

A Report on the 1st Virtual Meeting of the Working Group on Drafting the RCA Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2024-2029

1. Introduction

The 42nd National RCA Representatives Meeting approved the establishment of a new Working Group (WG) to draft the RCA Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2024-2029. Ten (10) GPs, AUL, BGD, CPR, IND, JPN, MAL, PHI, PLW, ROK and THA, expressed their interest in joining the WG during the Meeting and agreed to submit candidates' names and their relevant expertise and experience to the RCA Chair.

The RCA Chair received seven (7) nominations from AUL, IND, JPN, MAL, PHI, ROK and THA as the members of the WG to draft the RCA MTS 2024-2029 and presented the report to the 49th RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM).

During the 49th RCA GCM, the RCA National Representatives (NRs) endorsed the eight (8) nominations as the members of the WG, and additional nomination from SIN. The Meeting also endorsed the draft roles and responsibilities of the WG presented by the RCA Chair.

As the follow-up of the decision and after consultation with the RCA Focal Person, the WG on Drafting the RCA MTS 2024-2029 organized the first virtual meeting on 10 November 2020. The adopted Agenda of the Meeting is in **Annex 1**. The Meeting had twelve (12) participants comprising representatives from AUL, CPR, IND, JPN, MAL, PHI, ROK, SIN, THA, RCA Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) Chair and RCA Focal Person (**Annex 2**). As the RCA Chair, the representative from MAL took the responsibility to chair the Meeting to formalize the establishment of the WG.

The main purposes of the Meeting were to:

- appoint the WG Chair;
- take note of the drafted roles and responsibilities of the WG;
- discuss the plans for the way forward of the WG.

2. Opening Session

i. Opening Remarks

The RCA Chair welcomed all participants and presented the purposes and objectives of the Meeting.

ii. Introductory Remarks

The RCA Focal Person congratulates all the WG members, delivered his introductory remarks and presented the overview of the RCA (**Annex 3**). He highlighted that the importance of the leadership, ownership, teamwork and

coordination among RCA Government Parties, and innovative strategy in the RCA programme. There is also a need to set up RCA Strategies to be the best of RCA in the future as RCA will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2022.

3. Introduction on the Establishment of the WG on Drafting the RCA MTS 2024-2029

The RCA Chair presented the brief report on the establishment of the WG on drafting the RCA MTS (**Annex 4**). The Meeting took note on the variety of expertise among WG members, their current positions and work experiences. It was recommended that the Meeting should elect a WG Chair, take note on the draft roles and responsibilities and make plans for the way forward of the WG.

4. Presentation on RCA Medium Term Strategy 2018 - 2023 Coordination (MTSC) WG Activities

The MTSC WG Chair gave the presentation on the history, term of reference, major activities and outputs, and future work of the MTSC WG (**Annex 5**). The MTSC membership included subject matters experts from AUL, BGD, JPN, MAL, NZE, PHI, ROK, and supported by the IAEA Secretariat, RCA Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) and RCA Regional Office (RCARO). He highlighted two tasks in the term of reference of the MTSC WG in relation to the functions of undertaking the MTS Mid-Term Review and Final Review, and formulation of the Medium Term Strategy 2024-2029. He also presented on the several recommendations to be considered by the RCA MTS 2024-2029 WG.

5. Presentation on RCA Programme Advisory Committee (PAC)

The RCA PAC Chair presented the functions, membership, current activities, as well as future needs for consideration (**Annex 6**). There are eight members in the RCA PAC with more than ten years of RCA experience. He highlighted that the RCA PAC members are not represented their country but selected based on the individual capacity. The current and completed activities of the RCA PAC include the development of the RCA Programme for 2022-2023, mid-term review of the RCA MTS 2018-2023, compilation of the outcomes and achievement of RCA projects, RCA Research Programme and development of the RCA Regional Programme Framework. He also presented on the several recommendations to enhance the implementation of the RCA Programme and way forward of the RCA MTS 2024-2029 WG.

Subsequently, the Meeting had discussions about the roles of the RCA MTS and priorities in relation to the survey form for the preparation of Regional Programme Framework for 2024-2029 circulated by the RCA PAC.

6. * Appointment of the RCA MTS 2024-2029 WG Chair

The Meeting principally agreed Mr Mark Alexander (AUL) as the Chair of the RCA MTS 2024-2029, supported by Ms Lucille V. Abad (PHI) and Mr Takashi Nakano (JPN) as the Deputy Chairs, under the condition that he could relinquish the chairmanship of RCA MTSC 2018-2023 to the deputy. The Meeting also noted that

Mr Mark Alexander will hand over his current chairmanship in the RCA MTSC WG and confirm his chairmanship of the RCA MTS 2024-2029 within one week after this Meeting.

7. Preparation of the Draft Roles and Responsibilities of the RCA MTS 2024-2029 WG

The Meeting agreed that the Chair of the RCA MTS 2024-2029 WG will take the responsibility to review the draft roles and responsibilities and circulate before the next meeting of the WG.

8. General Discussion & Conclusion

The Meeting noted that the RCA Focal Person will circulate the current RCA MTS 2018-2023 to all members of the RCA MTS 2024-2029 WG. The Meeting also noted that the next WG meeting will be decided after the chairmanship issue is resolved.

The RCA Chair closed the meeting by thanking all participants and congratulated them for the excellent outcomes of the meeting.

**Following further consultations via emails, Ms Yoshiko from JPN has agreed to assume chairperson of MTSC 2018-2023, paving the way for Mr Mark Alexander from AUS to take chairmanship of RCA MTS 2024-2029 Working Group. The RCA Chair therefore declare that Mr Mark Alexander has been elected as chair of this working group with immediate effect.*

End of Report