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22 July 2024

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH  
Thirty-second meeting  
Videoconference  
22-23 May 2024**

**Report of the 32nd meeting of the Conference to the Parties to the  
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research**

1. This document was prepared by the IAI Directorate.
2. The Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research held its 32nd meeting (CoP-32) via videoconference on 22 to 23 May 2024.
3. The accounts of the proceedings and discussions of the meeting are provided in section I of the report.
4. The meeting adopted 24 decisions, and these are provided in section II of this report.

Section I: Proceedings of the Meeting

Introduction

5. In accordance with *the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article V, *The Conference of the Parties*, paragraph 3, the 32nd meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research was held via videoconference from 22 to 23 May 2024.
6. XXXI/8: *The Conference of the Parties is invited to meet in-person biennially and via videoconferencing during the intervening years, to increase equitable participation of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee and Parties, to*

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*begin the implementation of a sponsored delegates program for the provision of financial assistance to facilitate the participation of Parties at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and to reduce the carbon footprint of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.*

7. Parties and the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Chair of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) were invited to attend along with IAI Associates. The following Parties to the Agreement attended the meeting with due accreditation, as reported by the Credentials Committee composed by Panama and Paraguay: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, United States (of America). The Chair of the SAC and the Chair of the SPAC attended the meeting. The following Associates attended the meeting: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Center for International Earth Information Network (CIESIN), FAPESP, Future Earth, Humboldt Institution. The required quorum was nine, and 15 Parties attended the meeting.
8. The list of participants, including observers, is available on the IAI website at: <https://www.iai.int/en/news/detail/CoP-32><sup>1</sup>

#### Opening of the Meeting

9. On 22 May 2024, the Executive Director opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates. She invited the Host Countries, Bolivia and Canada, to make opening statements.
10. Opening statements by the Government of Bolivia were made by Omar Gustavo Tejerina Vértiz, National Director of Forest Development of the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth (APMT), and Germán Quispe, Director of the Adaptation Mechanism for Living Well of the APMT.
11. Opening statements by the Government of Canada were made by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada, Steven Guilbeault, and Marc D'lorio, Assistant Deputy Minister, Science and Technology at Environment and Climate Change Canada.
12. Following the opening statements by Bolivia and Canada, the IAI Executive Director made opening statements.

#### Opening statements by Bolivia

13. Omar Gustavo Tejerina Vértiz, National Director of Forest Development of the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth (APMT), spoke on behalf of the Executive Director of APMT, Angélica Ponce Chambi. He expressed deep gratitude and emphasized the importance of continuing the commitments made at CoP-31. He highlighted the role of the IAI in strengthening scientific contributions on climate change to inform decision-making and creating more effective policies for IAI member states.
14. He noted that Indigenous Peoples and local communities, lacking resilience and adaptation capabilities, have suffered significantly from climate disasters and stressed the importance of the IAI's work in promoting effective climate actions. He remarked on the vital relationship between humans and Mother Earth, noting that while Earth does not need humans, humans

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<sup>1</sup> See: [Participants List](#)

depend on her for survival. He emphasized the need to care for Mother Earth to preserve biodiversity, warning that neglect could lead to irreversible consequences.

15. He valued the opportunity to share experiences, knowledge, and best practices with Canada, highlighting Canada's commitment to recognizing the importance of Indigenous Peoples and bridging traditional knowledge with science to enhance decision-making processes. He noted the progress made by the IAI on establishing the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Advisory Committee as a key step toward reconciling scientific and Indigenous Knowledge. Bolivia expressed its commitment to continued collaboration with IAI member states in the coming years, underscoring the value of integrating diverse knowledge systems for more comprehensive and effective climate action.
16. He further emphasized the need for a unified scientific agenda across all nations to strengthen resilience against the impacts of climate change. He stressed the vulnerability of nations, particularly indigenous communities, due to the lack of strategic actions based on scientifically informed decision-making. He emphasized the importance of the IAI's scientific contributions to inform efficient adaptation and mitigation strategies to address climate change. He concluded by reiterating the need to preserve and conserve the Earth, stating that while the Earth does not need humans for its survival, humans rely on it for their existence.

#### Opening statements by Canada

##### Opening statements by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada, Steven Guilbeault

17. The Minister greeted the attendees and expressed his delight in co-hosting the CoP-32 with Bolivia, and noted the support from the IAI Directorate. He acknowledged the significance of the meeting, highlighting the importance of regional collaboration in addressing the global crisis of climate change.
18. He recognized the presence and resilience of the Anishinaabe-Algonquin Nation and honored their contributions to the community. He emphasized the importance of the annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties as an opportunity to discuss progress and best practices in scientific knowledge generation, stressing the need for collaboration to tackle planetary challenges.
19. He continued by stating Canada's recognition of the crucial role played by the IAI in supporting scientific research to assist countries in the Americas in making science-informed decisions to address global changes, and highlighted Canada's commitment to this research agenda, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary research and the inclusion of different knowledge systems in science.
20. He welcomed the decision by CoP-31 to establish an Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Advisory Committee, expressing confidence that discussions in this year's session would help broaden the participation and contributions of Indigenous Peoples to the IAI.
21. Furthermore, he acknowledged Indigenous Peoples as vital supporters in environmental conservation and protection, highlighting Canada's efforts to advance reconciliation through

scientific activities and research. He stressed the importance of integrating Indigenous science with Western science to inform and enhance decision-making on environmental issues.

22. Closing his remarks, he expressed Canada's honor in co-hosting the 32nd Conference of Parties with Bolivia and emphasized Canada's longstanding membership in the Institute and its commitment to continued collaboration with IAI members in the years to come, expressing confidence in the success of the meeting and looking forward to many years of continued collaboration.

Opening statements by Marc D'lorio, Assistant Deputy Minister, Science and Technology at Environment and Climate Change Canada

23. Marc D'lorio greeted the participants in English, French, and Spanish, expressing gratitude for co-organizing the 32nd meeting of the Conference of the Parties with Bolivia. He welcomed all participants and conveyed appreciation to Bolivia and the IAI Directorate for their efforts in organizing the meeting. He emphasized Canada's commitment to advancing science to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and international actions to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, he highlighted Canada's goal of implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to reduce biodiversity loss, stressing the interconnectedness of the climate and biodiversity crises.
24. He underscored the importance of science and knowledge in guiding climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and emphasized the need to accelerate and enhance the ambition of climate actions, align scientific activities with climate goals, to build a resilient and net-zero carbon society in the Americas.
25. He announced that the report "Canada's Climate Science 2050", outlining national priorities for climate change, would be released in a few weeks. He mentioned its value as a guide for investments in climate science and mobilizing knowledge from various stakeholders, including government, universities, and the private sector, to achieve results in combating climate change.
26. He expressed eagerness for further discussions during the conference, particularly in the session on adaptation and resilience to climate change. He acknowledged the importance of collaborating with Indigenous Peoples and incorporating Indigenous science and knowledge to conserve and protect the environment. He thanked his colleagues from the Indigenous Science Division for hosting a science event where Indigenous Knowledge leaders shared experiences and lessons learned in applying Indigenous languages to biodiversity indicators. He emphasized the role of the IAI in supporting Indigenous science on climate change and adaptation in the Americas.
27. Concluding his remarks, he expressed Canada's pride in being a long-standing member and supporter of the IAI. He looked forward to the discussions in the coming days and thanked the participants for their contributions.

Opening statements by the Executive Director of the IAI

28. The Executive Director thanked the preceding remarks made by Bolivia and Canada and extended a warm welcome to focal points from IAI Parties, Associates, members of the

Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science and Policy Advisory Committee, observers, the Belmont Forum, IAI staff, and fellows. She stated that the meeting marked a pivotal moment in the trajectory of the IAI and the broader landscape of global environmental change in the Americas, as underscored by recent reports from the World Meteorological Organization.

29. Over the past year, the Americas witnessed significant climate-related events, such as severe droughts and extreme rainfall, notably impacting regions like the South Cone of South America. The emergence of the recent El Niño event precipitated a dengue emergency, with over 5 million cases reported in 2024, exacerbating pre-existing inequalities and disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations.
30. Established 32 years ago, the IAI was founded to confront imminent environmental and social crises, emphasizing the imperative for coordinated regional action grounded in robust scientific evidence, transparent data exchange, and enhanced scientific capacities. While these foundational principles remain pertinent, there is a recognized imperative to broaden and refine the notion of science to address systemic inequities and embrace diverse forms of knowledge production, particularly from Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
31. Recognizing the limitations of scientific knowledge production in isolation, she noted a pressing call to establish or bolster mechanisms ensuring that scientific evidence informs the design and implementation of public policies. The IAI's endeavors stand as a beacon of hope and inspiration for the region, with ongoing initiatives tackling these multifaceted challenges, such as research funding opportunities targeting tropical forests and sustainable livelihoods, the establishment of a new Regional Center for Scientific Diplomacy, and various capacity-building programs.
32. This year also heralded a historic juncture for the IAI with the decision to relocate the headquarters of the IAI Directorate from Uruguay to Panama. She expressed gratitude to the Government of Uruguay for hosting the headquarters over the past decade and to Panama for its gracious offer to host in the future. The transition to Panama presents an opportunity to better cater to the burgeoning needs of IAI Parties, fostering deeper collaboration with other regional entities based in Panama and countries across Central America and the Caribbean.
33. She concluded by asking that during this transitional phase, Parties ensured the seamless continuation of Directorate operations, with implications for the functioning of the Belmont Forum, hosted by the IAI. She expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Governments of Bolivia and Canada for their joint hosting of the 32nd Conference of the Parties, extending best wishes for a productive meeting to all participants.

#### Election of CoP Bureau

34. Parties elected the composition of the CoP Bureau. The following Parties were elected for the first day: Bolivia (Chair), Canada (1st. Vice-Chair) and Panama (2nd. Vice-Chair), and the following Parties for the second day: Canada (Chair), Bolivia (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair) and Chile (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair).

#### Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

35. Following the opening of the meeting, the Chair invited Parties to adopt the provisional agenda

to CoP-32 (IAI/COP/32/1).

36. Parties adopted the agenda by consensus.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the Report of the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the Report of the 2024 Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties

37. Under this item of the agenda, Parties were invited to approve the Report of the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-31, 2023, Panama City and videoconference) (IAI/COP/32/3a) and the Report of the 2024 Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (IAI/COP/32/3b).
38. Parties approved the Report of CoP-31 and the Report of the 2024 Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Agenda item 3: Establishment of a committee to recommend candidates for the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) for the elections, on the second day of CoP-32

39. The Parties elected the following composition for the Committee: Canada, Panamá, and Ecuador.

Agenda item 4: Financial reports

Agenda item 4(a): Annex 1: Overview of the Financial Status for FY 2023-2024; 4(b): Annex 2: Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2024-2025; and Preliminary request 2025-2027, 4(c): Annex 3: Auditors report, d. Annex 4: Report of the Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC)

40. The Chair invited the Directorate to present this item of the agenda.

4.a. Overview of the Financial Status for FY 2023-2024

41. The Administration, Finance and Operations Officer presented an overview of the financial status for the fiscal year 2023-2024, starting with contributions received from member countries. As of 31 March 2024, 70% of the approved contributions for the fiscal year had been received. She reiterated the urgency and necessity of timely annual contributions from the Parties, as discussed in the previous CoP meeting.
42. A table was presented showing the aggregate status of voluntary contributions, indicating that three countries were current with their contributions, eight were behind by less than three years, and another eight were more than three years in arrears.
43. The next table detailed additional and in-kind contributions from member countries, as requested by the Financial Working Group. During the current fiscal year, Argentina, Colombia, Panama, United States, and Uruguay had made notable contributions, in addition to the voluntary financial contributions to the core budget.
44. Expenses for the period were on target with the budget, showing a slight underspending, as the report covered only the first nine months of the fiscal year. She explained that the budget

would be on target by the end of the year due to travel and other expenses incurred near the end of the fiscal year.

#### 4.b. Core Budget and Country Contributions for fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025; and Preliminary request 2025-2027

45. The core budget for FY 2024-2025 beginning in July 2024, along with the preliminary request for FY 2025-2027, was presented. The new budget proposed a 20% increase compared to the current budget and the preliminary budget for the subsequent two years included a 5% annual increase. In the salary category, costs for staff salaries and benefits were budgeted to reflect the hiring of communication personnel, necessary to fulfill the IAI's strategy, along with adjustments for health insurance and other benefits.
46. Travel expenses included attendance at key meetings and there was a small increase due to higher activity levels and increasing ticket prices. Operational costs showed a modest increase, accounting for the costs associated with relocating the Institute's headquarters while reducing some other expenses. In the dissemination and outreach category, there was a modest increase to align with the Strategic Plan and the mandate by the Parties to enhance the IAI's visibility, requiring adjustments to develop IAI projects and activities.
47. In her final remarks, the Administration, Finance and Operations Officer noted that documentation on this agenda item had been reviewed by the Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC) who forwarded its recommendation to the IAI Executive Council for the Parties to approve the proposal for the core budget and country contributions for FY 2024-2025 and the preliminary request for FY 2025-2027.

#### 4.d. Report of the Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC)

48. She summarized the Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC) report, providing insights into administrative and financial matters related to the IAI and its activities. The FAC, consisting of a representative from the United States, had reviewed the IAI's operational budget and recommended its submission to the CoP-32 for approval.
49. The FAC found the budget to be responsive to the changing nature of IAI operations, with proposed expenditures deemed reasonable and appropriate. The budget included a recommended 20% increase in country contributions for FY 2024-2025, as suggested by the Financial Working Group established by the Conference of the Parties. Annual increases of 5% per year in subsequent years were also anticipated for the period 2025-2027.

#### 4.c. Auditors report

50. She closed by highlighting the positive assessment by the Auditors. The auditors' report for FY 2023-2024 gave an unqualified opinion, confirming that the IAI's financial position was presented fairly in all material respects. The CoP-32 was also invited to take note of the FAC report.
51. The Chair invited the meeting to consider provisional decisions on the items presented.
52. There was a discussion about the necessity of formal approval from member countries' higher

authorities for the proposed budget increase. While many countries expressed support, Chile, Costa Rica, and Ecuador highlighted the need for formal processes and approvals from their respective ministries.

53. Ultimately, it was suggested to modify the decision language to reflect that the approval of the FY 2024-2025 budget, including the 20% increase, was subject to approval by the appropriate authorities in each country, acknowledging that contributions are voluntary. The meeting agreed to this revised language and noted it would be included in the decision.
54. The Conference of the Parties adopted draft decision no. IAI/COP/32/3 contained in the annex to this report which approves *the core budget for 2024-2025 with an increase of 20% in voluntary contributions, and the preliminary request for fiscal years 2025-2027, with increases of 5% per year, subject to approval by the appropriate authorities in each country.*
55. The Conference of the Parties also adopted draft decision XXXII/4, which approves the Independent Auditors report, contained in the annex to this report.
56. The Executive Director of the IAI recognized and thanked the Parties for their support. She noted that contributions were voluntary and that she was at the Parties' disposal to hold bilateral meetings to address any concerns. She thanked the Financial Working Group for their work throughout the year.
57. The CoP was invited to take note of the financial reports.

#### Agenda item 5: Report of the Executive Council

##### 5.a. Financial Working Group

58. Milagro Mainieri, as member of the working group, presented this item of the agenda and summarized the activities and discussions addressed by the Working Group created by the Executive Council and composed by Maria Uhle from United States, Milagro Mainieri from Panama, Alexandra Mallet, SPAC member, Anahi Urquiza, SAC member, and the IAI Executive Director.
59. She mentioned that the discussions were around the challenges faced by the Directorate in a scenario where Party contributions had not been adjusted in recent years to account for inflation and several Parties have not made voluntary contributions for several years.
60. Discussions also emphasized the voluntary nature of contributions, alongside the necessity for flexibility to recognize and report both monetary and in-kind contributions.
61. The Working Group recommended increasing contributions levels to account for inflation, focusing on future contributions rather than pending past contributions, and including in-kind contributions in addition to financial contributions in annual reports to the CoP.

##### 5. b. Headquarters of the IAI Directorate

62. Panama reiterated Panama's dedication to hosting the IAI Directorate. She informed that Panama was actively collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to finalize the Host



Agreement. A crucial meeting with the Legal Advisory Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was scheduled for the following day. Dr. Omar López of Senacyt Panama had been appointed as the focal point for monitoring the progress of the Agreement. Financial preparations for the economic commitments had been made by Senacyt. However, she expressed concerns about the timeline set by Uruguay and noted that Panama might need additional time due to legislative requirements.

63. The CoP chair thanked Panama for their efforts and stressed the importance of Panama's willingness to host the IAI headquarters and opened the floor for comments.
64. United States voiced support for Panama and proposed that member countries collaborate to draft a formal request to Uruguay for extending the deadline.
65. The executive director of the Belmont Forum emphasized the challenges posed by the October deadline, pointing out the impact of the difficulties posed by the short timeline with respect to the operations of the organization and the relocation of her family. She suggested considering an extension to facilitate a smoother transition.
66. Canada echoed appreciation for Panama's efforts to host the Directorate in the future, and Uruguay's hosting over the last decade, and supported the idea of requesting an extension from Uruguay to allow for a more manageable transition period.
67. In response, Uruguay highlighted that Uruguay had provided sufficient notice and emphasized the finality of their decision, acknowledging the efforts required for the transition. Additionally, Uruguay noted that, in response to arguments presented by the IAI, Uruguay has exceptionally extended the privileges and immunities for an additional three months, until the end of October 2024. This extension was granted to facilitate a smooth transition, considering that the initial decision was communicated to the IAI Executive Directorate in late November of the previous year. Uruguay emphasized that this decision was definitive and reiterated their commitment to an orderly transition, underscoring that the advance notice provided was aimed at accommodating the IAI's needs.
68. Bolivia thanked Uruguay and highlighted the importance of granting additional time to ensure a smooth transition.
69. The Executive Director detailed the accelerated timeline of the transition efforts, initiated immediately after Uruguay's decision was communicated. She acknowledged Panama's commitment and the challenges posed by recent national elections and associated legislative closures, stressing that achieving the approval of the host country agreement by October is ambitious.
70. The dialogue highlighted the need for flexibility and a possible extension beyond October. The Parties agreed on drafting a formal request to Uruguay for an extension, noting the urgency and significance of the transition. Uruguay reiterated their firm decision to end the immunities and privileges to the Directorate by October but appreciated the dialogue and commitment from all Parties involved. The meeting concluded with a consensus to draft a formal request to Uruguay for additional time, acknowledging the efforts of Panama and the challenges of the transition process.

71. Under this item of the agenda Parties adopted Decision XXXII/23 to jointly submit a request to the Government of Uruguay to extend the date of operations of the IAI in Uruguay until 31 July 2025, allowing the Directorate to continue to operate with diplomatic immunities and privileges but at no additional cost to Uruguay after 31 July 2024.
72. Parties also adopted Decision XXXII/24 to establish an ad-hoc transition committee composed by Panama, the United States and Brazil, to follow up on the request to the Government of Uruguay and meet periodically as needed to support an expedited process of transition of the Headquarters of the IAI without interruptions of IAI activities and operations. The meeting moved on to the special thematic session on Indigenous Global Change Science. Presentations were made by Parties followed by a report on the CoP-32 side event workshop held on 21 May entitled, "Indigenous Language and Biodiversity Indicators." The special session included the following presentations:
  - Bolivia: Diagnosis and Assessment of Traditional and Ancestral Knowledge of Indigenous Native Peasant Peoples in the Set of Risk Prevention Measures due to the Impact of Climate Change in the TDPS System.
  - Canada: Indigenous science.
  - Chile (two presentations): Study of Vulnerability and Risk of Indigenous Peoples of Chile in the Face of Climate Change, and National Climate Change Adaptation Plan.
  - Colombia: Indigenous Science on Climate Change.
  - Paraguay: Current Status of Indigenous Languages of Paraguay, with Emphasis on the Guarani Language.
  - Report on the CoP-32 side event workshop held on 21 May, "Indigenous Language and Biodiversity Indicators."

#### Agenda item 6: Election of SAC members

73. The Chair invited the Committee, composed by Canada, Ecuador and Panama, to recommend candidates on this item of the agenda.
74. Ecuador reported that the committee had convened on 22 May, to review the resumes of candidates nominated to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).
75. It was recommended that current SAC members Omar López, Anahí Urquiza, and Mercy Borbor be re-elected for a second term. The second decision involved selecting a new member from nominations submitted by IAI Associates. With only one vacancy but three candidates, it was difficult to recommend one, given the high quality of the nominees. Therefore, a detailed presentation of each candidate's qualifications was prepared and Parties were invited to vote.
76. The current SAC composition included seven scientists in natural sciences and two in social sciences, with a total of nine members. The group consisted of five women and four men, with five from South America, two from Central America, one from the Caribbean, and one from North America. The IAI has active projects in migration, health, climate, tropical forests, and an upcoming project on oceans. Recommended areas for new members included natural sciences, terrestrial ecosystems, social sciences, economics, and development studies.
77. Candidate profiles were presented in detail: Makyba Charles-Ayinde from the USA, nominated

by Future Earth, with a background in public health, biological sciences, and molecular biology; Gilberto de Martino Jannuzzi from Brazil, nominated by FAPESP, with a background in energy, engineering, and mathematics; and Natalia Norden from Colombia, nominated by the Humboldt Institute, with a background in ecology and biology.

78. The Parties unanimously re-elected Omar López, Anahí Urquiza, and Mercy Borbor for a second term in the SAC, and then voted, through the anonymous Zoom voting feature, for the vacancy in the SAC to be filled with nominations by the Associates, resulting in Gilberto de Martino Jannuzzi (Brazil, FAPESP) as the selected candidate.
79. Given the valuable expertise of all candidates, there was a proposal for the two SAC candidates to be considered as alternate members on the SAC and SPAC.
80. Parties decided to invite Makyba Charles-Ayinde as an alternate member to the SPAC, due to her work in public health and policy. Natalia Norden was proposed as an alternate to the SAC, given her expertise in tropical forests.
81. The Chair thanked the candidates for their willingness to serve on the SAC and Parties for their consideration of new members.

#### Agenda item 7; Joint Report of the SAC/SPAC

82. The Chair invited the SAC and SPAC Chairs to present the joint report of the SAC/SPAC on behalf of the two Committees.
83. The SPAC and SAC Chairs emphasized the committees' roles in advising on the scientific agenda. The SPAC Chair detailed the SPAC's mission to bridge science and policy, highlighting that the committee comprises various specialists with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise, which enrich its work. She summarized the activities during the inter-session period including the joint SAC/SPAC meetings separate meetings of the committees, dissemination activities, and contributions to the following committees: equity, diversity, and inclusion; open science and open data; oceans, coastal areas, and islands.
84. The SPAC Chair noted significant contributions to different working groups. This includes involvement with the IPCC and regional evaluations, as well as contributions to scoping workshops with the Belmont Forum (BF) on tropical forests. The committee also played a role in shaping the Strategic Plan of the IAI and devising strategies for enhancing engagement and communication with focal points. Additionally, the SPAC contributed to addressing the issue of integrated sargassum management in the Caribbean.
85. The SAC Chair presented recommendations for strengthening communication among IAI national focal points, SAC and SPAC members, funded investigators, and the scientific community. The aim was to enhance strategic information exchange, science utilization in policymaking, and IAI's strategic plan implementation. Additional recommendations included fostering robust funding strategies for sustainable resources, enhancing IAI's visibility, and promoting national-level sectoral engagement.
86. The Parties adopted the draft decisions XXXII/5, XXXII/6 and XXXII/7 presented by the Chairs, provided in the annex of this report.

87. The CoP Chair thanked the SAC and SPAC for their work and advice and closed this agenda item.

Agenda item 8: New Associates - Article XI: Associates of the Institute

88. The Chair offered the floor to the Executive Director to introduce this agenda item.
89. The Executive Director invited Laura Ramajo, a SAC member and adjunct researcher at the Center for Climate and Resilience Research (CR2), to present this item of the agenda.
90. Laura Ramajo began her remarks by greeting participants and explaining that CR2 was an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary center dedicated to addressing various aspects of climate change. This center was notable for its close relationship with the development, design, and implementation of public policies in Chile.
91. She highlighted that CR2 played a crucial role in the creation of the current Framework Law on Climate Change in Chile and has participated in the development of other laws. Additionally, she mentioned that CR2 researchers are part of advisory committees on public policies and focus on a variety of research topics. These topics include water resources, coastal areas, governance, transdisciplinary studies, forests, and fires.
92. With over eleven years of experience, CR2 had established itself as an influential institution in the field of climate change. She emphasized that the former director of the center is currently the Minister of the Environment of Chile, underscoring the significance of CR2 in the country's political and environmental landscape.
93. In her conclusion, she reaffirmed the importance of CR2 in shaping and advising on public policies related to climate change, emphasizing its crucial role in research and the development of strategies to address this global challenge.
94. The Chair thanked CR2 and then offered the floor to The Research and Innovation Support Foundation of the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil (FAPESC).
95. Marcos Oliveira from FAPESC expressed his gratitude to the Chair for the opportunity to speak. He stated that FAPESC, based in southern Brazil, is ready to support the IAI network by promoting projects for science diplomacy programs and the creation of green jobs. He emphasized that this focus aligns with the directives of their governor. He also highlighted enthusiasm for co-creating the first generation of STeP Fellows in Brazil and co-hosting the regional transdisciplinary Tropical Forest workshop. He concluded by expressing their willingness to support the co-creation of integrated actions across the Americas to further strengthen efforts in climate change adaptation, thanking everyone for the opportunity to contribute.
96. The Chair thanked FAPESC and then offered the floor to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI).
97. Joshua Tewksbury, Executive Director of STRI, began by thanking the Chair and commended the fantastic work Panama had done in collaboration with STRI.

98. STRI brings over 100 years of research on terrestrial, marine, archaeological and environmental issues in the tropics. In Panama, STRI manages 13 facilities, including 4 marine field stations, among the most complete tropical science libraries in the world, laboratory complexes in Panama City, Gamboa and Barro Colorado Island, and terrestrial field stations and canopy cranes in Fortuna, San Lorenzo, El Giral, and Parque Metropolitano. With 29 resident staff scientists and curators, as well as over 130 research associates and affiliate staff scientists from 13 countries who build their research through the facilities and capacities provided, STRI is among the most highly regarded tropical research organizations in the world.
99. As a former SAC member, he expressed his excitement about working with the IAI and highlighted the numerous opportunities for collaboration. He conveyed his enthusiasm about the future of the IAI and STRI becoming part of the IAI community. He concluded by thanking everyone for the opportunity to participate in the meeting.
100. The Chair invited the Parties to consider adopting the provisional decisions presented under this item on the agenda to invite CR2, FAPESC and STRI to become Associates to the IAI as per Article XI of the *Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*.
101. CoP-32 adopted the Decisions XXXI/10, XXXII/11, XXXII/12, XXXII/13, XXXII/14 and XXXII/15 provided in the annex of this report.

#### Agenda item 9: IAI Directorate summary report

##### 9.a. Science

102. The Chair invited the IAI Executive Director to report on this section.
103. The Executive Director invited the Science Director to present.
104. The Science Director reported on the activities undertaken during the year. He highlighted the work in collaboration with the Belmont Forum on a call regarding migration and human mobility in the context of rapid global change. Three projects from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, had received funding and had been active over the past year.
105. He also mentioned efforts on the nexus of climate, environment, and health (CEH). He noted the work with the Belmont Forum on the CEH2 funding call. The IAI had developed a training program for researchers across the Americas, supporting short-term transdisciplinary seed projects designed to increase the capacity of research teams to develop full proposals for the Belmont Forum funding call.
106. Twelve research teams from fifteen countries had been working on these CEH seed projects for over six months, with ongoing follow-up and mentoring sessions, and meetings would follow to present their results to Parties and other actors.
107. Furthermore, the science director discussed an open three-week course on El Niño and its impacts on health, conducted in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the United Nations Office for

Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The course saw significant participation from across Americas and globally. A series of webinars on climate, migration, and health in Latin America was subsequently implemented in early 2024.

108. The IAI also published a compendium of Op Eds on the topic of climate, environment and health, written by the investigators of the seed grant teams, who received training from the IAI in science communications.
109. He emphasized their ongoing work on a global Belmont Forum funding call and regional transdisciplinary training program on tropical forests, following the same training approach as the CEH call. Scoping workshops for the global call were held in Colombia and Panama, with virtual workshops for participants from Asia and Africa. This process was co-led by IAI and FAPESP.
110. Additionally, a decision by CoP-31 directed the IAI Directorate to work on oceans, islands, and coastal systems. A new advisory committee was established with participation from the SAC, SPAC and various stakeholders, and they initiated collaborative efforts to support the scoping of the new Belmont Forum Oceans funding call during the COLACMAR oceans conference scheduled for August 2024 in Brazil. The IAI has also been involved in regional initiatives on climate data and its impact on the Amazon and Andes regions.
111. He concluded by mentioning the Directorate's participation in multiple science and policy forums, including a notable presence at the last UNFCCC CoP-28 in Dubai. The IAI supported Guatemala's pavilion given its presidency of the AILAC group, involving eight Latin American countries. He added that the IAI Directorate was also planning to conduct workshops in 2024 and 2025, on solar radiation modification as an emerging climate change issue.

#### 9.b. Capacity Building, the Science Diplomacy Center and the STeP Program

112. The Capacity Building director summarized the many actions taken in terms of training, conferences and reports and partnerships, under Decision XXXI/19, XXXI/20 and XXXI/21.
113. She highlighted that the IAI Directorate had undertaken several significant actions and achieved notable results across training, conferences, events, and partnerships.
114. In the realm of training, the IAI Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) launched the Science Diplomacy Training Program for Policy Makers in the Americas with an inaugural workshop hosted by SENACYT Panama from October 19-21, 2023. This workshop saw participation from representatives of eleven IAI Parties, who collectively developed a science diplomacy declaration, entitled the Panama Declaration, "Science Diplomacy to address global challenges". Additionally, three IAI Parties expressed interest in co-sponsoring future science diplomacy training events in collaboration with the SDC. Responding to a request from SENACYT Panama, the SDC is planning a second science diplomacy workshop in June 2024 to focus on marine biodiversity conservation and estuaries. Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI) is also set to collaborate with the IAI to host a workshop for government officials from Latin America and the Caribbean in Brasilia in December 2024. The National University of Asunción (UNA) of Paraguay is also working in close collaboration with the SDC to hold a science diplomacy workshop back-to-back with IAI CoP 33 in May 2025. She added that the SDC was finalizing a virtual open-access curriculum on Science Diplomacy

tailored for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be available on IAI's virtual campus.

115. She continued by stating that the Directorate had been active in various conferences and events. They participated in the MERCOSUR Science Diplomacy Seminar in Buenos Aires on August 3, 2023, and in the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator Summit from October 11-13, 2023. Additionally, they hosted a side event on science diplomacy at the Global Research Council (GRC) Americas annual meeting in Buenos Aires on November 9, 2023, upon invitation from Argentina's CONICET and Chile's ANID. The Directorate also took part in the first European Science Diplomacy Conference in Madrid on December 18, 2023, and organized a panel session titled "Nurturing Multilateralism: A Science Diplomacy Center for the Americas" at the AAAS annual meeting in Denver on February 17, 2024.
116. In terms of partnerships, she informed that the IAI Directorate signed a letter of agreement with DiploCientífica, a network of science diplomacy experts from Latin America and the Caribbean. Experts from DiploCientífica participated in the IAI SDC training workshop in Panama in October 2023 and are set to support upcoming workshops in Panama and Brazil in 2024. They have also collaborated with the IAI Directorate to publish a white paper on recommendations for a scientific diplomacy strategy to safeguard the Amazon. Furthermore, the IAI SDC is partnering with the US National Academy of Sciences, UNESCO, IEEE Entrepreneurship, and ETCube International. This collaboration aims to develop capacity-building workshops that address entrepreneurship and the nexus of science diplomacy, technology, innovation policy, and sustainability, particularly focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Latin America and the Caribbean throughout 2024-2025.
117. An MoU new partnership has been developed with FAPESC, who are committed to supporting regional science diplomacy training, funding the new cohort of 6 Brazilian STeP fellows working at 3 ministries in Brasilia and at a state secretary addressing the topic of bioeconomy. FAPESC will also sponsor and host the STeP Fellowship Program Leadership conference in 2026.
118. The Director for Capacity Building reported on a new project entitled "Women As Biodiversity & Climate-Resilience Guardians in Wetland/Peatland Landscapes" funded by Global Affairs Canada. The project is led by Alinea and the IAI is one of the international partners. The project will empower women, especially of indigenous heritage, in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru to support the conservation of upland wetland and peatland ecosystems within Ramsar sites to improve climate resilience and encourage women to lead conservation efforts and participate in decision-making processes about land and water.
119. Parties were invited to take note of the report IAI/COP/32/9 for more information under this item of the agenda.
120. The STeP Program Lead presented a joint project with the EPIC-N Network. She shared the examples of the first round of seed grants for Latin American and Caribbean partners and announced a new round of training and seed grants funded by a grant with the Global Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Fund and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
121. To date 67 fellows from 14 countries have participated in the IAI's STeP program. The fourth generation of fellows begins at the end of June 2024. The STeP Conference in Guatemala in April 2024 marked the end of the third cohort of Fellows. The conference opened with an

indigenous ceremony and presentation by indigenous climate change researchers followed by sessions on communication, mentorship, leadership, and a simulation of a UNFCCC negotiation. She recommended that future leadership conferences similarly include an activity with local communities and Indigenous People as well as opportunities for Fellows to present their projects to diverse audiences, including decision makers.

122. She invited the Parties to consider hosting the next STeP Leadership Conference, tentatively scheduled for February 2025.

#### 9.c. Communications

123. The Chair invited the Directorate to present on this section of the report.
124. The Strategic Advisor began by introducing the efforts by the Directorate to reach different audiences interested in the scientific knowledge and research results made available by the IAI to its Parties. She reported on the work in the IAI communication area, aimed at engaging the public on social media, providing information on the website, and catering specifically to scientists in need of specialized information. The communication efforts include in-house productions, such as policy summaries based on IPCC reports, and news stories on international special days to highlight scientific information. A new section, "Visions of Change," was introduced, initially created by an intern who has since completed her internship. A new intern is currently assisting in compiling the information for this section. She highlighted the work of the communications team also to support the SDC and the STeP program by providing coverage of SDC meetings and the STeP annual conference, helping to consolidate their presence in the region. The IAI website has reached a record of over 50,000 users and the LinkedIn page has also seen significant growth, serving as an important information source for both scientists and the general public.
125. She highlighted the collaboration with Latinoamérica21, which in the past year produced 16 Op Eds in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, resulting in 35 media publications. Given that Latinoamérica21 works in the three main languages of the region, the collaboration has achieved significant coverage, with a total of 83 commentaries published, including contributions from partners like the World Meteorological Organization and research team members from the Climate, Environment, and Health initiative funded by the IAI Seed Fund call.
126. She described an initiative to connect journalists and media outlets with IAI experts committed to providing information, comments, and interviews to the scientific community and media. The list of experts is being expanded with the help of IAI advisory committees to improve media outreach. The experts contacted through this specialized list also support their courses, such as those with the Global Consortium of Climate and Health Education (GCCHE) and facilitate participation in events like the Biological Diversity Conference in Colombia. She noted that a STeP Fellow was helping to develop a media strategy to promote IAI's scientific work.
127. She reported that their online training courses have been extremely successful. For instance, the course on El Niño and Health in the Americas had 1,200 unique participants, with 323 receiving certificates of participation. The IAI is currently hosting a series of webinars on migration, climate, and health in collaboration with the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE); two sessions have been held so far, with 230 participants. This



initiative is linked to a Belmont Forum funding call on migration, mobility and global environmental change, in which the IAI has funded three teams.

128. She concluded by discussing the success of the IAI's Virtual Campus. The most popular course focuses on science communication, indicating a strong interest among the community of scientists and government officials in improving their skills to better disseminate knowledge. All courses are freely available in Spanish and English on the Moodle platform. She invited participants to access the platform and mentioned ongoing work on new IAI courses. She thanked everyone for their attention.

#### 9 d. Gender and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

129. The CoP Chair invited the Chair of the EDI committee, Margot Hurlbert, to present on the new advisory committee for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The chair outlined the progress made since last year's recommendation to incorporate the views and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities into IAI's work.
130. The EDI committee and IAI staff researched and systematized local and Indigenous Knowledge systems, drawing on examples from UNESCO, the UNFCCC, and the Indigenous Peoples Development Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean. Interviews with Indigenous Peoples' representatives and consultations with subject matter experts informed the process.
131. The EDI Chair emphasized the need to recognize the unique histories and knowledge systems of each indigenous and local community. To strengthen the inclusion and diversity of perspectives, the EDI committee proposed establishing two new advisory committees: one for people from Indigenous Communities and another for people from Local Communities. The chaired indicated that the committee will present a plan to operationalize the new committees by late 2024.
132. Following the EDI Chair's presentation, the CoP chair invited feedback and questions. Panama inquired about the practicality of managing multiple committees and whether separate reporting would complicate SAC and SPAC operations. Alexandra Mallett, member of the SAC, noted the ongoing practice of alternating monthly meetings for SAC and SPAC to manage the committees effectively.
133. Bolivia shared its preference for a single committee combining indigenous and local community representatives, based on their national experience. The Executive Director stressed the importance of consulting with potential committee members to refine the proposal.
134. The Parties supported the recommendation to explore the establishment of the two committees and report back in six months. The session concluded with an acknowledgment of the thoughtful work done by the EDI committee and moved on to the next agenda item on Open Data and Open Science.
135. The CoP adopted the presented draft decisions XXXII/18 and XXXII/19 contained in the annex to this report.

#### Agenda item 10. Open Data

136. The Open Data Specialist, focused on the principles of the IAI as outlined in Article 2 of the IAI Agreement, emphasizing the Institute's dedication to scientific excellence, international cooperation, and the open exchange of scientific information on global change. He specifically highlighted the ongoing efforts regarding open data exchange.
137. He noted that the IAI adopted open data policies and principles at CoP-26, leading to the creation of an advisory committee on open science and data, and the recent hiring of an open data specialist to spearhead this initiative. The IAI now utilizes two main instruments to implement this policy: an open data catalog and a publications database.
138. The open data catalog, hosted on Harvard's Dataverse, includes collections structured around the four main thematic areas of the IAI's scientific agenda. As of now, it contains 23 datasets from IAI-funded research projects conducted between 2019 and 2022. Analysis of this catalog revealed both strengths and weaknesses, such as the heterogeneous nature of the data and varying levels of user engagement. He noted ongoing efforts to enhance the consistency and visibility of the catalog.
139. He then turned to the second instrument: the publications database. Hosted on the IAI website, this database includes over 600 publications and reports from IAI-funded projects. While it has many strengths, a significant area for improvement is ensuring these publications are open access. Incentivizing IAI-funded projects to publish openly would increase the accessibility and interoperability of these resources with larger regional or global repositories.
140. In the subsequent months, a biennial plan focused on three main objectives was developed: implementing and updating the IAI's open data policy, improving the accessibility and usability of existing instruments, and making data available for various evaluation and decision-making processes. These processes include country-specific analyses by the United Nations, assessments by intergovernmental platforms like the IPCC and IPBES, collaborative research initiatives such as those from the Belmont Forum, and an ongoing project under the LACI open data initiative.
141. He concluded his presentation by inviting Parties to take note of the report under this item of the agenda.

#### Agenda item 11: Observer status

142. The Executive Director presented this item of the agenda.
143. She explained that the IAI had a practice of allowing observers to attend CoPs and Executive Council meetings, but there were no specific rules for granting permanent Observer Status.
144. The standing rules for the participation of observers in CoP meetings and Executive Council meetings did not include specific procedures for identifying formal observers to the IAI. To address this, it was proposed that these procedures be established.
145. The proposed procedures included allowing Parties to request that permanent observers be admitted to the IAI. Additionally, observers could directly submit their request to the Executive Council. The Bureau of the Executive Council would review these requests and determine whether they should be included on the agenda. A decision would then be made at the CoP to

grant permanent Observer Status.

146. For removing permanent Observer Status, it was proposed that if observers had not participated in the last three years, they would be notified, and their status would be removed. Observers could also request removal at any time. It was also suggested that the Executive Council request the removal of observers at any time.
147. Similarly, there was no provision for removing an IAI Associate who had become inactive. Since the IAI was established 32 years ago, it was likely that some partners were no longer active. Therefore, it was proposed that associates who had been inactive for three years be notified and their status as Associates be removed. Associates could also be removed as Associates at any time, and the Executive Council could withdraw Associate status at any time.
148. The provisional decisions and additional information about this process were detailed in the CoP documentation regarding granting formal Observer Status. The procedures for granting Observer Status and the provisions for removing Associate status, which currently did not exist, would be published and made public on the IAI website.
149. She added that the IAI institutional documents lack a provision to retire Associates and recommended that such an analog provision be adopted for the Associates.
150. CoP-32 approved the decision XXXII/20, XXXII/21 and XXXII/22 under this item of the agenda, provided in the Annex of this report.
151. The meeting moved on to the special thematic session on climate change, adaptation, and resilience. Presentations were made by:
  - Bolivia: Adaptation to Climate Change, National Programs.
  - Colombia: Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change
  - Panama: Project "Nature4Cities – Increasing Resilience through Nature-Based Solutions in Latin American Cities."
  - USA: LACI, Enhancing Capacity for Climate Risk Assessment and Catalyzing Partnerships to Inform Decisions in Latin America and the Caribbean.
  
  - Canada: Climate Science 2050: National Priorities for Climate Change Science and Knowledge

Agenda item 12: Determination of the time and venue of the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties

152. Canada reminded that the CoP-33 will be hosted by Paraguay, as it was expressed interest in at CoP-31, as per the adopted decision XXXI/23 and offered the floor to Paraguay.
153. Paraguay expressed that they had started the process to identify a venue in Asunción and five hotels were in process of adjudication. This year they would inform the venue to begin logistic arrangements.
154. The Executive Director announced that if financial support is needed, the Directorate would

sponsor one focal point per country to attend CoP-33.

#### Closing remarks

155. The Chair opened the floor for closing remarks.
156. The Executive Director thanked Bolivia and Canada for co-hosting the CoP-32 and the chairs for a smooth conducting of the meeting. She assured the Parties that the Directorate would strive to support the work plan defined by the Parties in the best possible way.
157. Bolivia stated that the meeting underscored the critical importance of the IAI's work, noting that without its contributions, current advancements on global environmental change science and policy would not be possible. They praised the Directorate for its exemplary technical and financial management and emphasized the invaluable participation of focal points. These collective efforts have enabled significant progress, allowing for the development of effective strategies to enhance the capacity and resilience of our communities in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.
158. Canada acknowledged the substantial progress made by the Institute and expressed gratitude to all participants, emphasizing that this collective achievement is a source of pride.
159. The Executive Director announced that the Science Director would be leaving the IAI in the coming weeks, and she thanked him for his service to the Directorate. The Science Director explained that he would be transitioning out of his role by July 2024 to ensure a smooth handover. He expressed his gratitude to all the Parties for their trust and excellent work, wished the IAI the best, and stated that he would continue to support the organization from his new position. The Executive Director indicated that the vacancy would be announced the following Monday and invited the Parties to join the selection committee for the new science director of the IAI.
160. The Parties praised the organization of the event.
161. The Chair thanked all the Parties for their participation and support of the IAI.
162. The meeting was closed on 23 May at 5:00 PM (UYT).

Section II: Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirty-second meeting.

**Decisions of the 32nd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the  
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research  
Videoconference  
22-23 May 2024**

**Approval of the Report of the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

*Directed to the Conference of the Parties*

XXXII/1. The Conference of the Parties approves the Report of the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties

**Approval of the Report of the 2024 Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

*Directed to the Conference of the Parties*

XXXII/2. The Conference of the Parties approves the Report of the 2024 Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties

**Core Budget**

*Directed to the Conference of the Parties*

XXXII/3. The conference of the Parties approves the core budget for 2024-2025 with an increase of 20% in voluntary contributions, and the preliminary request for fiscal years 2025-2027, with increases of 5% per year, subject to approval by the appropriate authorities in each country.

XXXII/4. The Conference approves the Independent Auditors' report.

**The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)**

*Directed to the IAI Directorate*

XXXII/5. The IAI Directorate is instructed to foster communication between focal points, SAC/SPAC members, and investigators of funded projects, and the larger scientific community, to strengthen the strategic exchange of information and knowledge relevant to global change science, to increase the use of science in decision making and policy processes, and to improve the implementation of IAI's Strategic Plan.

*Directed to Parties*

XXXII/6. The Parties are encouraged to develop robust financing strategies, aimed at securing sustainable resources for the IAI Directorate, including increasing Party contributions, identifying external funding sources, identifying in-kind (non-financial) resources from Parties, and other flexible funding mechanisms, thus ensuring the continuity and long-term impact of the IAI.

XXXII/7. The Parties are encouraged to increase the engagement of IAI with other sectors and institutions within their respective countries, for example by inviting the Directorate or SAC/SPAC members to present at virtual or in person meetings or by identifying additional alternate focal points from other agencies, with the aim of increasing visibility, impact, and partnerships across sectors at the national level.

### **The IAI Strategic Plan**

*Directed to the IAI Conference of the Parties*

XXXII/8. The Conference of the Parties adopts the new IAI Strategic Plan for the period 2024-2030

*Directed to the IAI Directorate*

XXXII/9. The IAI Directorate is instructed to monitor and evaluate the activities of the Directorate as dictated in the IAI's Strategic Plan, to periodically solicit feedback from the Parties to include in the evaluations, and to report on these outcomes during the annual Conference of the Parties.

### **Invitation to the Center for Climate and Resilience Research of the University of Chile to become an Associate of the Institute**

*Directed to Parties*

XXXII/10. The Conference of the Parties invites the Center for Climate and Resilience Research (CR2) of the University of Chile to become an Associate of the Institute.

*Directed to the IAI Directorate*

XXXII/11. The IAI Directorate is tasked with sending an invitation to the Center for Climate and Resilience Research (CR2) of the University of Chile to become an Associate of the Institute and preparing an Agreement of Association which shall specify the areas of the Scientific Agenda and/or programmatic activities that will be supported by the Associate, and the modalities of such support.

### **Invitation to the Santa Catarina Research and Innovation Foundation (FAPESC) to become an Associate of the Institute**

*Directed to Parties*

XXXII/12. The Conference of the Parties invites the Santa Catarina Research and Innovation Foundation (FAPESC) to become an Associate of the Institute.

*Directed to the IAI Directorate*

XXXII/13. The IAI Directorate is tasked with sending an invitation to Santa Catarina Research and Innovation Foundation (FAPESC) to become an Associate of the Institute and preparing an Agreement of Association which shall specify the areas of the Scientific Agenda and/or programmatic activities that will be supported by the Associate, and the modalities of such support.

## **Invitation to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) to become an Associate of the Institute**

*Directed to Parties*

XXXII/14. The Conference of the Parties invites the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) to become an Associate of the Institute.

*Directed to the IAI Directorate*

XXXII/15. The IAI Directorate is tasked with sending an invitation to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) to become an Associate of the Institute and preparing an Agreement of Association which shall specify the areas of the Scientific Agenda and/or programmatic activities that will be supported by the Associate, and the modalities of such support.

## **Science Diplomacy Center (SDC)**

*Directed to the Parties*

XXXII/16. The Parties are encouraged to continue to actively participate and support the IAI Directorate in the development of the activities of the Science Diplomacy Center.

XXXII/17. The Conference of the Parties approves the recommendation of the Science Diplomacy Center Advisory Board to establish a working group on emerging issues and technologies.

## **Policy on Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)**

*Directed to the IAI Directorate*

XXXII/18. The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to train its staff and fellows in Gender and EDI, and internally promote strategies and guidelines to carry out the Implementation Plan of its Policy.

## **The Committee on Indigenous Peoples and the Committee on Local Communities**

*Directed to the IAI Directorate*

XXXII/19. The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to continue working on the design of two advisory committees, one with representatives of Indigenous Peoples and the other with representatives of Local Communities, based on the facilitation of consultations with representatives and leaders of these communities, and to report the results of these consultations at the next meeting of the Executive Council.

## **Formal procedures for granting Observer Status at the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research**

*Directed to Parties*

XXXII/20. The Conference of the Parties adopts the Formal procedures for granting Observer Status at the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research. Directed to the IAI Directorate

*Directed to the IAI Directorate*

XXXII/21. The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to publish the Formal procedures for granting Observer Status at the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research on the IAI website

**Provision for removing Associate Status at the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research**

*Directed to Parties*

XXXII/22. The Conference of the Parties adopts the provision to remove the IAI Associate Status, following three years of inactivity.

**Headquarters of the Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research**

*Directed to the Parties*

XXXII/23. By 1 June 2024, the Parties are invited to jointly submit a formal letter to the Government of Uruguay requesting an extension of the date of operations of the IAI in Uruguay until 31 July 2025 and allowing the Directorate to continue to operate with diplomatic immunities and privileges, but at no additional cost to Uruguay, after 29 July 2025.

XXXII/24. The Parties are invited to establish a Transition Committee to support the transition of the Headquarters of the IAI from Uruguay to Panama, to ensure the maintenance of IAI and Belmont Forum activities and operations.