

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH**



**EC-XXXI - CoP-XVIII – EC XXXII**  
***14-17 de junio de 2011***  
***Asunción, Paraguay***

**Minutes of the EC-XXX**

**6\_ECXXX/English/15 April 2011**

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Note: This report is not a strictly chronological record. For completeness, greater clarity and readability the IAI Directorate has grouped discussions of an agenda item together under the first occurrence of the topic.

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Approved – June 2010

**30th Meeting of the IAI Executive Council (EC)  
11 June 2010 – Brasília, Brazil  
AGENDA**

**Morning session (08:30 – 12:30)** (Coffee Break 10:30 – 10:45)

- Registration
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of the Action List of EC-29
- Review of CoP-17 items for action by EC-30 and implementation strategies for action items from EC-29 and CoP-17
- Strategies for strengthening member country relations and IAI funding
- Election of the new Chair, a first and a second Vice-Chair to the Executive Council of the IAI (EC)
- Discussion of CRN science synthesis and future programs
- Discussion of strategic plan
- Establishment of working groups
- Future meetings and sites.
- Adjourn

**Afternoon session (02:00 – 05:00)** (Coffee Break 03:30 – 03:45)

Working groups: Strategic Plan, Future programs

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## 1. Opening Remarks

The IAI Director opened the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EC and suggested a change in the sequence in the agenda items in order to have the election of the Bureau in the first place.

### *Election of the EC Bureau*

Lou Brown, chair of the SCRP, reminded that the EC Bureau (composed of a Chair and two Vice Chairs) is elected for a period of two years. The IAI Director acts as Secretary of the Bureau. The Chair and Vice Chairs should be elected separately and the election is of individual persons, not countries.

The newly constituted EC elected its Bureau by acclamation: Paul Filmer from USA as the Chair, Carlos Ereño from Argentina as the First Vice-chair and Ricardo Lozano from Colombia as the Second Vice-chair.  
(Action 1)

Participants at the meeting were:

## EC Country Representatives

Argentina: Paulo Zappia  
 Brazil: Maria Virgínia Alves  
 Canada: Brian Gay  
 Lynn Whelpdale  
 Chile: Jorge Beals  
 Colombia: Sergio Humberto Dias Aguilera  
 Cuba: Alexis Bandrich Veja  
 Mexico: Bruno Ríos Sánchez  
 United States: Paul Filmer  
 Louis B. Brown  
 Paraguay: Fernando José Méndez Gaona

### Observers – Member Countries:

Venezuela: Guillermo Barreto  
 Tibisay Pérez  
 Dirk Thielen

### Observers – Other institutions

OTCA: Antonio Matamoros  
 Germán Gómez

### IAI Directorate:

Holm Tiessen (Director), Rafael Atmetlla (Assistant Director, Finance and Administration), Marcella Ohira (Assistant Director, Capacity building), Christopher Martius (Assistant Director: Science), Ana Claudia Rosa (Executive Assistant) Tania R. Freire Sánchez (Executive Assistant), Paula Richter (IAI Publications), Elvira Gentile (IAI Directorate support).

### Local staff

Patricia Marciano Leite – Valeria Ribeiro G Fernández

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

The EC approved the Agenda of its Thirtieth Meeting without amendments. (*Action 2*)

## 3. Approval of the Action List of the EC-29

The EC approved the Action List of its Twenty Ninth Meeting with some changes already included in it. (*Action 3*)

#### 4. Review of CoP-17 items for action by EC-30 and implementation strategies for action items from EC-29 and CoP-17

By suggestion of Colombia, the delegates to the CoP had committed to ask their governments about the possibility of holding an informal event at the UNFCCC. The EC Chair asked Colombia if he could help in the organization of such meeting. The representative from Colombia stated that he would transmit this request to Ricardo Lozano and assured that they would gladly make the arrangements for the event (place, points to discuss, etc) in coordination with the IAI Directorate.

The EC members committed to identify contact points in the UNFCCC national delegations and inform them about the IAI activities. If possible, they would participate at an informal meeting to be held at UNFCCC in Cancun. The representative from Colombia will lead the process of organizing such meeting in coordination with the IAI Directorate. (*Action 4*)

#### 5. Strategies for strengthening member country relations and IAI funding

The EC Chair said that the is issue has been discussed during the EC and the CoP ad delegates had heard of the different efforts made to contact countries that have not identified a regular official representation to the IAI.

The Director asked the representative of Argentina if it would be possible to help in the process of identifying a representative to the IAI in Uruguay. He also asked México if he could intervene on IAI's behalf in the case of Guatemala. *Argentina* and *Mexico* expressed their will to cooperate.

USA: we will support IAI, and we certainly intent to participate though diplomatic channels in any efforts that we can to make contacts with countries already active and with those that are not so participative. We will try to reinvigorate those countries that have not participated lately, not only in the meetings of the political bodies of the IAI, but also in the scientific and capacity building program.

In order to follow up with strategies for strengthening member countries relations with the IAI, Argentina would try to contact Uruguay and Mexico would do the same with Guatemala. USA ratified that would try to participate in diplomatic channels to make contacts with countries already active and with those that are not so participative. (*Action 5*)

#### 6. Discussion of CRN science synthesis and future programs

*IAI Director:* We have started about ten months ago a process of identifying within the existing program and projects, synergies, commonalities in the science. There was a meeting of PIs in Montevideo last year and we have followed this up with other meetings of researchers that have provided us opportunities for synthesis. For example, we have just had a synthesis meeting on urban issues and air contamination. The next planned meetings are: 1) climate modeling and seasonal weather forecasting, as well as downscaling or upscaling to fill the gap in regional predictive capacity; 2) ecosystem services and biodiversity.

That is really a value added activity that goes beyond providing grants to researchers who send a final report and scientific publications. We have initiated a very productive process with the policy briefs, highlights,

snapshots, etc. on our science. That process shows that the network of scientists that we have generated with these programs is a tremendously valuable asset that allows us to go beyond knowledge generated in individual projects and to remind scientists to formulate knowledge that is relevant to decision and policy makers. This group of scientists is advancing to integrate their science with broader societal concerns. This is an asset that I believe is worth carrying forward into future programs. At the same time, if we were to design a future program in which many of the same people reappear, the perception across the continent of the IAI being a network of old friends would be reinforced and the ideal of openness and innovation and inclusion of new groups would be undermined to some degree. This is a serious contradiction that appeared in the transition from CRN I to CRN II. The decision at that moment was to discourage continuation of networks unless they proposed totally innovative approaches. With the exception of two programs, none of the CRN I programs were renewed. These are some critical decisions. Continuity is very important to build permanent networks, but on the other hand, continuity means limiting the range of new recruitment. It is a difficult problem to resolve.

*EC Chair:* the IAI Director referred to some points of the long-term program. We have to decide on which will be the scientific themes, how we would structure them, which will the balance between science and capacity building, etc. That is part of the strategic plan.

*Brazil:* Perhaps we could identify which is the training that the IAI is in best conditions to provide. In case of other specific trainings, the IAI may derive participants to other institutions such as FAO. That would ease some funds for research.

Regarding continuity versus new groups, when the programs only emphasize the long term inhibits new groups to join in. We can support the long-term programs only when they can add new groups or new themes.

*SAC Chair:* On the one hand, I feel uneasy to limit previous participants because their science is excellent. On the other hand, it is extremely important that Member Countries participate in the dissemination of calls in order to the desired recruitment of new groups. I also agree that old groups can add new teams, as the representative of Brazil has expressed.

*Director:* One alternative would be convincing national funding agencies to get engaged in the IAI. That would be a major step forward. Even we could think of joint calls and joint funding. That is something the national representatives can explore.

*Brazil:* It is possible to get some fellowships from the CNPQ. However, that requires very long negotiations. Even when funding come from other agencies the rules of the CNPQ must be followed.

*OTCA:* In the case of OTCA, the agenda is built through the offices of Foreign Affairs that are the focal points. Now we are restructuring our Agenda. For example our negotiation with INPE lasted four or five years, but it was worth doing that. We are always open to start new partnerships.

## **7. Discussion of strategic plan**

The EC Chair said it was important to clarify who would be involved in the preparation of the Strategic Plan document and to make a time schedule. The IAI Director together with Paul Filmer and the representatives from the SAC would work on the first draft that could be sent to the EC in August. The EC should analyze

the document and give input until September approximately in order to circulate it among the members of the CoP with enough anticipation.

The *SAC Chair* explained that the SAC representatives for the Strategic Plan were Ramon Pichs, Luis Jose Mata and himself, but as there were new members, he would ask again and confirm within a week.

*Brazil*: suggested including Venezuela in the first round of circulation of the draft document. Venezuela thanked and expressed they would be glad to cooperate in the formulation of the plan.

The delegates discussed the reach of the Strategic Plan. It was agreed that it should be an internal document that would guide decisions. At the same time, it should be a tool for external interactions.

*Director*: in previous meetings of the SPC there was general agreement, and also throughout the SAC, that the science agenda established for the IAI, -that is very broad and relevant to the IAI's work-, does not need modification. What we do need is a definition of how we set priorities within the science agenda, and of the mechanisms by which we make these priorities relevant to the advancement of science and of informed decision-making. That should be the core theme of the Strategic plan.

The EC decided that the group that would start compiling the material for the strategic plan would be composed of the IAI Director, the EC Chair and the SAC. The document will be distributed to the EC and Venezuela in August for input. The strategic plan will have to be ready for the next CoP for approval. (*Action 6*)

## 8. Establishment of working groups

The EC Chair reminded that the Rules Committee and the Financial and Administrative Committee continue with the same membership. Membership is open and all Member Countries are invited to join these committees.

*IAI Director*: In the past existed a Working Group that was dedicated to engaging Member Countries. Unfortunately, it has not worked. It would be very helpful if some of you could contribute with innovative ideas of how to reengage Member Countries not only in terms of participation at meetings but also in terms of other tasks (e.g. cooperating with national funding and research agencies).

*Brazil* offered to revise the past efforts to re-engage countries and will present a report at the next meeting

*Colombia*: There are two areas where all countries should work: the contributions to the Core Budget contributions and ideas to strengthen country participation.

The EC decided that in the agenda of future meetings an item be included to report on the actions taken by EC members regarding the re-engagement of member countries. Brazil will follow up on the past efforts of the Directorate and will present a report at the next meeting of the EC. (*Action 7*)

## 7. Future Meetings & Sites:

Proposals for hosting the next EC/CoP meetings would be sent to the IAI Directorate. Action 8

## **8. Adjourn**

The EC Chair thanked all the representatives, observers, SAC Chair, IAI staff, local staff and interpreters for their work. He specially thanked the support of Brazil and the University of Brasilia. The meeting was adjourned.



**30th Meeting of the IAI Executive Council  
11 June 2010, Brasilia, Brazil**

**Action List**

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2. The EC approved the Agenda of its Thirtieth Meeting without amendments.
3. The EC approved the Action List of its Twenty Ninth Meeting with some changes already included in it.
4. The EC members committed to identify contact points in the UNFCCC national delegations and inform them about the IAI activities. If possible, they would participate at an informal meeting to be held at UNFCCC in Cancun. The representative from Colombia will lead the process of organizing such meeting in coordination with the IAI Directorate.
5. In order to follow up with strategies for strengthening member countries relations with the IAI, Argentina would try to contact Uruguay and Mexico would do the same with Guatemala. USA ratified that would try to participate in diplomatic channels to make contacts with countries already active and with those that are not so participative.
6. The EC decided that the group that would start compiling the material for the strategic plan would be composed of the IAI Director, the EC Chair and the SAC. The document will be distributed to the EC and Venezuela in August for input. The strategic plan will have to be ready for the next CoP for approval.
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8. Proposals for hosting the next EC/CoP meetings would be sent to the IAI Directorate.