



IANAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Attendees: Helena B. Nader (Brazilian Academy of Sciences) and Karen Strier (US National Academy of Sciences); IANAS Co-chairs; Beatriz Caputto (IANAS Secretariat, National Academy of Sciences of Argentina); Enrique Forero (Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences); Rosalba Lagos (Chilean Academy of Sciences); Jeremy McNeil (Royal Society of Canada); Mónica Moraes (Academia Nacional de Ciencias - Bolivia); John Boright (U.S. National Academy of Sciences), Marcos Cortesao (Brazilian Academy of Sciences), Vitor Vieira (Brazilian Academy of Sciences).

After the Secretariat sent the agenda of the meeting to the members of the Executive Committee, Mónica proposed to reassign the proposed topics in order of priority and importance. This was endorsed by the Committee and therefore, the following sequence was followed:

IANAS Grant Proposal Jan-June 2023

Helena B. Nader informed that despite delivering the completed forms in time, IAP did not get back yet to the IANAS Secretariat with the approved budget and financial contract. Although IANAS reached out several times to IAP, a definitive answer was not provided. Thus, Helena advised everyone to keep this issue in mind when thinking about IANAS future projects. Beatriz Caputto also noted that there was no money left from the previous fiscal year.

John Boright explained that there was a significant decrease in funding from the Italian government through UNESCO to TWAS but did not think that should affect IAP. However, he would follow up on this and keep everyone informed.

Helena added that at a recent meeting of TWAS it was announced that there was a 50% cut to their budget, and as a result TWAS is encouraging everyone to seek alternative funding. John asked if this would affect IAP and consequently IANAS, but as Helena noted this is impossible to foresee. Helena then passed the floor to Karen Strier to continue with the agenda.

2. IANAS projects

2.1 Publication of the Water program reports. Karen reminded everyone that funds had been requested in the 2023 budget publication of the water reports. She explained that Jeremy McNeil had been reviewing the reports and is currently waiting to know if the editors are willing to incorporate his edits. Karen then gave the floor to Jeremy to further explain the situation.

Jeremy noted that after reading the texts he found places where the concepts were unclear and there was a need for serious editing. He has shared his opinions with the co-chairs of



the water programme, indicating that the documents were not yet ready for publication under the IANAS banner.

Helena thanked Jeremy for all the work that he has done and noted that, after dealing with that publication for a year and a half, the EC should give the authors the option of incorporating the corrections requested by IANAS or not releasing the publication under the network's name.

Karen noted that even if everyone agreed the text should go out as IANAS publications we cannot do so for, as noted above, we have not heard about the 2023 budget request that included funds for this project. The authors are eager to release their publications promptly and as the water program co-chairs indicated they had alternative pathways for publication, Karen noted this could be an option.

Beatriz Caputto and Mónica Moraes agreed that it is important that one must pay attention to the quality of documents going out as IANAS publications. However, both noted they had not seen the original texts, or the suggested edits that were questioned by the Co-chairs of the water programme.

Jeremy noted he was not an expert and felt that it was important that others should decide if he was being unreasonable or not. He proposed that he provide the EC with examples of the original text, together with his suggested edits, so they could determine how best to move forward.

Helena then summarized: Jeremy will provide examples of the texts and his suggestions. John volunteered to help revising the corrections.

It was agreed that in future, any publication released under the IANAS banner should be approved by an editorial committee that the EC will establish.

2.2 The Amazon Initiative. Karen noted that, as agreed in the last EC meeting, the budget submitted to IAP included funding for a conference on the Amazon: this would include representatives from IANAS Member Academies that are part of the region as well as representatives of the region that are not IANAS members, and other IANAS Academies. Karen and Helena met with Prof. Adalberto Val, a member of both the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and the Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA) and asked if SPA would consider a joint meeting early in the second semester of 2023. Karen made clear that the goal is not to repeat or reproduce the scientific reports and/or initiatives that have been, or are currently ongoing, but rather to determine the unique role that IANAS, which represents the Science Academies of the region, can play. Specifically, we are seeking to find ways in which IANAS can help to promote scientists of the Amazon, and help them to implement and communicate scientific recommendations to policy makers.

Helena indicated that the conference would be in Manaus and that the Brazilian Academy of Sciences would cover local costs of the conference. Marcos Cortesao mentioned that SPA may also provide some funding.



2.3 The last item under IANAS' future projects was the health initiative. Karen gave a quick overview of the project discussed in the previous EC meeting, but Helena suggested putting this project on hold until IANAS' budget gets approved.

Enrique Forero asked for the floor as he wanted to propose a new project. He explained that as ISC is coordinating efforts for the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD) they are executing all kinds of activities under this program, but they do not count with any funds. Enrique asked if he could apply to fund activities for the IYBSSD, granted that IANAS obtains fundings for new projects. Aware that IANAS funds will be prioritized to projects that reach out to policy makers, he assured that this can be very easily achieved with the program that they have.

Helena and Karen both supported Enrique 's proposition for the next grant proposal.

Beatriz asked Enrique if they considered applying to IAP's current competitive grants of twenty thousand dollars. Enrique thanked her suggestion and said that he would look into it.

3. Academy of Sciences of Haiti letter response

In Helena's opinion, we should reply to them stating that they do not fulfill the requirements to join the network, but IANAS is available to help within its limits on whatever possible.

4. IAP calls

Karen mentioned a call for experts in Climate, Energy, and Oceans from the Smithsonian Science Education Center and IAP, and the IAP's Science Education Program Global Council. Beatriz will attend the latter as well as the IAP's Secretariats meeting with Regional Networks on March 5-6, as the IANAS representative. Karen, with Helena's support, proposed that the Secretariat (i) create a new tab on the website, and (ii) email all IANAS Academies to distribute information about all currently available propositions. The co-chairs hope that with these initiatives IANAS will get more involved in, and be more visible to, IAP, TWAS and other partners.

Finally, Helena emphasized the importance of IANAS member academies participating in the Science Diplomacy course offered by AAAS-TWAS, while recognizing that the cost would be a challenge for many academies.

5. Other announcements

Enrique Forero announced that ISC will have four meetings. The first one will be held at the end of March in the Dominican Republic. The second, the Mid-term Meeting of ISC Members, will be held in Paris, France from May 10-12, where they hope that many ISC members will attend. The third, the Global Knowledge Dialogue, will be on June 25-29 in Panama. Finally, within the framework of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development the ISC Regional Focal Point for the Latin American and Caribbean will be organizing a meeting in collaboration with the Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences, and the Colombian Young Academy. Forero requested names of



specialists to participate in a conference on Water Management. Helena, Beatriz and Marcos suggested names.

John Boright provided an update on the 2023 S20 inception meeting. The US National Academy of Sciences and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences were the IANAS Academies that attended the opening meeting. It was hoped that the other three Academies from IANAS would attend the final meeting.

However, as Helena clarified that the G20 is sending the information to all members but added that she thinks it important that the topics being discussed in the S20 are also discussed in IANAS. She also highlighted the Brazilian Academy of Sciences will host the 2024 S20 meeting.

Given that there will be several S20 meetings in India, John suggested that the five IANAS academies within the G20 organise a zoom to exchange information during the development of the final statements. Beatriz thought it would be good to invite other academies even if they are not members of the G20 to keep them aware as well, to which John and Helena agreed.

Helena and Karen thanked everyone for participating and closed the meeting.

Formal EC meeting adjourned at: 06:10 PM (Buenos Aires, Georgetown).