

DRAFT DECLARATION LETTER

Date

H.E. Ambassador [Name]
[Resident] Representative
Permanent Mission of [Country] to the IAEA
[Address Line 1]
[Address Line 2]

Excellency,

Call for Extra-budgetary Contributions to the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific (RCA), 2017

As Chair of the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific (RCA), I would like to follow on the above Declaration submitted by the RCA to the Permanent Missions of the RCA Government Parties (GPs) in 2018 seeking voluntary collective extra-budgetary contributions of around 400,000 EUR annually to the RCA to enhance performance and enable expansion of the activities undertaken under the Agreement.

Established in 1972, the RCA is the oldest regional agreement under the auspices of the IAEA, having delivered positive and tangible socio-economic development outcomes for the region and the people of Asia and the Pacific through collaboration and cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. The Agreement has been highly effective in delivering these outcomes with a recent case study on the social and economic impacts of the RCA mutation breeding projects showing a benefit to cost ratio of 11:1, meaning 1 euro investment yields an eleven euro return to the farmers and consumers of participating countries. I enclose a copy of the case study with this letter. Similar studies will be conducted soon to measure the impacts of RCA projects in the areas of non-destructive testing (NDT) and radiotherapy.

The membership of the RCA has grown from six to its current 22 GPs. Its geographic spread has also grown extensively, with Pacific Island Countries increasingly among the new members joining the Agreement. This development creates a need for additional resources to fund expanded participation in projects. Additional funding is needed to meet the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals and address the effects of global concerns including climate change on the socio-economic well-being of the people in the region.

The year 2022 also marks an important milestone in the history of the RCA, namely its 50th Anniversary. In celebration of this milestone event, a Ministerial Conference is being organized in conjunction with the 44th National Representatives Meeting to be hosted by Vietnam. One of the highlights of the Ministerial Conference will be the presentation of the results of the IAEA case studies on the social and economic value of RCA projects. The cooperation and support of all RCA GPs would ensure a meaningful commemoration of the event. I look forward to the active participation of your Government in the RCA 50th Anniversary Celebration.

If your Government is in a position to do so, the RCA would warmly welcome any extra-budgetary contribution, which should be made by writing to the Deputy Director General, Technical Cooperation, IAEA. If you require any further information on this matter, please

contact the RCA Focal Person, Mr Sinh Van Hoang on +43 1 2600 25984 or via v.hoang@iaea.org.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your Government's support of the RCA, both through contributions to the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund, and active participation in RCA projects. This ongoing financial and technical support is vital to the continued success of the RCA.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Name)
RCA Chair
National Representative, (Country)

Encl: 1) Declaration of the National Representatives to the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific (RCA)
2) Social and Economic Impact Assessment of Mutation Breeding in Crops of the RCA Programme in Asia and the Pacific