

Report of the RCA 2024-2029 Medium-Term Strategy Drafting Working Group
6th Meeting, 18-19 September 2023
Held Virtually

1. Introduction

Upon approval of the 49th RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM) held virtually on 18 September 2020, the 6th Meeting of the RCA 2024-2029 Medium-Term Strategy Drafting Working Group ('the Drafting WG') was held from 18 to 19 September 2023 using a virtual format. The adopted Agenda of the Meeting included as **Annex 1**.

The meeting of the Drafting WG had six (6) participants comprising representatives from JPN, ROK, PHI, and THA (Chair). Two observers were from JPN and AUS. The meeting was chaired by a representative from THA (Yutthana Tumnoi). The List of Participants is in **Annex 2**.

The meeting was officially opened by Yutthana Tumnoi (THA) the Chair of the Drafting WG. The Chair expressed his sincere appreciation to those who already provided inputs for the MTS as assigned. The Chair then gave brief summary on an agreed approach in drafting the new MTS. In addition, the in-person meeting in Vienna approved at the 45th RCA NRM did not take place cause a meeting period that could suit all Drafting WG members cannot be finalized. The physical meeting is still needed and it would be once again proposed at the 52nd RCA GCM to be held either in November or December 2023 with a full financial support from IAEA.

The stated purpose of the meeting was to:

- Review and discuss on the complied draft with inputs incorporated
- Discuss on proposed texts in some sections of the draft 2024-2029 MTS, to be put forward to the 52nd RCA General Conference Meeting for update and comment
- Update the MTS Drafting WG Work Plan, to be put forward to the 52nd RCA General Conference Meeting for update

It was expected that the meeting would produce the following documents for consideration by the 52nd RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM):

- A Draft of the 2024-2029 MTS;
- Updated MTS Drafting WG Work Plan; and
- MTS Drafting WG Meeting Report

2. A Draft of the 2024-2029 MTS

The Chair informed that the in-person meeting did not take place as planned cause a suitable meeting period for all WG members cannot be finalized. He presented the participating WG member and the observers of the MTS draft with all inputs from the WG members incorporated.

For Section A: Background, few sentences have been added in the text taken from the current MTS. The WG went on to discuss on Section B: RCA Strategic Context. The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of RCA performance conducted by PAC and the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment reports of Mutation Breeding in Crops, Radiotherapy, and Non-destructive Testing published by IAEA were considered as important inputs into the drafting of the MTS 2024-2029. In addition, the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, innovative approaches utilized by RCA, and the development of a Regional Programme Framework (RPF) were taken into our consideration to help shape the new MTS. The WG also agreed on rewording the RCA Vision to be “*The RCA strives to be recognised by GPs and other stakeholders for delivering positive, tangible, and sustainable socio-economic benefits for the region*”. Details of Funding and Resource Mobilization, a new sub-section, have been written with an aim to overcome limited financial resources that RCA is facing.

A thorough discussion was carried out on Section C: Strategic Directions and Priorities. The proposed Strategic Directions consisted of

- A. **Strategic Direction 1 (Human Resource and Institutional Development):** To prepare GPs for the future talent trend by sustaining human resource and institutional development initiatives that address national capacity gaps.
- B. **Strategic Direction 2 (Strategic Partnerships):** To reinforce strategic partnerships with other regional and international organizations, at the macro-level, and expand alliances with academia, industry, media, and civil society.
- C. **Strategic Direction 3 (Resource Mobilization):** To secure new or additional resources to meet RCA Financial needs.
- D. **Strategic Direction 4 (Flagship Program):** To support scientific creativity as the RCA’s fountainhead of RCA to generate high-ground, transformative, and big-ticket collaborative projects utilizing the most advanced nuclear and nuclear-related S&T.
- E. **Strategic Direction 5 (RCA Governance):** To sustain an efficient RCA governance and administration through the upskilling of member-states and institutional representatives.

Although the pattern on the Strategic Priorities were agreed by having brief introduction and future directions extracted from the RPF for each thematic area to avoid possible duplication with the RPF, the WG realized that it would be great if more future trends in NS&T would be added. This would help guide project selection and prioritization. Section E: Execution of the Medium Term Strategy 2024-2029 and Section F: Performance Indicators were not discussed. Finally, Annex 2: RCA REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2018-2023 ALIGNED WITH THE SDGs FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION was removed from the MTS being drafted. It is not necessary cause such information can be found in the current RPF.

Recommendation 1

The Drafting WG recommends that the 52nd RCA GCM *note* the progress of the Draft 2024-2029 MTS and *provide* comment on the proposed Strategic Directions by Oct 6th.

3. Review of Work Plan

The Chair presented a updated Work Plan with new timelines of identified important milestones for development of the 2024-2029 MTS. The Work Plan was further revised aiming for the finalization and endorsement of the 2024-2029 MTS at 46th National Representative Meeting. It was clear to the WG that an in-person meeting is required as soon as possible to advance the drafting process and to complete this important task. In an ideal scenario, it would be great to have it for the finalization of the 1st MTS draft. The Chair would further discuss with IAEA on any feasible periods and financial support in organising such meeting.

The revised Work Plan is included as **Annex 3**. Continuous discussion on-line among the Drafting WG members could be carried out between meetings.

Recommendation 2

The Drafting WG recommends that the 52nd RCA GCM *note* the updated Work Plan for drafting the 2024-2029 MTS and *approve* for an in-person meeting in Vienna.

4. Closing

The next meeting of the Drafting MTS WG is expected to be held shortly after the 52nd RCA GCM to review inputs and feedbacks from NRs, RCA PAC, and MTSC WG at the 52nd RCA GCM, and to continue drafting the MTS.

The Chair thanked the Drafting WG members and the observers for their active participation and contribution to the Meeting.