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1 July 2024

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Fifty-seventh meeting
Videoconference
16 May 2024**

Report of the 57th meeting of the IAI Executive Council

1. This document was prepared by the IAI Directorate.

Introduction

2. The Executive Council of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) held its fifty-seventh meeting (EC-57) via videoconferencing on 16 May 2024.
3. The account of the proceedings and discussions of the meeting are provided in section I of this report.
4. The meeting made three recommendations, which are provided in section II of the report.

Section I: Proceedings of the meeting

Introduction

5. In accordance with *the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article VI, *The Executive Council*, paragraph 3, the 57th meeting of the Executive Council to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research was held on 16 May 2024 via videoconference.
6. The EC-57 was held back-to-back with the 32nd meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-32, videoconference, 22–23 May 2024) in accordance with Article VI, paragraph 3 of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* and Decision XXV/19: *Joint SAC, SPAC, and EC-CoP meetings*.

7. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Executive Council, Maria Uhle, United States. Anabella Vásquez, Panama, was the First Vice-Chair, and Stephanie Janetos, Canada, was the Second Vice-Chair.
8. The following Parties to the Agreement, which are members of the Executive Council, attended the meeting: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Panama, Paraguay, United States of America, and Uruguay.
9. The following observer Parties attended the meeting: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Perú.
10. The following members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) attended the meeting: Alexandra Mallet, Omar López, and Mercy Borbor.
11. The following members of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) attended the meeting: David Smith and Amparo Martínez.
12. The list of observer Parties and other observers attending the meeting is provided in the List of Participants available on the EC-57 web page¹: <https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/EC-57>.

Opening of the meeting

Welcome by the Chair of the Executive Council

13. The Chair opened the meeting and thanked members of the Executive Council for their attendance and support of the IAI. She wished everyone a successful meeting and offered the floor to the IAI Executive Director for comments.
14. The IAI Executive Director thanked members of the Executive Council for their attendance and support of the IAI.

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

15. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the agenda.
16. Changes were made to the agenda to move item 5.b and item 5.c before item 5.a and to include an item on granting IAI observer permanent status right after item 5.c.
17. The agenda was approved by consensus.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the Reports of the 55th and 56th meetings of the Executive Council

18. The Chair invited members of the Executive Council to approve the reports of the 55th and 56th meetings of the Executive Council.

¹See: <https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/EC-57-List%20of%20Participants.pdf>

19. The reports were approved by consensus.

Agenda items 3 and 4: Financial and Administrative Committee report and financial items to be forwarded to the CoP-32

20. The Chair invited the Administration, Finance and Operations Officer to introduce agenda items 3 and 4.
21. The Administration, Finance and Operations Officer began her introduction by summarizing the Financial and Administrative Committee report and the financial items to be forwarded to the CoP-32.
22. She continued her presentation by stating that the Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC), in its report, *reviewed the IAI's core budget request for the coming fiscal year and recommended that the Executive Council forward it to the Conference of the Parties for approval.*
23. The FAC considered that the budget request reflected the changing nature of the IAI's operations and that the proposed expenditures were reasonable and appropriate.
24. She highlighted that the auditors' report gave an unqualified opinion that the IAI's financial statement presented its financial position fairly in all material respects.
25. She presented the request for the core budget and contributions from countries for the fiscal year 2024–2025 and the preliminary request for fiscal years 2025–2027. In the proposal, country voluntary contributions are increased by 20% for the fiscal year 2024–2025 compared to 2023–2024 and by 5% in subsequent years, as recommended by the Financial Working Group established by the Conference of the Parties.
26. She explained that an increase in the category *salaries and benefits* of hired staff reflected the hiring of a position to support communications at the IAI and the natural yearly adjustments of some items, namely, health insurance and other benefits.
27. She continued noting that the *travel* category saw a slight increase due to increased activity and higher attendance at events aligned with the IAI's strategy, as well as the natural rise in travel ticket prices.
28. Parties were invited to consider the document that was prepared by the IAI Directorate on behalf of the Financial Working Group.
29. The Executive Council recommended that the Conference of the Parties approve the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2024–2025 and the preliminary request for 2025–2027.

Agenda item 5: Report of the Executive Council

Agenda item 5.b: Report of the Financial Working Group

30. The Executive Director presented this item on the agenda and summarized the activities and discussions addressed by the Financial Working Group, which was

comprised of Parties and members of the SAC and SPAC.

31. She mentioned that the discussions focused on the challenges faced by the Directorate given that Party contributions have not been adjusted in recent years to account for inflation and several Parties have not made voluntary contributions for several years. Discussions also emphasized the voluntary nature of contributions, alongside the need to report on both monetary and in-kind contributions.
32. The Working Group recommended increasing contributions to account for inflation, focusing on future contributions from Parties rather than pending past contributions, and reporting in-kind contributions in addition to financial contributions in annual reports to the Conference of the Parties.

Agenda item 5c: Decision XXIX/9: Report on the Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment to support adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean

33. The Initiative aims to establish partnerships in the Americas to enhance countries' capacity to conduct national climate assessments to support the development of national adaptation and mitigation strategies.
34. The Chair explained that the initiative included different pilot projects focused on the Amazon region, the La Plata region, El Salvador, and Jamaica.
35. She commented that workshops had been held to co-develop the pilots, and the groups were working on raising funding for the projects. She invited interested Parties to contact her and stated that there was still plenty of opportunity to participate in the four pilot projects.
36. She shared the link for more information on *The Initiative for Enhancing Capacity for Climate Risk Assessment and Catalyzing Partnerships to Inform Decisions in Latin America and the Caribbean*, or LACI: <https://www.globalchange.gov/our-work/laci>

Observer status

37. The Executive Director presented this item on the agenda.
38. She explained that the IAI currently lacks procedures for granting permanent observer status. However, the CoP and EC rules provide the conditions for observers to participate in the CoP and EC meetings. She briefly described those conditions.
39. She then described the proposed procedures for granting permanent observer status. A provision to retire the observer status was also presented: retiring the observer permanent status after three (3) years of inactivity or by request from the observer or the EC.
40. She added that the IAI institutional documents lack a provision to retire Associates and recommended that an analogous provision be adopted for the Associates.
41. The Executive Council recommended that the Conference of the Parties approve the

draft Decisions provided under this agenda item.

Agenda item 5.a: Headquarters of the IAI Directorate

Closed discussion with country delegates and the IAI Directorate.

42. The Executive Director opened this agenda item, explaining that, following the Extraordinary CoP held in March 2024, the Directorate had been working with Panama to move the IAI headquarters. Under the most optimistic scenario, the Panamanian Host Country Agreement would be approved by October 2024, which would allow the Directorate to relocate from Uruguay to Panama with diplomatic immunities and privileges.
43. Brazil asked Panama to explain the transition timeline.
44. Panama, answered that she was optimistic about the transition timeline of the IAI Directorate to Panama, given the recent Government change, which would begin its new term in July 2024. A stable team had been designated to work on the Host Country Agreement process and the transition of the IAI Directorate to Panama and they would continue working during the Government transition. She said that they hoped to have the Agreement ready and approved by October 2024.
45. The Executive Director reported that the Directorate will be leaving the current office space provided by the Government of Uruguay, in LATU, by 29 July 2024 and is exploring possibilities of temporary office space that would be granted to the IAI by the Uruguayan Agency of Innovation and Research (ANII).
46. The Executive Director explained that on 15 May 2024, the Directorate received an official letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay indicating that the Host Country Agreement would terminate on 29 July 2024 and that Uruguay would exceptionally provide the IAI Directorate with three additional months to complete their mission in Uruguay (until 31 October 2024).
47. Brazil expressed concern about the timelines. He thanked Panama for their efforts to expedite the process and their optimism. He recalled that in the Extraordinary Meeting of the CoP, a request was made for an additional year in Uruguay, until 31 July 2025. He recommended developing a strategy so that the relocation does not affect the projects and operations of the IAI. He strongly recommended that actions be taken to ensure the operations of the IAI could continue, in the case that the Panamanian Host Country Agreement is not ready before the end of October 2024.
48. Canada supported the transition of the IAI to Panama and urged the Government of Uruguay to accommodate the timeline requested so that the IAI Directorate can continue to operate with diplomatic immunities and privileges in Uruguay until the end of July 2025.
49. United States noted that she contacted the Department of State of the United States, and their opinion aligned with what Brazil and Canada proposed. They offered assistance through the US Embassy in Montevideo. She proposed that the Parties collectively ask Uruguay for a further extension, ideally until July 2025. Panama, agreed with the need for an extension, considering that the process of passing the host country agreement through the Panamanian legislature could encounter normal delays

associated with the transition to a new government, which would take office in July 2024. She supported the idea of collectively asking Uruguay to extend the term of operations of the IAI in Uruguay.

50. United States suggested that focal points sign a letter with a statement requesting the extension of the deadline to 31 July 2025. She encouraged Parties to work with their embassies in Uruguay to explore the possibility of supporting the statement put forth by the IAI focal points.
51. Uruguay referred to the official letter submitted on the previous day, 15 May 2024, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Mr. Omar Paganini, in reply to the letter sent by the IAI Directorate in April 2024. He reiterated Uruguay's intention as stated in the denunciation notice to respect all terms and deadlines of the Agreement, including privileges and immunities. Exceptionally, and in response to the arguments presented in the letter of April 2024 from the IAI Directorate, the Minister granted the three-month deadline extension that had been mentioned, until the end of October of 2024.
52. He also mentioned that they were surprised that in April 2024, the IAI Directorate had requested that Uruguay reconsider the denunciation of the Agreement, given that Uruguay had expressed that this was a final decision twice and in writing. Uruguay reiterated at the Extraordinary Meeting of the CoP, 26 March 2024, its willingness to facilitate a smooth transition, considering the best interests of the Parties.
53. Finally, he referenced November 2023 as the first notice on the intention to denunciate the Agreement, which was finally formalized and officially issued at the end of January 2024 and regarded the period of 11 months (November 2023–October 2024) as due time to search for the new headquarters.
54. The Chair thanked Uruguay. She then suggested that the EC request that the CoP officially communicate with the Government of Uruguay to secure further provisions around moving assets out of the country and extending privileges and immunities of three (3) international positions.
55. The Executive Director thanked Uruguay and Panama for their support during the long transition. She noted that the Directorate began the process of identifying its new headquarters soon after receiving the first communication from the Uruguayan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and she thanked the Parties, especially Panama, for having facilitated this expedited process. Despite this rapid progress, she noted that the IAI previously had to move its headquarters and both of these transitions took at least one year. She highlighted the importance of ensuring that the transition does not interrupt the operations of the IAI and Belmont Forum. She thanked the Parties for their support.
56. The Executive Council recommended that the Parties sign an official letter requesting that the Government of Uruguay extend the immunities and privileges provision until 31 July 2025.

Agenda item 6: Closing remarks and closure of the meeting

57. The Chair expressed gratitude for the support of the Executive Council to the IAI and its work.
58. The Executive Director thanked Canada and Bolivia for hosting the CoP-32 the following

week and reminded participants of the special events hosted by the CoP-32 and side events the same week. She also reminded participants of the SAC and SPAC pre-CoP meeting following the EC-57.

59. The meeting was closed at 12:12 p.m. on 16 May 2024.

Section II: Recommendations adopted by the Executive Council at its 57th meeting

Recommendations

Approval of the Reports of the 55th and 56th meetings of the EC

LI/1. The Executive Council approves the reports of its 55th and 56th meetings.

Core Budget and Country Contributions

LI/1. Invites the Conference of the Parties to approve the Core Budget and Country Contributions for FY 2024-2025 and to consider the Preliminary request for 2025-2027.

Headquarters of the IAI Directorate

LI/2. Invites the Conference of the Parties to jointly sign an official letter requesting that the Government of Uruguay extend the immunities and privileges provision until 31 July 2025.

Permanent Observer Status at the IAI and Associates of the IAI

LI/3: The Executive Council recommends the Conference of the Parties consider the following draft decisions:

Directed to Parties

XXXII/20.

The Conference of the Parties adopts the Formal procedures for granting Permanent Observer Status at the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research.

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXXII/21.

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

Directed to Parties

XXXII/22.

The Conference of the Parties adopts the Provision for retiring Associates of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research.