

Ministerial Declaration on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA

(Introduction)

(pp1) We, the Ministers of the twenty-two Government Parties (GPs) to the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA), gathered at the Ministerial Conference celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its establishment,

(pp2) Recalling that it is a function of the International Atomic Energy Agency (hereinafter referred to as the Agency) to encourage and assist research on, and the development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful uses, which function can be fulfilled by furthering co-operation among its Member States and by assisting them in their national atomic energy programmes, (*c.f.: Preamble of the RCA Agreement*)

(pp3) Recalling that the GPs to the Agreement recognize that, within their national atomic energy programmes, there exist areas of common interest wherein mutual co-operation can promote the more efficient utilization of available resources, and desire to encourage such co-operation under the auspices of the Agency, (*c.f.: Preamble of the RCA Agreement*)

(pp4) Recognizing the important role of science, technology and innovation in addressing the current challenges and meeting the common goals of achieving sustainable development, (*c.f.: Declaration of NA Ministerial Meeting in 2018*)

(pp5) Acknowledging the contribution of, and potential for the applications of nuclear science and technology to meet a wide variety of basic socio-economic and human development needs and achieving United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), (*c.f.: Declaration of NA Ministerial Meeting in 2018*)

(3S)

(pp6) Reaffirming that the use of nuclear technology must be accompanied, at all its stages, by commitments to and ongoing implementation of the highest standards of safety, security and safeguards, consistent with GPs' national legislation and respective international obligations,

(*c.f.*, GC(64)/RES/12)

(Achievements of the RCA)

(pp7) Welcoming the result of the socio-economic impact assessment of the RCA project initiated by the Agency, which proved the excellent performance and tangible achievements obtained through the RCA cooperation among the GPs,

(*c.f.* <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/20/11/social-and-economic-impact-assessment-of-mutation-breeding-in-crops-of-the-rca-programme-in-asia-and-the-pacific.pdf>)

(pp8) Recognizing the importance of project outputs and outcomes in designing and implementing the RCA projects, which are key to enhancing its achievements,

(pp9) Recognizing the achievement that RCA has accomplished for the region and the people of Asia and the Pacific during the past half century, in the field of Food and Agriculture, Human Health, Industry, Environment and others, and commending those relevant experts and institutions, who and which dedicated their efforts and contributed to the RCA activities,

(Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, South-South Cooperation)

(pp10) Mindful of regional needs, which also take into account those of the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States, so that every GPs be able to benefit from the RCA,

(pp11) Acknowledging that South-South cooperation is an essential tool in addressing common challenges of developing countries efficiently and effectively, as well as fostering the exchange of best practices and encourage networking, and welcoming the Agency's participation and contribution with respect to it, (*c.f.* TC resolution GC(64)/RES/11, Sec.5, (3))

(Appreciation for the past contributors)

(pp12) Commending the RCA GPs, National Representatives, Lead Country Coordinators, National Project Coordinators and other experts who has contributed in significant and notable achievements made in individual GPs as well as in the region,

(pp13) Taking note with appreciation of the work done by the Agency, the Programme Advisory Committee, relevant Working Groups and Task Forces in optimizing and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the RCA activities,

(pp14) Acknowledging that the RCA Regional Office celebrates the 20th anniversary of its establishment, and recognizing its contribution in promoting and expanding the RCA through implementation of various cooperative activities for the region,

(Ownership)

(pp14) Stressing the importance of the ownership of the GPs for the further success of the RCA,

(Plans for the Future)

We have decided to:

1. (op1) Express commitment to keep working together to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, optimize the program and find innovative ways to meet the regional needs, including those of the new GPs, as well as to further enhance the cooperation,
2. (op2) Request the Agency, within available resources, to assist Member States in the peaceful, safe and secure application of nuclear science and technologies and to continue its support to Member States' development efforts, including the attainment of the SDGs;
(c.f. GC(64)/RES/11/ Section1. 3., and Section 4. para 6)
3. (op3) Emphasize the importance of pledging and payment of Technical Cooperation Fund shares in full and on time, which would contribute for further enhancing the RCA activities, and encourage RCA GPs in a position to do so, to consider making extra-budgetary contributions to the RCA,
(c.f. Ministerial Declaration in 2018, GC(64)/RES/11/ Section4. op9 and RCA Declaration for EB in 2018)
4. (op4) Requests the Agency to further enhance regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific with a view to maximize the achievements by (a) encouraging activities under and seeking complementarities between national projects and the RCA, (b)

strengthening activities on finding strategic partnerships toward resource mobilization. *(c.f., TC resolution 5. Para 1 ad 4)*

5. (op5) Welcome the new initiative agreed by the RCA to

(c.f. if RCA is going to agree on any new initiative on the occasion of the 50th anniversary)