

Minutes of the 2019 IANAS General Assembly held in Bogota, Colombia
May 26 and 27, 2019

Attendees:

Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Argentina (Juan Tirao)
Academia Nacional de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales (Roberto Williams)
Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Bolivia (Gonzalo Taboada López)
Academia Brasileira de Ciências (Marcos Cortesão Barnsley Scheuenstuhl)
Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Física y Naturales (Enrique Forero)
Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Costa Rica (Walter Fernández Rojas)
Academia de Ciencias de Cuba (Dr. Luis Velázquez Pérez)
Academia Chilena de Ciencias (Juan Asenjo, IANAS Co-Chair)
Academia de Ciencias de Ecuador (Ángel Gustavo Guevara)
Academia de Ciencias Médicas, Físicas y Naturales de Guatemala (María del Carmen Samayoa)
Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Honduras (María Guadalupe Carolina Alduvín Sainz)
Academia Mexicana de Ciencias (José Luis Morán López)
Academia de Ciencias de Nicaragua (Jorge A. Huete Pérez)
Asociación Panameña para el Avance de la Ciencia - (APANAC) (Martin Candanedo)
Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Peru (Gustavo F. Gonzáles)
Academia de Ciencias de la República Dominicana (Luis Sheker Ortiz; Milciades Mejía)
Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Uruguay (Rafael Radi)
Academia de Ciencias Físicas, Matemáticas y Naturales de Venezuela (Gioconda San Blas)
Academia de Ciencias de América Latina (Claudio Bifano)
Caribbean Academy of Sciences (Winston Mellowes)
National Academy of Sciences (Marcia McNutt, John G. Hildebrand, John, Boright, Nina Ward;
Franklin Carreño Martínez)
Royal Society of Canada (Jeremy McNeil, IANAS CO-Chair)

Former IANAS Co-chairs

Hernán Chaimovich (Brazil)
Michael Clegg (USA)
Juan Pedro Laclette (Mexico)

Executive Director

Adriana de la Cruz

Co-Chairs and Focal Points of the IANAS Programmes:

José A. Lozano (Education, Colombia)
José María Rincón, (Energy, Colombia); Anthony Clayton (Energy, Jamaica)
Elizabeth Hodson (Food and Nutrition Security, Argentina)

Ángela Camacho (Women for Science, Colombia)

Gabriel Roldán (Water, Colombia); Katherine Vammen (Water, Nicaragua)

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks by Professor Enrique Forero (President of the Columbian Academy of Sciences).

Juan Asenjo (IANAS co-Chair) thanked Enrique Forero for hosting the meeting and then reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Sessions 1 and 2: Reports from and discussions of the IANAS programs.

A brief overview of the IANAS activities since the last General Assembly was presented by Jeremy McNeil, followed by more specific information on the different IANAS programs by the respective Co-Chairs. A resume of is found in Appendix 1.

There was general consensus that activities of the IANAS focal programs have offered opportunities for capacity building, with the Food and Nutritional Security and Water project being highlighted. It was noted that several initiatives fostered collaboration between programs, and it was strongly recommended that this be encouraged in all future undertakings.

Session 3: General Business

Jeremy McNeil presented information on the significant changes to the base funding IAP will provide the four regional networks. In 2018-2019 each network received \$110K with the fiscal year being January 1st to December 31st, but will now receive \$65K for the fiscal year July 1st 2019 to 30th June, 2020. As this change in fiscal year left the networks with the possibility of no funding for the first six months of 2019, IAP agreed to advance funding so scheduled activities (such as this meeting) could go forward. However, the 65K is for the 18 months, from January 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2020.

It was noted that this significant reduction in funding coincided with the decision of the Mexican Academy, due to changes in their own financial situation, to no longer host the IANAS Secretariat or provide the salary of the Executive Director.

There was an animated discussion about ways to move forward: these included having Academies making greater contributions towards travel costs of their representatives attending IANAS meetings, reducing the number of targeted programmes and being more proactive in seeking alternate sources of funding. There was a clear consensus that while IANAS is going to pass through a difficult period we must treat this as “a glass half full rather than a glass half empty” situation and work together to ensure that IANAS retains its outstanding track record.

Review and approval of revisions to the 2016 IANAS Statutes and Rules of Procedures

Statutes: Several modifications were proposed:

III.2 Composition of the Executive Committee

The existing text stated

- a) Two Co-Chairs, from Academies of countries with different degrees of development.
- b) Nine additional full members
 - One from the Academy that hosts the General Assembly
 - One from the Academy that will host the next General Assembly;
 - Five elected member Academies from countries not represented by the countries of the Co-Chairs;
 - At each EC meeting the Co-Chairs will invite by rotation two member Academies not elected to the EC to attend as non-voting observers.

No country can have more than one vote on the Executive Committee.

The lead host Academy for the secretariat will be designated as an observer invited to participate in EC meetings.

It was proposed and adopted that the following be included as a new section

c) If their respective Academies are unable to do so, only the travel expenses of the five elected representatives will be assured by IANAS.

The IANAS focal programs

VII.2.1 IANAS programs will be organized and implemented by a committee of focal points from each IANAS academy and two co-chairs. The Co-Chairs shall be proposed to the IANAS Executive Committee by the focal points.

It was proposed and accepted that this be changed to:

For any initiative the Co-chairs will be nominated by the Executive Committee, following consultation with the member Academies.

The focal points will be nominated by their respective Academies.

VII.3 The two Co-Chairs of a program should be proposed to the Executive Committee by the focal points for approval. The Co-Chairs should be appointed for a three-year term to coincide with IANAS General Assemblies. If or when a Co-Chair resigns he/she and the Program Committee should propose a new chairperson to the Executive Committee.

It was proposed and accepted that this be changed to:

VII.3 Two Co-Chairs should be appointed for a three year term at the start of a project.

If a project goes beyond the three year period, one Co-Chair will be replaced to ensure there is rotation in the leadership.

Co-chairs should not normally serve for more than two three-year terms.

If a Co-Chair resigns the focal points, in consultation with their Academies, should propose a new candidate to the Executive Committee.

Rules of Procedure

Article 5: Issues of Global Concern currently states:

5.1. If the Executive Committee determines that IANAS shall issue a Statement in which it takes a public position on a scientific or societal problem of a global nature, the Executive Committee shall appoint an ad hoc Statement Committee to prepare a draft text.

5.2. Such a draft text shall be circulated to the member Academies at least sixty days before the General Assembly meeting at which the text is to be adopted as a Statement.

Member academies shall be requested to comment on the draft text and the Statement Committee shall consider all comments so received.

5.3. The Executive Committee shall place the final draft before the General Assembly for a decision. If the draft receives the support of a majority of all IANAS member Academies and no vote against it, it shall be made public as an IANAS Statement.

5.4. If it is not possible to submit a final draft to a meeting of the General Assembly, the draft may be submitted to IANAS member Academies for an email vote. In that case there shall also be a period of sixty days between the communication of the draft to IANAS member Academies and the decision on whether or not to make it public as an IANAS Statement.

The following changes were proposed and adopted:

5.1. If the Executive Committee determines that IANAS shall issue a Statement in which it takes a public position on a scientific or societal problem of a global nature, the Executive Committee shall appoint an ad hoc Statement Committee to prepare a draft text.

5.2. The draft will be circulated by email to all Academies with a request for comments within 14 days.

5.3: The revised draft will then be circulated for approval: no response within a week will be considered as a vote of approval. If the draft receives the support of a majority of all IANAS

member Academies, it will be made public as an IANAS statement.

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ANAS 2019-2022 Strategic Plan

A new strategic plan, based on the approved 2016-2019 version was presented but after discussion the consensus was that it needed significant modification, especially given the current financial situation. It was decided that a subcommittee should be stuck to rework the document and submit the revised document to the EC and member Academies at a later date.

IANAS Elections

Co-Chairs: Jeremy McNeil (Royal Society of Canada) was re-elected for a second term and Helena Nader (Brazilian Academy of Science) was elected to replace Juan Asenjo, who finished his second term.

Academy representatives:

There were eight Academies on the original slate of candidates but the Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Argentina (Cordoba) agreed to host the IANAS Secretariat so withdrew their candidacy. The successful Academies were

Academia Nacional de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales (Buenos Aires)
Academia de Ciencias Médicas, Físicas y Naturales de Guatemala
Academia Mexicana de Ciencias
Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Peru
Caribbean Academy of Sciences
US National Academy of Science

Acknowledgements of Service

All of the representatives of the Academies joined Jeremy McNeil in thanking (i) Juan Asenjo for his many contributions to IANAS during two mandates as Co-Chair, and (ii) Adriana de la Cruz for dedicated service as Executive Director, coordinating the Focal programs, with special recognition for her outstanding work associated with the production of the various IANAS publications.

Meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee.

The major point of discussion was how best to move forward with respect to the Secretariat. The Argentinian Academy in Cordoba has graciously accepted to host the Secretariat, and in order meet to the six points laid out in the IANAS Statutes during this transition period with reduced funding and the loss of the current Executive Director, the following plan was accepted.

- 1 Preparing and organizing all official IANAS meetings;
This will be the responsibility of the Academy in Cordoba
- 2 Disseminating relevant materials to member academies;
This will be the responsibility of the Academy in Cordoba
- 3 Preparing an Annual Report on IANAS programs and activities;

This will be the responsibility of the senior Co-Chair in collaboration with the Focal Point Co-chairs
- 4 Maintaining working relations with other relevant organizations;
This will be the responsibility of the Academy in Cordoba in collaboration with the IANAS Co-chairs and the Focal Point Chairs
- 5 Receiving and disbursing the funds of the IANAS
This will be the responsibility of the Mexican Academy
- 6 Preparing reports and audits on the finances of the IANAS.
This will be the responsibility of the Mexican Academy