

- d) Act as Secretariat to the Conference of the Parties, to the Executive Council and to the Scientific Advisory Committee and, as such, participate ex officio in meetings of the organs of the Institute;
- e) Promote and represent the Institute;
- f) Forward to the Conference of the Parties offers to host Institute Research Centers based on proposals submitted in accordance with Article IX;
- g) Issue Invitations of Association (i.e., to Associates of the Institute) approved by the Conference of the Parties, and to conclude with each accepting Associate an Agreement of Association;
- h) Submit annually audited financial records to the Conference of the Parties, through the Executive Council; and
- i) Perform any other functions entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties or the Executive Council.

6. The Director shall not be a citizen or permanent resident of the Party hosting the Directorate.

Article IX Institute Research Centers

1. Institute Research Centers shall be developed and designated by the Conference of the Parties only based upon proposals submitted by Parties interested in hosting such Centers in their own territory.

2. Each Institute Research Center must have a long-term commitment to a program of research within the objectives of the Institute for which the Center shall be responsible to the Institute. Each Research Center shall present its long-range plans and annual program and budget to the Conference of the Parties for its approval, based on advice from the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Institute's needs to integrate the plans and programs of all of the Centers.

3. The Institute Research Centers shall, inter alia:

- a) Conduct and support in-house and extramural interdisciplinary global change research;
- b) Collect data and promote the full, open and efficient exchange of data and information between the Institute and the Parties;
- c) Strengthen capabilities and facilities of existing institutions;
- d) Create regional capacity and provide advanced training in fields relevant to global change;
- e) Participate ex-officio, through their respective Directors, in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Council and the Scientific Advisory Committee; and
- f) Perform any other functions provided in this Agreement for the Institute Research Centers or entrusted to them by the Conference of the Parties.