

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS: IANAS WFS MEETING BOGOTÁ

13-14 AUGUST 2019

All following Wfs focal points attended: Gloria Dubner (Argentina), Marcia Marguis (and Marcos Cortesao, Brazil), Maria Cecilia Hidalgo (Chile), Monica Moraes (Bolivia), Frances Henry (Canada), Angela Camacho (Colombia), Henriette Raventos (Costa Rica), Olga Fernandez (Cuba), Milena Cabrera (Dominican Republic), Jenny Ruales (Ecuador), Maria del Carmen Samayoa (Guatemala), Carolina Alduvin (Honduras), Melba Castillo (Nicaragua), Dayra Alvarez (Panama), Ruth Shady (Peru), Ana Denicola (Uruguay), Lucia Rothman-Denes for Carol Gross USA), Liliana Lopez (Venezuela).

Welcome, Frances Henry, WfS co-chair, Enrique Forero, President of the Colombian Academy of Exact, Physics and Natural Sciences.

Beatriz Caputto (IANAS Executive Director) arrived later in the day due to flight delays.

Jeremy McNeil (IANAS Co-chair) could not connect via videoconference

Introduction of New Members

My life, my science in 5 min:

Jenny Ruales – Ecuador – Food Science

Marcia Marguis – Brazil – Plant molecular biology

Lucia Rothman-Denes – USA – Microbiology

Reports from the Academies

Summary of the most important activities reported by the Focal-points of each Academy, presented by Frances Henry to the IANAS General Assembly in May 2019.

Frances will send an e-mail to all focal points with the report she presented.

Marcos suggest that the national reports should be made available at the IANAS website whenever possible.

Status of the Projects

a) **Science education:** project on a book on women and science education was proposed. Meanwhile IAP put out a call for research grants and an application was made by Frances and Carlos Bosch. Unfortunately, IAP removed this funding opportunity due to its own budget reduction, thus, discontinued.

b) **Energy:** revised chapter on women and energy was shelved as there was little interest by the original authors, thus, also discontinued.

c) **Food and Nutrition Security:** This book, including our chapter on gender is

available on our website and it was reported to be a successful publication.

<http://www.ianas.org/index.php/books/ianas-publications>

<http://www.ianas.org/index.php/programs/food-and-nutrition-security>

d) **Water Program:** The chapter on women and water was completed. The book itself was published and many Academies created a celebratory event to launch the publication.
<https://www.ianas.org/images/books/wb10.pdf>

e) **The Anneke Levelt Sengers Prize**

Unanimous agreement to hold the Prize every 2 years. A call should be launched in 2020 to have a winner by the end of the year.

The Colombian Academy of Science will host the prize giving ceremony in 2021 in their Annual Meeting of the Academy. The winner will give a talk.

The participating countries will be the same: Bolivia, CAS (Caribbean), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay

Marcos emphasized the need to create a real national selection process, i.e. in each participating country to advertise the call and to select a jury. There should be a ceremony to give the national prize where the national winner can give a speech in her own country.

Biographies of the candidates presented by each country Academy will be posted on the webpage. Once we have a web manager, the biographies should be uploaded and corrections to the old ones should be made. All the applicants to the 2018 prize should also get a Certificate from IANAS, and Carmen volunteered to do this.

Cecilia proposed to ask each winner to send a 3 min long-video of herself (guidelines for the video should be included) to be uploaded to the web page with the biography.

[Beatriz Caputto](#) volunteered to send e-mails to the winners about this.

[New committee for the Prize: Chair: Lucia/Carol \(USA\), Marcos \(Brazil\), Judith \(Mexico\), Gloria \(Argentina\), Frances \(Canada\)](#)

f) **Mentoring program**

[Committee: Jetty \(Costa Rica\), Lucia/Carol \(USA\), Mónica \(Bolivia\), Dayra \(Panamá\), Frances \(Canada\), Liliana \(Venezuela\).](#)

This committee will present a final proposal to run a pilot experiment, not too ambitious, with the list of mentors already volunteered (21). [Jenny Ruales](#) will send an e-mail to all mentors who had already volunteered to update the situation and explain the delay. We will limit mentoring to professional development.

In order to advertise our mentoring program, it was proposed that we join Instagram and Twitter, which will include a link to our webpage.

g) Census update

Frances will send an e-mail with the questionnaire to all Academies (to the President of the Academy and copy to the focal point) that should respond (e-mail to Frances) by October 2019.

Concerning the compelling need for funding to accomplish any future project, different suggestions were discussed. The general consensus is that besides the lack of international support for activities in the Academies, and the serious budget problems many academies are going through, there are always some activities that can be performed with low budget.

Melba Castillo called our attention to the research call by a Canadian institution IDRC (International Development Research Centre), to work on “Breaking systemic barriers to women’s participation in science”, addressed to help improve gender equality and diversity in science education. Frances had already tried to develop a team and an institution to host the project. Costa Rica was interested but the short time frame and the need to contact many people became too difficult in the short time frame for submission. Meantime Melba disclosed that she, her colleagues and a university in Nicaragua were submitting a proposal. Frances discussed the possibility with Melba that WfS be included in their proposal as a partner. Melba immediately emailed to the team lead in Nicaragua who accepted our idea. Frances then quickly wrote up a short statement as to how WfS could participate. The team lead replied very quickly saying she had included our participation in the proposal which was submitted on Aug. 15.

We are mindful that this is, of course, a highly competitive process. We will hear results probably towards the end of November 2019.

Visibility of women in science

a) **Dissemination of IANAS Women for Science:** a website for Facebook was originally created by Veronica Crespo (Ecuador). However, she left the WfS and Mónica Moraes (Bolivia) has been in charge.

Monica encouraged us to send, an activity related to women for science that is being held in our countries and academies to keep facebook alive. An increased number of visitors to the page have been noticed (now 285), also, a good deal of advertising has appeared, at least 125 pieces, which means that we are gaining visibility. The number of visitors fluctuates. Monica volunteered to answer each message since they are not that many.

A link to Instagram was suggested; it is simple when posting through Instagram to automatically post the same thing on Facebook. Since Dayra is familiar with this process, she agreed to be engaged in the team with Monica.

Jetty also suggested Twitter since it is now favored by the new generation.

b) **Biographies:** Biographies are being collected from academies that did not participate in our earlier project. Ecuador already has the interviews, as well as Honduras (needs to reduce to just 2 biographies), and Uruguay needs to present an additional biography of a senior researcher. When all are concluded and we have a new website manager, they will be uploaded to our site.

c) **Women Scientists as Entrepreneurs:** After a long discussion, it was decided to call it Women Scientists as Leaders, or Women Leadership or Women Leaders Outside the Academia, or **Women Scientists Outside the Academia**. Instead of just focusing on entrepreneurs, we will seek women leaders in other fields such as journalism, politics, etc. The goal of this project is that each country finds a story of a woman scientist leader who has developed a successful career outside academia.

If the results of this study are useful and interesting, we will consider developing a magazine type book similar to the one done earlier.

Committee to write a draft: Lucia/Carol (USA), Carolina (Honduras), Cecilia (Chile), Angela (Colombia), Frances (Canada)

d) **Video Competitions:** after another long discussion, a new committee was designated that will study the feasibility of launching a regional video contest as proposed by Marcos or postpone it to next year's meeting. Cecilia will send to the committee listed below the contest rules for the Chilean competition

New committee: Chair: Judith (Mexico), Cecilia (Chile) who will chair if Judith cannot do it, Carmen (Guatemala), Marcos (Brazil), Dayra (Panama), Mónica (Bolivia).

e) **Involving Men in our Efforts:** It was agreed that men should be invited to participate in our activities, and we had begun by inviting the Brazilian president last year. We continued this tradition by inviting the President of the Colombian Academy to our meeting in Bogota. We will continue this practice in future meetings.

f) **New Business. New Project Ideas:** Homework!

Many of our activities past and present are designed to enhance participation of women in science in general ways. It was proposed to find ways to increase women power in the Academies by recruiting and promoting women to positions of leadership in each Academy.

This time we have asked for a project to be undertaken by each focal point within their own academy. Each focal point will select a simple activity that is to be carried out in and

by the academy, designed to popularize the importance of women in science. These can be: 1-build a network of women scientists from both within the academy and among women scientists outside of it; 2-hold a series of workshops on the importance of women in science for the public; 3-set up a strategy for each academy to create videos; 4-set up a lecture or information series for the public and the academy's own members, 5-connect with journalists, 6-present women scientists to high school students, 7-generate gender committees in each Academy, etc. This should be done over the course of this coming year and each focal point has to report back to our WfS meeting the following year.

g) **Venue of the next meeting.** Uruguay and Costa Rica are interested in hosting our next meeting. Jetty and Ana will confirm after consulting their academies. Jenny and Milena from Ecuador and the Dominican Republic said they can perhaps host it after 2021.