

Report of the WG on the MTS Coordination

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The 9th meeting of the WG on MTSC (21–23 July. 2021, virtually)

- ▶ Topics Discussed
 - ✓ How to Improve the guidelines, Performance Indicators, and Target Criteria for Final Review
 - ✓ Outcome Monitoring
 - ✓ New procedures to designate Regional Resource Units (RRU)
 - ✓ Other issues to enhance the achievements and effectiveness of the RCA (including how to address the needs of new GPs,)
 - ✓ Guidelines on Intellectual Property Rights
 - ✓ Annual Workplan
- ▶ Eleven recommendations

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1) Enhancing the Effectiveness and Achievements of the RCA

► Recommendation 1

The WG recommends that the 50th GCM endorse that the Secretariat consult the Department of Nuclear Science and Applications to seek a possible mechanism, such as a reporting session to the NRs, with a view to introducing results/outputs of the relevant Coordinated Research Projects into the RCA activities, and report it to the 10th MTSC-WG.

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2) Performance Indicators

- Had General Exchange of views on how to proceed....
- Ideas for additional PIs, modifications of some Target Criteria, and new Target Criteria, as well as how to obtain necessary data were presented

► Recommendation 2

The meeting recommends that the 50th GCM endorse the WG to further discuss updating some of the Target Criteria (TC) of some Performance Indicators (PIs) while sticking to the current PIs for the Final Review.

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2) Performance Indicators (cont.)

- ▶ The meeting noted some difficulties the PAC encountered during the Mid-term Review.

▶ Recommendation 3

The meeting recommends that the 50th GCM endorse that the online questionnaires be fully utilized to collect necessary data for the MTS Final Review.

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2) Performance Indicators (cont.)

- ▶ Performance Indicator 3.1 : Required financial resources are available for the full implementation of the RCA activities
 - ▶ Analysis on the past RCA funding data on the amount of TCF allocated to the RCA, as well as its EB contributions for the last 20 years was reported.....
 - ▶ The allocation of TCF to the RCA has dropped substantially as a percentage since 2008 (About 6.5% -> 2 %)
 - ▶ EB contributions as a percentage have bounced around a lot, but generally gone up
- ▶ The WG agreed that in order for the RCA to tackle the funding issue, background information such as how the TCF is being allocated etc. is necessary.

The WG would like to ask the Secretariat to give presentations with regard to the list of questions given in Annex 9 to the WG in the next MTSC WG meeting!

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2) Performance Indicators (cont.)

► Recommendation 4

The WG recommends that the NRs request the Secretariat to find a solution (such as to include the condition of the nominee in the RTC prospectus) to ensure that the nominee of the RTC is a National Project Team member.

The meeting also recommends the NRs to inform all LCCs to submit updated PPF when the National Project Team Members are modified.

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2) Performance Indicators (cont.)

- Had General Discussions on how to proceed....
- Ideas for additional PIs, modifications of some Target Criteria, and new Target Criteria, as well as how to obtain necessary data for Final Review were presented

► Recommendation 5

The Meeting recommends the NRs endorse the updated PPF and include it in the GOR.

The Meeting also recommends that the NRs endorse the MTSC WG to consider a possible way to improve the efficiency for utilizing RRUs.

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2) Performance Indicators (cont.)

- ▶ Performance Indicator 4 → most important indicator, but because of the lack of data, PAC could not evaluate it.
- ▶ Updated project report formats have not been used, which prevented the WG to make further analysis PIs for Final Review

▶ Recommendation 6

It is recommended that the IAEA Secretariat and NRs note the importance of Outcome Monitoring and instruct the LCCs to use the most updated meeting report templates contained within the GOR.

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2) Performance Indicators (cont.)

▶ Recommendation 6 (cont.)

It is also recommended that the IAEA Secretariat prepare a video/e-learning material on the outcome monitoring and make sure to provide a session on outcome monitoring at the first Project Coordination Meetings so that all the LCCs and NPCs understand its importance and concepts, and can include sufficient information in the report.

It is also recommended that the RCARO provide all the necessary formats in the GOR in Microsoft Word format in the RCARO website so that they are easily available for the NRs, LCCs and NPCs.

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3) Regional Resource Unit (RRU)

- ▶ Discussed the updates on GOR guidance on RRUs, which was submitted to the 43rd NRM.
- ▶ New procedures for identifying RRUs are proposed
 - LCCs in consultations with NPCs will identify and nominate potential RRUs
 - RCA-FP, PAC Chair and TO will review the qualifications and approve the list of RRUs, which will be reported to NRs
 - Certificate of the endorsement by the RCA Chair will be issued to the RRUs.

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3) Regional Resource Unit (cont.)

▶ Recommendation 7

It is recommended that the NRs endorse the new procedure for identification of RRUs as well as the RRU qualification summary template, and start using it from the 2022–2023 TC Project Cycle.

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4) Intellectual Property Rights (cont.)

- ▶ With increase in the needs of developing online materials as the backdrop, a necessity to prepare a guideline on Copyrights was suggested. (Annex 16)
- ▶ After the consultation, the OLA of the IAEA has proposed a draft inputs to the GOR given as the Annex 16 to the WG report, on which the WG will further discuss during the next meeting.

▶ Recommendation 8

It is recommended that the NRs review the suggested inputs to the GOR in relation to Intellectual Property rights, and give their comments to the Chair of the MTSC WG **by the end of September 2021.**

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5) Addressing Special Needs of the New GPs

- ▶ It has been an issue for the last several years how to address the special needs of the newly joined GPs, however, no substantive measures has been taken yet.

▶ Recommendation 9

The Meeting recommends that the 50th GCM endorse the following:

- MTSC WG to develop a paper with a plan for consideration how to address the special needs of the new GPs
- NRs to incorporate in the Project Designs, as appropriate, a portion of activities to cater for the needs of the new GPs.

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5) Addressing Special Needs of the New GPs (cont.)

► Recommendation 9 (cont.)

Important!!

The Meeting also recommends that NRs consider

- Accepting additional project proposals that especially target the needs of new GPs at the Project Concept Phase of the 2024–25 TC Cycle.
- In prioritizing the project, giving more weightage to those that address the needs of the new GPs.

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6) A Platform as the Repository of the RCA training materials

- COVID–19 highlighted the needs for the on–line training/e–learning materials
- Necessity to share the knowledge obtained through RTCs among their national teams and with relevant experts/organizations
- Necessity to share the paper–based training materials
- It was suggested to prepare a common platform for the RCA training materials to be developed by the RCA, with a view to utilize them more efficiently...

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6) A Platform as the Repository of the RCA training materials (cont.)

► Recommendation 10

The Meeting recommends that the 50th GCM consider preparing a common platform as a repository of the RCA online training materials and utilizing the RCA e-Learning Campus as being the platform for this purpose.

The Meeting recommends that IPR issues be reviewed and cleared by the IAEA and RCARO for the RCA online training materials to be uploaded on the RCA e-Learning Campus.

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7) Funding from non-traditional partners

- There is no set-rules in the GOR for the extra-budgetary contributions, including private sectors, and it was suggested to elaborate a guideline for that purposes
- The issue will be further discussed in the next WG meeting.

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8) Annual Work Plan

- ▶ Updated Annual Work Plan as included as Annex 19.
- ▶ Planning to have 10th meeting possibly in the second half of Feb 2022, but subject to possible alignment with PAC or MTS WG meeting schedule.

▶ Recommendation 11

It is recommended that the 50th GCM endorse the MTSC WG Annual Work Plan 2021.

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Thank you for your attention!

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