



## INTER-AMERICAN NETWORK OF ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES

*Science Academies working together to promote science and technology  
for development, prosperity and equity in the Americas*

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### **IANAS EC Meeting February 2–3, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Hosted by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences

Minutes, First draft.

#### ***Attendees***

Jeremy McNeil and Helena Nader (Co-Chairs IANAS), Roberto Williams and Juan A. Tirao (Argentina), Enrique Forero (Colombia), María del Carmen Samayoa (Guatemala), José Luis Morán López (Mexico), Gustavo F. Gonzáles (Peru), John Boright (USA), Marcos Cortesao Barnsley Scheuenstuhl (Brazil), Beatriz L. Caputto (IANAS).

#### ***Welcome and Open Remarks***

Jeremy McNeil called on the President of the host Academy, Luiz Davidovich, to welcome the participants. During his remarks, Davidovich highlighted that Helena Nader was the first women Co-Chair of IANAS and that women scientist getting incorporated into the Brazilian Academy of Sciences has greatly increased. He also announced the presence of a representative of the Brazilian Academy of Medicine who gave some words expressing the desire of the Academy of Medicine to be incorporated into IANAS. After a short discussion on the state of this possibility, the discussion was postponed for later in the meeting.

#### ***Approval of the minute of the GA held in Bogotá, Colombia, on May 26 and 27.***

The minute were approved after a short discussion and the suggestion of several minor changes that the Executive Director will include in the final version.

#### ***IANAS new web page***

Co-Chair Jeremy McNeil informed that the web page of IANAS that had been set up through the Mexican Academy is now being migrated to a new platform (Wordpress), a format extremely easy to use. With the help of NAS, Nina Ward contacted different agencies that could do the migration and came through with three possible options. Creative Brand Design (England) was selected as the new agency because it is highly rated and relatively not expensive. The total cost of the migration process was 4000 pounds and 300 dollars a month (3 hours) for maintenance. Half of the cost has been paid and the other half will be paid when the page is finished. The page should be active by the next six weeks.

Some suggestions were made for the new page such as the inclusion of Capacity Building as a huge statement on the home page in addition to the statement of the mission of IANAS. It was also suggested that more people looking as Latin-Americans be shown and that the word hemisphere be replaced by *the Americas*.

## ***Financial Situation***

IANAS always talked about fundraising but has been rather complacent because it was receiving US\$120000 /year but now, instead of getting this amount per year, IANAS received US \$65000 for an 18-month period (Jan 2019-end of Jun 2020). The annual GA was the priority as were some programs: The Water Program and the WfS Program. The Energy program did not get together and Science in Schools did not request financial support.

Part of the money received was used to pay the new web page so now there are US\$17000 left, part of which will be used to pay the remaining bill for the new web page. It remains to be decided what will be done with the US\$10000 left. A possibility considered previously was to link the Energy Program with the Water Program through the University of Arizona that has a big Energy-Water program that expands America. The new IAP for Science Co-Chair, Cherry Murry, is at Arizona and accepted to host a meeting with both programs there. However, the Water program decided to do something on their own so this meeting will not take place.

A new budget of US\$65000 must be prepared for a new physical year starting July 2020. However, a bigger budget is required to accomplish all of the activities programmed by IANAS. To get more financial support requires that IANAS formally initiate a coordinated fundraising campaign. It was discussed which possible organizations could support IANAS. Some years ago, the Gates Foundation supported a Capacity Building Program in South Africa. It supported six pre-existing Academies and also helped to establish new academies. Even if most countries in the Americas have an Academy, many of them are in a bad situation so financial support could be requested for capacity building to enable these academies to continue doing what they do and also to improve until their situation gets better. Different possibilities for starting such a campaign were discussed mainly considering capacity building as the baseline project to be used by the different programs of IANAS. For this the new IANAS's website is very important.

## ***Strategic Plan***

The sub-commission of IANAS named to prepare a new Strategic Plan had a meeting in Washington in November 2019 where a Strategic Plan was written; however, in the opinion of some academies, the document seems to be more a statement of what is being done than a strategic plan in itself. Although it contains the mission of IANAS, some members want more concrete ideas on how IANAS plans to proceed. It was discussed whether the Strategic Plan should contain or not more specific projects or rather contain global statements, leaving the specific projects for individual funding requests. It was decided to ask a couple of members to write a "strategic statement" or something like this but not including specific projects; these would be contained in specific documents prepared for fundraising.

## ***Programs***

The EC members agreed that the Programs of IANAS depend largely on the leadership of the Co-Chairs and the enthusiasm of the Focal Points of each Program. Consequently, it was decided that after each GA, a letter be sent to each Academy indicating the responsibilities of the FP in the Programs and requesting an updated list of their Focal Points and contact information. Also, a Strategic Plan together with the annual report and a one-page summary of activities will be requested from all programs

that have not yet prepared theirs. As the funds for the Programs are limited, a rigorous evaluation of the programs must be done.

### ***Science in Schools (Co-Chairs: Carlos Bosch and Viviana Carazo).***

It was discussed how to improve this program because not much information is available regarding what is going on with it. As stated in the 2019 EC Meeting held in Bogotá, Carlos Bosch would like to step down as a Co-Chair. The Co-Chairs are neither sending in their annual reports nor are they not answering email requests from IANAS. No funds were requested this year either. It was discussed if this Program should be continued. It is considered a very important program so it was suggested to send letters to the member academies asking if they have candidate Co-Chairs that would be willing to help move the program forward.

To impact on the education decision makers of the different countries, IANAS needs to find out how it can help each one of them no matter the process and problems that each country faces. Probably, a global activity will not be of much help for each individual country. Each country representative will be requested to inform in one page what they are doing to improve science education in their country and what they think IANAS could do to help them. This information should be made available to other countries to see if this can help them find their own solutions.

### ***Water Program (Co-Chairs: Katherine Vammen and Henry Vaux).***

The Water Program has been very active. Katherine Vammen had a zoom communication with the EC to present the Strategic Plan for the Water Program. First a SWOT analysis was performed in which a list of almost 20 strengths were identified. Of these, more than half were unique that is, not possessed by all regions and so, were promising possibilities for strategic development of the program in the future. Then weaknesses were analyzed: these were largely clustered around issues of support for the Program and lack of the FP to secure significant support from outside sources. In addition, the lack of indicators of success is identified as a major weakness.

However, much of the successful work done in the past can be continued in a highly productive way, such as:

- Preparation of new volumes dealing on water resources and their management in the Americas;
- Preparation and presentation of capacity building programs and training programs;
- Promotion of workshops and activities with academies outside the Americas.

The following mission statement was identified for the program:

The mission of the IANAS Water Program is to foster cooperation between the Academies of Sciences of the Americas; to build scientific capacity in higher education, governmental and private sectors; to generate and disseminate the best credible scientific information on water for society to promote public understanding of science and its role; and provide an independent source of scientific advice and knowledge for effective policymaking on water management for sustainable development and an informed public.

### ***Women for Science Program (Co-Chairs: Frances Henry and Ana Denicola).***

The WfS Program held its annual meeting in Bogotá, Colombia on August 12-15, 2019. The Program has been very active with a busy agenda. The main topics discussed were:

-The Anneke Levelt Sengers Women for Science Prize: this year this award had a very strong competition with 13 highly qualified applicants. The judges awarded the prize to the applicant from Colombia, Dr. Karina Caballero Gallardo.

- Mentoring Committee: A revised mentoring plan had been put forward to design a webpage, notify social media of the mentoring program that was being organized, and hopefully begin to have a few responses. Unfortunately, due to the financial crisis that affected IANAS seriously and the lack of administrative help, the WfS program was unable to begin this project.

- Census Updates: it was approved to update the census of the participation of women in science in the different countries that had been carried out in 2017 containing the information of years 2014-2016. The census has been completed and at present, the Co-Chairs are preparing a final report on the progress observed.

- Involving Men in the Efforts of the Program: It was agreed that men should be invited to participate in the activities the Program carries out, so the Brazilian President was invited to attend last year, and this year the President of the Colombian Academy was invited.

-New Business - New Project Ideas: One major idea discussed was to develop a plan of simple actions that each Academy can take to popularize the importance of women in science: e.g., build a network of women, send a strategy plan for each Academy to start Videos, set up a lecture or information series, etc. and it was agreed that each focal point will report back the actions taken in this direction, the following year at the WfS meeting.

- A videoconference with Helena Nader, the new IANAS Co-Chair, was organized so that each FP had the opportunity to meet her and exchange ideas regarding the Program.

- Angela Camacho, FP from Colombia and some invited speakers presented the Colombian Network of Women Scientists (Red Colombiana de Mujeres Científicas).

During the discussion in the EC meeting it came out that to have more women succeed in science it is important to start by not actively discouraging them to pursue a scientific career. It is becoming clear in the USA that the biggest part of the problem of not having more women in science is a cultural one; young women are simply just not welcomed! Many universities have done fundraising to have ambitious and very aggressive programs to deal with this problem and that of active harassment because for many years these problems have been identified but not much has been done. At present, there are workshops with teams from various universities that discuss action plans and how to measure progress. It could be interesting to see if the people from the WfS program meet with members working on this problem to unite efforts to help improve the situation.

#### *Energy Program (Co-Chairs: Anthony Clayton and Manfred Horn)*

No activities have been reported and no funds have been requested for this program. In fact, it was highlighted that only seven countries have a FP in this Program.

**General Conclusion on Programs:** A message will be sent to the Co-Chairs of all Programs asking them to keep in mind the mission of their Program and requesting they send in the Program's Annual Report together with the Strategic Plan of the Program and a one-page summary of the activities carried out. Also, if the mission needs to be modified, this information should also be included, together with the names of their FP. All the information requested should come in by the end of April to allow the preparation of the

budget that will be sent to IAP. Much of this information will be put up in the new web page. In addition, a letter will be sent to the member academies asking for all the updates relative to who are their representatives and, if some are being replaced, remind them to make sure that the new representative is thoroughly engaged with the program.

### ***Secretariat***

In the National Academy of Science of Argentina assigned a special office destined to the Secretariat of IANAS and a new employee has been hired to help with the work in the Secretariat together with that of the Academy. It was discussed if it was convenient to have the money of IANAS in a bank account of Argentina. Given the restrictions in Argentina to receive money in foreign currency, it was decided not to open a bank account in Argentina for IANAS. Rather, it was decided to leave the money in a more stable country, maybe Canada.

### ***IANAS´ s Climate Change and Health Project***

IAP provided IANAS funds to complete a document on Climate Change and Health. The three regional networks NASAC, AASSA and IANAS, are preparing a document of about 70 pages on Climate Change and Health, that will deal with a wide range of related topics going from the direct effect of heat, such as the death of people in Paris due to the high heat, sleep disorders that bring about criminal activity up to flooding, forest fires, infectious borne diseases, food security etc. related to climate change. There are U\$S120000 for each of the networks. These funds come from the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the German government. The meetings were initially planned to be at Leopoldina. All Academies received an invitation to send a representative to the meeting, but many academies do not have experts in Health and Climate Change. It was decided that the first meeting take place in Canada. Seven people will be on the Committee and when the first draft of the document is ready, it will be circulated to all member Academies so a bigger, second and third final meeting with one representative from each academy is organized. In this way all academies have the opportunity to bring the message of their Academy. The final document should be ready at the end of this year and IAP will get the documents from all the networks together.

### ***International Year of Basic Science for Development***

Jeremy McNeil gave a report on The International Year of Basic Sciences for Development (IYBSD) which is planned to be organized in 2022 under the aegis of UNESCO. Its purpose is to strengthen the role of basic sciences toward the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals all over the world. Activities of all kind will be organized at the international, regional and national levels. Although IANAS has signed an agreement of support with the President of the IYBSD 2022 Steering Committee, it is still not clear what support actually means. Probably the support they expect is intellectual input rather than financial support.

### ***Other Business***

-It was left waiting to decide if Academies of Medicine could be accepted as Observing Members. The idea is to write to the Member Academies and ask if they have sister Medicine Academies interested in becoming Observing Members so IANAS could work with two or three academies of medicine and see how it results and how they could collaborate with them. After discussing pros and cons, it was decided to accept the

Brazilian Academy of Medicine as an Observer for IANAS. Where IANAS goes in the future will depend in part on how things work out with these Academies of Medicine.

-IAP's Co-Chair, Volker ter Meulen, was worried because of the difficulties IANAS was having in establishing a new Secretariat. He sent an email to Helena Nader and Jeremy McNeil stating that IAP leadership had been considering these difficulties and had agreed to offer IANAS leadership an additional U\$S 20000 for the 12 month period coming up, on top of the usual U\$S 65000 budget, provided they receive from IANAS a strong proposal on how this money would be used to build capacity in such a way that it can be sustained. Staff cost should be kept low in the proposal. This information will be circulated to the EC so that everyone can make a proposal within the next week. Jeremy will ask IAP if retroactive costs can be included in the proposal because the money spent, for example, on the new website of IANAS was taken from other programs that should have gone to another destination.