



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

25 February 2026

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH
Sixtieth meeting
Videoconference
8 January 2026**

Report of the 60th Meeting of the Executive Council of the IAI

1. This document was prepared by the IAI Directorate.

Introduction

2. Article VI, paragraph 3, of the *Agreement for the Establishment of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* (IAI) provides as follows:

The Executive Council shall meet at least twice a year and shall endeavor to hold its meetings on a rotating basis among the different Parties.

3. In accordance with Article VI, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, the 60th meeting of the Executive Council was held on January 8, 2026, by videoconference.
4. The Chair of the Executive Council was temporarily reassigned due to notification of the non-participation of the United States. The meeting was chaired by the Chair (a.i.) of the Executive Council (EC), Milagro Mainieri, Panama, and Fernando Méndez, Paraguay, served as First Vice Chair.
5. The following Parties to the Agreement that are members of the Executive Council attended the meeting: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Jamaica, Panama, and Paraguay. Ecuador and Guatemala also attended.
6. The Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Chair of the Science and Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) attended the meeting.

Opening of the meeting

Welcome by the Chair (a.i.) of the Executive Council

7. The Chair (a.i.) warmly welcomed the participants and expressed her gratitude to the members of the Executive Committee for their participation in the meeting and their support for the IAI. She thanked all Parties for their continued support.

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

8. The Chair (a.i.) of the EC proposed a closed-door meeting of the EC and that an item be added to the agenda to discuss the United States' withdrawal from the IAI, and invited the members of the Executive Committee to approve the agenda (document No. IAI/EC/60/1).
9. The agenda was approved by consensus.

Agenda item 2: Summary of the operating budget and contributions from the Parties for fiscal year 2025-2026

10. Following the closed-door meeting of the EC, the President (a.i.) opened the discussion by inviting the IAI Executive Management to present an overview of the Operating Budget and the contributions received from countries to date.
11. The Director of Administration, Finance, and Operations presented an update on the status of country contributions and the operating budget. She noted that as of October 2025, only 20% of the approved budget for the period covered had been collected and that the estimated income for 2026–2027 remains significantly below the current cost of the IAI Executive Directorate, given that the departure of the United States implies a reduction of approximately two-thirds of the operating budget needed to maintain the current structure.
12. The Executive Director reported that there are active efforts to diversify funding sources, but that most external funds are for specific projects and not to cover core operating costs. Therefore, it is important to analyze and propose institutional restructuring alternatives to ensure the financial viability of the IAI under the new budget scenario.
13. It is proposed to create a small working group to guide the restructuring of the Directorate and to notify the Parties of the financial situation.

Agenda item 3: Summary report on the activities of the Executive Directorate to implement the decisions approved at the 33rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties

14. Following the closed-door meeting of the EC, the Acting Chairperson opened the discussion by inviting the IAI Executive Management to present an overview of the Operating Budget and the contributions received from countries to date.
15. The Director of Administration, Finance, and Operations presented an update on the status of country contributions and the operating budget. She emphasized that as of October 2025, only 20% of the approved budget for the period covered had been collected and that the estimated income for 2026–2027 remains significantly below the current cost of the IAI Executive Directorate, given that the departure of the United States implies a reduction of approximately two-thirds of the operating budget needed to maintain the current structure.

16. The Executive Director reported that active efforts are underway to diversify funding sources, but that most external funds are for specific projects and not to cover core operating costs. It is therefore important to analyze and propose institutional restructuring alternatives to ensure the financial viability of the IAI under the new budget scenario.
17. It is proposed to create a small working group to guide the restructuring of the Executive Directorate and to notify the Parties of the financial situation.
18. The Executive Directorate presented a summary of activities and explained the current organization of the work team and the areas of responsibility.
19. The progress of the Indigenous Peoples Committee was highlighted, with regular meetings and procedures being drafted.
20. Multiple in-person and virtual training activities carried out since June 2025 were reported.
21. Thirty-one projects under the monitoring and direction of the Science Program were reported. Three projects fall within the Belmont Forum's Call for Collaborative Action on migration and mobility and global change.
22. The 12 projects funded by the Climate, Environment, and Health seed fund, with approximately USD 120,000 awarded, are in their final phase and beginning to generate applicable products such as policy briefs. Three webinars are being planned for 2026 to disseminate the results of the projects.
23. Six Latin American teams were supported by the US National Science Foundation (NSF) in the Belmont Forum's Climate, Environment, and Health II call for proposals.
24. The training cycle of the Transdisciplinary Academy and knowledge production in the research program "Tropical Forests: Global Implications and Urgent Actions," in which several indigenous communities participate, is coming to a close. Focal points will be contacted to organize the dissemination of project results.
25. Two webinars on the El Niño Southern Oscillation were held in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization and the University of Colorado Boulder, with more than 3,000 attendees in total.
26. The Directorate of the IAI submitted a proposal to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for US\$10 million to address the problem of sargassum in seven Caribbean countries.
27. The IAI is collaborating in the organization of the International Mangrove Congress of the Americas in Panama with the support of UNESCO and expects around 500 attendees.
28. A multilateral simulation workshop on solar radiation modification was held with the participation of 13 of the 19 IAI member countries.
29. The Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) presented its multilingual virtual curriculum and complementary training activities, which were funded by partners. The in-person events in Brazil and El Salvador had high participation and evaluation

- ratings (4.8/5), and five countries have expressed interest in collaborating on science diplomacy activities in 2026–2027.
30. The SDC will contact CONCITEC (Peru) and the new focal points in Peru to design strategic collaboration for 2026.
 31. The SDC is coordinating with the Dominican Republic to organize an introductory workshop on science diplomacy in Santo Domingo in February.
 32. Interviews with ministry officials in the region have begun to promote science diplomacy. The previous interview was with Dr. Eduardo Ortega, National Secretary of SENACYT, Panama, and the next will be with the Secretary of Secihti, Rosaura Ruiz, to identify Mexican priorities and encourage the reactivation of Mexico's participation in the IAI.
 33. An opportunity for collaboration between the IAI and SICA was identified to strengthen the science-policy interface in Central America.
 34. The Directorate is about to confirm the dates of the rescheduled event with the regional office of the Convention to Combat Desertification and communicate the dates to the Parties.
 35. The STEP program launched a cohort focused on biodiversity and bioeconomy, which is expected to welcome new fellows from Brazil in the near future.
 36. El Salvador formally initiated the accession process, and the procedure is still pending ratification by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the President, and the Assembly.
 37. Uruguay expressed strategic interest in science diplomacy and proposed creating an institute with regional reach and possible funding for the IAI Directorate. It will present a proposal on this initiative at the next IAI COP meeting.
 38. Based on the IAI agreement with Fonplata, there are plans to collaborate and submit a proposal to Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI) fund for approximately €15 million until February 2026.
 39. The IAI website was successfully migrated with more than 10,000 files, offers three searchable databases (scientific publications, list of experts, STeP fellows), and has seen significant growth in visits. The IAI's social media accounts continue to grow.
 40. It was clarified that the IAI acts as host of the Belmont Forum and manages its funding, but the organization maintains its own funds and would not be financially dependent on the IAI.
 41. Colombia and Jamaica are coordinating the planning of COP34 and the date is expected to be announced shortly.

Agenda item 4: Future meetings: May 2026, virtual: 34th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-34) and 61st Meeting of the Executive Council (EC-61)

42. The Executive Council working group for the restructuring of the IAI Directorate will meet immediately and prepare recommendations and documentation for the

extraordinary COP within the timeframe determined by the EC. To form the working group, invitations will be sent by email to verify the participation of the Parties.

43. It was agreed to call for an extraordinary COP on March 9 2026 to address the financial situation and restructuring. It was agreed to issue the notification of the extraordinary COP on the same day as EC60, to be held in sixty days.

44. It was confirmed that documentation for the extraordinary conference must be submitted within 10 days prior to the meeting.

Agenda item 5: Final agreements and closure

45. It was agreed that the agenda for the extraordinary COP will include the restructuring and budget of the IAI, the vote on the membership of the United States, and the Chair of the Executive Council. The Chair (a.i.) of the EC thanked the Parties, the Chairs of the SAC and SPAC, and the Directorate for their participation.