

29 January 2026

## **SAC, SPAC and IPAC Advisory Committees' Statement Confirming Support for the IAI**

Dear Madam or Sir,

We are writing further to the Notification issued by the IAI Directorate on 8 January 2026 (Ref. IAIDIR/2026/2), concerning the statement on the intent to withdraw by the United States from the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI).

As Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the three IAI Advisory Committees (Scientific, Science Policy, and Indigenous Peoples), we have carefully considered the implications of such a withdrawal and the challenges it may pose for the future of the IAI. We recognize that the work of the IAI will continue as it becomes more important to the Parties. We would like to express our appreciation for the transparent and timely communication provided by the Directorate, as well as for the continued commitment reaffirmed in the notification to the mission, vision, values, and long-term role of the IAI. We would also like to acknowledge the seminal role the United States has played to date since the IAI's inception.

As an international Accord, and one that focuses on the Americas region specifically, the IAI remains ever more relevant with pressing and new emerging issues including around oceans, forests and the creation of the new Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC). We remain committed to its continuation. In the current context of the three planetary crises—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution—compounded by increasing social, economic, and environmental vulnerability across the Americas, maintaining a collective intergovernmental space such as the IAI is strategically vital for the region. The IAI provides a unique platform for joint research, analysis, and learning, fostering sustained dialogue and trust between governments, scientists, and Indigenous knowledge holders and the public. By bringing together diverse scientific, social, and cultural strengths, the IAI enhances the region's capacity to anticipate risks, inform decision-making, and respond more effectively and collectively to shared challenges of global change.

From our perspective as Advisory Committee members, we have witnessed firsthand the IAI's transformative impact since 1992. It has funded research collaborative projects across 19 countries, engaging more than 120 institutions and leading hundreds of publications aimed at informing policy. The Institute has conducted successful capacity-building workshops with participants across 40+ disciplines, effectively building bridges between science, public policy, and diplomacy. Overall, the IAI's work has transformed the research landscape of the Americas, promoting regional collaboration and preparing the next generation of researchers to tackle the most critical global environmental challenges.

As the Americas confront global environmental change head-on, important areas for future research such as climate and health, biodiversity loss and effects on economies, and the implications of energy transitions will require regional cooperation and stewardship. That is why we intend to act as constructive partners throughout this period, contributing our expertise,

networks, and time to help ensure continuity and a smooth transition during this phase of uncertainty and change. We thus welcome the opportunity to further discuss how SAC, SPAC and IPAC can best support the Parties and the IAI in light of the circumstances outlined in Notification IA/DIR/2026/2. We remain fully at your disposal for any further information or clarification and firmly believe that the IAI's vital role in promoting multilateral cooperation and generating knowledge for its 19 member countries must continue and be strengthened for the benefit of the entire hemisphere.

Yours sincerely,

SAC Chair - Alexandra Mallett (School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA), Carleton University, Canada)

SAC Vice-Chair - Laura Ramajo (Center for Climate and Resilience Research CR2, Chile)

SPAC Chair - María Amparo Martínez Arroyo (Instituto de Ciencias de la Atmósfera y Cambio Climático, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico)

SPAC Vice-Chair - David Smith (University of West Indies, Jamaica)

IPAC Interim Chair - Cristina Elizabeth Furies Guitarra (Red Latinoamérica de Juventudes de Bosques Modelo, Ecuador)

IPAC Interim Vice-Chair - Myrle Ballard (University of Calgary, Canada)