

Report of the RCA 2024-2029 Medium-Term Strategy Drafting Working Group

2nd Meeting, 8-10 February 2021

Held Virtually

1. Introduction

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

The meeting of the Drafting WG had nine (11) participants comprising representatives from AUL (Chair), CPR, IND, JPN, MAL, PHI, ROK, SNG, and THA. The Chair of PAC, RCA-FP, and RCARO also participated as observers. The meeting was chaired by the representative from AUL. The List of Participants is in **Annex 2**.

The meeting was officially opened by the Director of TCAP, Ms Jane Gerardo-Abaya who affirmed the importance of the Drafting WG and the Medium-Term Strategy as the central focus for determining the direction of the RCA. She encouraged the Drafting WG to be focused on the needs of the region with a high outcome focus.

The stated purpose of the meeting was to:

- Review and agree MTS Drafting WG Terms of Reference, to be put forward to the 43rd National Representatives Meeting for endorsement
- Review the 2018-2023 MTS as model for the 2024-2029 MTS
- Develop a draft structure for the 2024-2029 MTS
- Identify responsible officers for each section of the 2024-2029 MTS
- Develop a MTS Drafting WG Work Plan, to be put forward to the 43rd National Representatives Meeting for endorsement

It was expected that the meeting would produce the following documents for consideration by the 43rd National Representatives Meeting (NRM):

- MTS Drafting WG Terms of Reference
- A draft structure for the 2024-2029 MTS
- MTS Drafting WG Work Plan
- MTS Drafting WG Meeting Report

2. Terms of Reference

The Drafting WG finalized the Terms of Reference (ToR) that had been previously developed via email between the group. Some minor changes were made to the ToR including:

- Functions (Section III) – Clarified strategic nature of the WG tasks and interaction with our WGs such as PAC and the MTSC.
- Matters to be Considered (Section IV) – Minor clarifications on scope.
- Membership (Section V) – Minor clarifications to confirm MAL and the standing RCA Chairs as members.

A final version of the ToR was confirmed for endorsement by the NRs and is included as **Annex 3**.

Recommendation 1

The Drafting WG recommends that the 43rd NRM *endorse* the Terms of Reference for the Drafting WG as enclosed in **Annex 3**.

3. Regional Programme Framework / MTS General Discussion

PAC gave a presentation on the work they had conducted on developing a Regional Programme Framework (RPF) for the 2024-2025 project cycle. The presentation is included as **Annex 4**. To help in developing the RPF, PAC undertook a detailed survey of GP priority areas. This information will be combined with other sources of information such as past projects in each thematic area to provide a detailed description of each priority area. While the RPF is being developed to help guide development of RCA projects for the 2024-2025 project cycle, it could be used as a basis for the longer-term MTS period of 2024-2029, noting other inputs into the MTS would be required.

Some members of the WG noted the need to broader thematic areas including climate change, zoonotic diseases, cancer, micro-plastics, and food security. PAC noted that elements of these were considered under different priority areas. There was discussion about to what basis the RPF could be used to help determine priority areas and where it may sit within the MTS.

PAC noted that the first draft of the RPF was expected in the next week or so and that it would be shared with the Drafting WG for comment. The Chair pledged the Drafting WG would provide feedback ahead of the NRM in April so it could be presented to the NRs.

4. Draft Structure of the 2024-2029 MTS

The Drafting Working Group reviewed the existing 2018-2023 MTS, section-by-section, to conduct a high-level framework review of the strategy to try and identify what had worked with the current document, what had not worked, and what may be missing. The results of this analysis are included as **Annex 5**. This exercise was utilized a brainstorming exercise only, and should not be seen as a commitment to utilizing the previous MTS structure or any of its content. It was noted that input and feedback from the NRs on where they wanted to see the new MTS to advance was vital, and this analysis could help facilitate that feedback.

Recommendation 2

The Drafting WG recommends that the 43rd NRM *note* the framework analysis conducted on the 2018-2023 MTS, and *provide comments* to the Drafting WG Chair within one week after the NRM.

5. Work Plan

The Drafting WG discussed how it should proceed with its work. The working group noted the need to review the needs of the region and discuss the strategy needed to address these. The Chair noted that a paper needed to be developed to enable discussion and development of the MTS in a structured and coordinated fashion. To this end, the Chair pledged to provide a “discussion” paper based on the matters raised during the meeting.

The Chair presented a proposed Work Plan for development of the 2024-2029 MTS. The Work Plan is included as **Annex 6**. There was significant discussion on whether another meeting was needed prior to the 43rd NRM in April 2021. The Chair noted that the Work Plan should be seen as living document that captures important milestones only, and should not preclude other meetings as needed. Importantly, it was expected and encouraged that there would be continuous discussion on-line among Drafting WG members between meetings.

Recommendation 3

The Drafting WG recommends that the 43rd NRM *endorse* the draft Work Plan for drafting of the 2024-2029 Work Plan.

6. Closing

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Drafting MTSC WG held after the NRM, during the week of 24 May with exact dates to be confirmed by the Chair in due course.