

Report of the RCA 2024-2029 Medium-Term Strategy Drafting Working Group
3rd Meeting, 6-8 September 2021
Held Virtually

1. Introduction

Upon approval of the 49th RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM) held virtually on 18 September 2020, the 3rd Meeting of the RCA 2024-2029 Medium-Term Strategy Drafting Working Group ('the Drafting WG') was held from 6 to 8 September 2021 using a virtual format. The adopted Agenda of the Meeting included as **Annex 1**.

The meeting of the Drafting WG had eight (8) participants comprising representatives from AUL, CPR, IND, JPN, PHI, ROK, and THA (Chair). The Chair of RCA, Chair of PAC, RCA-FP, and IAEA (TCAP) also participated as observers. 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) who was designated as the new Chair of the Drafting WG following the stepping down of the former Chair Mark Alexander after the 43rd NRM. The previous Chair would continue as a member of the Drafting WG. The new Chair expressed his sincere appreciation on a great work done by the former Chair and the Drafting WG from the previous meeting. The Chair gave brief summary on the achievements so far and outcomes from the 43th NRM. He also emphasised an importance of the Medium-Term Strategy that would be used for guiding the future direction of the RCA.

The stated purpose of the meeting was to:

- Discuss and agree a draft structure of the 2024-2029 MTS, to be put forward to the 50th RCA General Conference Meeting for endorsement;
- Identify responsible officers for each section of the 2024-2029 MTS; and
- Update the MTS Drafting WG Work Plan, to be put forward to the 50th RCA General Conference Meeting for endorsement

It was expected that the meeting would produce the following documents for consideration by the 50th RCA General Conference Meeting (GCM):

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

2. Draft Structure for 2024-2029 MTS

The Drafting Working Group reviewed the framework analysis from the previous meeting on each section. The 43th RCA NRM took note of the framework analysis and there was no further comment provided. The analysis results were used as the starting point for discussion and drafting the new MTS. PAC-Chair kindly clarified differences between the MTS and the RPF. PHI raised the issue of prioritization and it was thoroughly discussed. It was realized that the MTS is a high level document that takes various inputs including regional needs, achievements, challenges and others into consideration. It would contain several important elements determining the future direction of RCA in all aspects possible. There was a careful discussion on the structure of the new MTS, especially Section C: Strategic Directions and Priorities. PAC-Chair raised the issue of the need to have regional priorities in the MTS, in view of possible contradictions with RPF and in view of the difficulty in using priorities in two separate documents in deciding on the future RCA programmes. The Drafting WG was encouraged to have close consultation with PAC when writing up this particular section to avoid possible duplication of the work done in the current RPF. It was found that the 2018-2023 MTS was well structured and the Drafting WG agreed to follow such structure with new ideas and possible areas of expansion to be added for improvement.

A final structure of the 2024-2029 was agreed for endorsement by the NRs and is included as **Annex 3**.

Recommendation 1

The Drafting WG recommends that the 50th RCA GCM *endorse* the Structure of the 2024-2029 MTS as enclosed in **Annex 3**.

3. Responsible officers for each section of the 2024-2029 MTS

Moving forward, the Drafting WG discussed on a strategy to be applied in writing up and identified one or two WG member(s) to draft each section of the 2024-2029 MTS on a voluntary basis and with expertise consideration. The list of responsible members drafting particular sections is included as **Annex 3**. The Drafting WG were encouraged to take the results from the framework analysis including possible areas of expansion into consideration when drafting. PAC-Chair gave a recommendation that details to be written in each part of the MTS should not depend on the personal views of the persons drafting the MTS. After considerable discussion, the Drafting WG agreed to conduct a review process after a consolidated MTS becomes available.

Recommendation 2

The Drafting WG recommends that the 50th RCA GCM *note* the list of responsible officers drafting particular sections of the 2024-2029 MTS as enclosed in **Annex 3**.

4. Review of Work Plan

The Chair presented a revised Work Plan with new timelines of identified important milestones for development of the 2024-2029 MTS. The Work Plan is included as **Annex 4**. There was a discussion on whether another meeting would be needed after the 50th GCM. The Chair noted that a meeting would be required if input and feedback from the NRs are significant to the direction and strategy of the drafting process. Otherwise, the Drafting WG was encouraged to continue writing up specific sections as assigned. Continuous discussion on-line among the Drafting WG members could be carried out between meetings.

Recommendation 3

The Drafting WG recommends that the 50th RCA GCM *endorse* the revised Work Plan for drafting the 2024-2029 MTS.

5. RCA Scholarship Programme / MTS General Discussion

The RCA FP gave a presentation on the Proposal for Setting up RCA Scholarship Programme in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (RCA SPS) aiming to seek comment/advice from the WG members before submitting to the 50th RCA GCM for further consideration. The presentation is included as **Annex 5**. The Drafting WG appreciated the proposal revised by IAEA according to recommendations from the 43th RCA NRM. There was a general discussion over this initiative. It was found that funding for short- and long- term implementation of the proposed programme became an issue of concern expressed by the WG and the PAC-Chair. Partnership and resource mobilization appear to be possible solutions to overcome the financial limitation.

6. Closing

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Drafting MTS WG would be held online in October subject to input and feedback from NRs at the 50th RCA GCM. Exact dates are to be confirmed by the Chair in due course.

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