario España
Antônio Divino Moura
John Wrey Black Stewart
Jorge Alberto Fallas
Diana Liverman
José Rubén Lara Lara
Rafael Andrés Guarga Ferro

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee introduced a motion that Brazil consider withdrawing its nomination for a representative on the Science Advisory Committee, thereby reducing the number of nominations to six.

The composition of the SAC was approved with the members proposed by Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, the United States, Mexico and Uruguay.

The Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council were then introduced for discussion and approval.

Considering the statement made by the delegates from Mexico and Argentina that personal nominations would not be acceptable, Uruguay moved to delete Article 26 and include a recommendation in the IAI/IC Report regarding the importance and benefit for the Executive Council's stability of the same people occupying the seats on the Executive Council, as far as possible.

The representative from the United States firmly maintained that Article 26 should remain unchanged, and that the representatives of the countries should be elected to the seats on the EC, rather than specific individuals. Uruguay, which had proposed the changes in Jamaica, withdrew the motion to modify the article, since the delegations were opposed to it. The motion to delete Article 26 and insert a recommendation in the IAI/IC Report was rejected, and Article 26 was accepted unamended.

The discussion moved on to Article 5, "*Members of the Executive Council.*" The Conference of the Parties upheld the Chairman's recommendation that the Executive Council prepare a proposal at the appropriate time regarding how the terms of appointment for the transitional period should be handled. Article 5 was deleted.

The Rules of Procedure of the IAI Executive Council were adopted with the recommendation that a Working Group be formed to consistently follow up on, review and propose updates to said Rules, when it is considered beneficial.

The next item on the agenda was the nomination for Executive Director of the IAI. Argentina nominated Eduardo Banús, and Uruguay nominated Armando Rabuffetti.

The Chairman then again requested proposals from countries volunteering to organize the

upcoming meetings. Costa Rica withdrew its offer to host the second CoP. However, it proposed that the second CoP be held in Brazil to allow for a visit to INPE and to view the IAI headquarters. Chile suggested that, in an effort to reduce costs, the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Council be held one after the other. This question was left to be decided by the Director *pro tempore*, in consultation with the Executive Committee.

BREAK

The Chairman opened discussion of the "Joint Communiqué," which had been distributed in English and Spanish before the break. The "Joint Communiqué of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)" was approved with modifications.

Brazil, on behalf of the other countries, expressed its gratitude for the ethical behavior and leadership shown at the CoP and thanked the Government of Mexico for its warm hospitality.

The Chairman announced that the final report of the Conference of the Parties would not be read, but the Director *pro tempore* would see that it was distributed, and would also handle activities between meetings, until the second CoP.

The Vice Chairman thanked the Chairman for his effective direction. The Chairman left the meeting.

The Vice Chairman then addressed the following procedural matters:

- Headquarters Agreement between IAI and Brazil:
  Hosting agreements must be submitted to the Executive Council for review, and then submitted to the Conference of the Parties for approval. Brazil concurred with the foregoing.
- The countries that had not ratified the IAI wished to know what the official points of contact with that organization would be.
  Until the Secretariat is notified of a change, the IAI/IC representative will be the representative designated as IAI's official contact.
- The countries were again asked to consider hosting future meetings and notify the Director *pro tempore*.
- It was stated that additional nominations for Executive Director of the IAI would be accepted.

The Vice Chairman then specifically acknowledged Dr. Rubén Lara Lara's substantial contribution as Executive Scientist of the IAI with appreciation. The workshops he conducted laid the scientific groundwork for the IAI and brought together approximately 800 scientists.

Uruguay requested that the "exchange of data" be included on the agenda of the next Conference of the Parties.

Chile publicly thanked Canada for nominating a Chilean scientist to the Science Advisory

Committee, thereby reinforcing the IAI's spirit of cooperation.

The Canadian delegation thanked Dr. Corell for his leadership within the IAI/IC and as Vice Chairman of the Conference of the Parties.

Closing Ceremony

Dr. Julia Carabias Lillo, Chairman of the National Institute of Ecology, SEDESOL, in Mexico, noted that the Conference of the Parties had tackled a tough agenda and that it had been a very fruitful meeting. She congratulated the IAI on being formally established and on already having found a Directorate location; it had formed an Executive Council, a Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and approved Rules of Procedure. She also congratulated Brazil on being chosen to host the IAI Directorate. The support of the Brazilian Government will allow the IAI to grow and develop during its early stage. She recognized the work of the IAI Implementation Committee, especially the leadership of Dr. Robert W. Corell, which had enabled the IAI to reach this important point. She acknowledged the contribution of the Observer Countries, with the hope that they would soon ratify the IAI and join the Conference of the Parties. Dr. Carabias concluded that the IAI is ready to enter on its duties.

The Head of the Delegation from Brazil, Minister Vargas, thanked Dr. Carabias for her kind words and stated that his attendance reinforces Brazil's commitment to the IAI. He expressed his appreciation to the Mexican Government for a well-run meeting and their hospitality. He thanked Dr. Corell, the IAI/IC, the Parties and the Observers for their participation.

The Vice Chairman adjourned the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the IAI.