



Remarks by Mr Hua Liu

IAEA Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation, International Atomic Energy Agency

On the occasion of the 46th Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives

Beijing, China, 14 May 2024

Mr HUANG Ping, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, China Atomic Energy Authority, and the RCA National Representative of China,

Ms Natascha Elizabeth Spark, RCA Chair and National Representative of Australia,

Distinguished RCA delegates,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

I am very pleased to join you today at the opening of the 46th RCA National Representatives' Meeting. I thank the host government, the People's Republic of China, for their warm welcome and the excellent arrangements made for organizing and hosting this 46th RCA NR Meeting.

I bring warm greetings from our Director General, Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi, and extend the IAEA's congratulations on the efforts made to successfully strengthen the RCA programme and the implementation of RCA activities over the past year.

I would like to recognize the Government of Australia for its exceptional leadership over the past 12 months as the RCA chair. Special thanks go to Ms Natascha Spark for her commitment in guiding these efforts. I congratulate the Government of China as



it takes over the RCA chair and am confident that the RCA will continue to flourish under China's leadership.

We greatly appreciate the support provided by the RCA Regional Office for the preparation of this 46th RCA NR meeting, alongside the RCA chairs committee. Their coordination with all national representatives and lead country coordinators of RCA TC projects has been instrumental in producing the annual RCA report.

Tomorrow's presentations on the progress made under the RCA TC projects by Lead Coordination Countries will present the results of a tremendous amount of hard work from all of you, the LCCs and your national project coordinators. I would like to applaud each of you for these achievements.

Dear Colleagues,

Despite the many challenges facing the world today, I am greatly encouraged by the RCA's strong collaborative approach in driving the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology for socioeconomic development the region.

Through such collective endeavours, you not only harnessing the potential of nuclear science and technology, but you foster a culture of peace, prosperity, and progress. Whether it is in the fields of healthcare, agriculture, energy or environmental protection, the application of nuclear technology can make a concrete contribution to efforts to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time.

This week we gather to discuss our collective achievements and challenges, and to make decisions that will shape the future direction of the RCA programme, project implementation and partnership.



Seven new regional TC projects were launched as part of the 2024-2025 TC cycle, and you must now shift your focus to effective implementation and monitoring of these projects, in order to ensure that the projects achieve their intended outcomes in line with the agreed indicators. The IAEA stands ready and committed to provide its support to ensure the success of these projects.

This meeting will endorse the final decision on the TC projects proposals for the next cycle. I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) members for their hard work and dedication in reviewing all the submitted proposals.

As we embark on the current TC cycle and prepare for the upcoming one, I would like to highlight a few key areas:

The Agency recognizes that the RCA Ministerial level meeting of 2022 and its recommendations regarding the future strategic direction of the RCA will continue to light the way for the RCA programme, ensuring its continued relevance and effectiveness in addressing the emerging needs of the State Parties in a manner that matches the changing realities and dynamics of the region.

First and foremost, our focus must be on generating tangible socioeconomic impacts that address the identified developmental needs of participating countries. These priorities should align with the Regional Programme Framework (RPF) and the Guideline and Operating Rules of RCA Programme (GOR), guided by and aligned with key strategic initiatives such as Rays of Hope, Atom4Food, NUTEC Plastics (Ocean Health), Atoms4NetZero, and ZODIAC. It is crucial to ensure sustainability beyond the project duration.



Secondly, we must strengthen results-based planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting. Documenting results, including the impact of projects on women and girls, is essential. 744 professionals from the region have been trained under RCA TC projects in 2023, and the impact of their increased capacity should be assessed.

Thirdly, we must continue supporting capacity development in the application of Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology for new Government Parties. Capacity-building remains fundamental, focusing on human resources, infrastructure, and institutional capacities for sustainable development.

Fourth, it is essential to explore avenues for mobilizing extrabudgetary contributions, given TC funding limitations. Establishing an RCA-TC fund may merit further consideration.

Lastly, to maximize the impact of RCA through TC projects, we need a resource mobilization strategy. The IAEA could support convening a resource mobilization event or forum where Government Parties, together with the IAEA, could present the strategy and priorities to potential donors.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the RCA Government Parties for their support and dedication to the goals of the RCA. Together, let us continue to work tirelessly towards our shared vision of a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Asia and Pacific region.

Thank you very much.