

Meeting of the Chairs of Regional/Cooperative Agreements
(Quadripartite Meeting)

Vienna International Centre, Room B1144,
29 September 2016,
14:00 – 16:00

MEETING REPORT

The Quadripartite Meeting of the Regional / Cooperative Agreements was held on 29 September 2016 with the presence of representatives of the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA), the Co-operative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (ARASIA), the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL) and the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific (RCA).

The organization of the meeting was undertaken by ARCAL and Mr Laercio Vinhas, ARCAL Chairperson, chaired the meeting. In his introductory remarks, he stated that the meeting's aims are on one hand, to bring together the regional/cooperative Agreements to share information, experiences and lessons learned and on the other hand, to identify common issues, means of sharing facilities and expertise and to identify common areas of inter-agreements collaboration. The Meeting approved the proposed meeting agenda - Annex 1. The list of participants is available under Annex 2.

Mr Dahzu Yang, DDG-TC, welcomed the Chairs of regional/cooperative Agreements to the Quadripartite Meeting. He highlighted the importance of the Agreements as pillars for the facilitation of regional cooperation among the States Parties, which provide a very effective framework to promote and enlarge the contribution of nuclear science and technology to the socio-economic development of their States Parties. He also mentioned that each Agreement has its particular features, however, their experiences and lessons learned can be shared with each other, in such meetings. The Focal Persons of the Agreements in the Secretariat are always holding consultations and sharing information. He encouraged the Agreements to discuss possible areas of collaboration. Regarding the draft Concept Paper to enhance inter-agreement collaboration, Mr Yang encouraged the Chairs to adopt a realistic and implementable plan of action which would help to operationalize the modalities of collaboration between regional/cooperative agreements.

Mr Laercio Vinhas, ARCAL Chairperson, underlined the objectives of the meeting, which were to bring together the lessons learned from the regional/cooperative Agreements, to identify areas for interregional collaboration and to discuss and endorse a draft Concept

Paper to establish a Quadripartite Forum elaborated as mandated by the Quadripartite Meeting in 2015.

On behalf of Mr Khalid El Mediouri, outgoing AFRA Chairperson, Mr Ali Jibre presented the draft Concept Paper to establish a Quadripartite Forum. He highlighted the organizational and managerial modalities of the Quadripartite Forum, including the role and involvement of the Secretariat. Participants at the Quadripartite Meeting, both from the regional/cooperative Agreements and from the Secretariat, endorsed the document as a basis for future inter-Agreement cooperation.

In this context, the Meeting agreed to establish a working group, preferably of Focal persons of regional/cooperative agreements which would develop a realistic and implementable plan of action to operationalize the collaboration modalities between the regional/cooperative agreements as defined in the Concept Paper. These efforts will have the continuous support of the Regional Divisions of the Department of Technical Cooperation in order to maximize the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear applications for the development of Member States.

Mr Ali Jibre, and Prof Atef Abdel Fattah, Incoming AFRA Chair, Mr Bilal Nsouli, ARASIA Chair, Mr Chadraabal Mavag, RCA Chair, and Ms Lydia Paredes, ARCAL Vice-Chair, each presented good practices and success stories of their respective Regional Agreements as well as proposals towards the implementation of the Concept Paper. Mr Ali Jibre, highlighted the experience of the AFRA Fund, which contributes to upgrade the Footnote a/ of AFRA regional projects. AFRA has also been cooperating with the private sector and with other international organizations. They also highlighted the benefits of triangular cooperation with a focus on south-south development. Ms Lydia Paredes, ARCAL Vice-Chair, emphasized the relevance of the Regional Strategic Profile as a programmatic tool that helped prioritize proposals for regional projects. She also mentioned the ARCAL initiative of supporting ARCAL Designated Centres to become IAEA Collaborative Centres. Mr Laercio Vinhas, ARCAL Chair stated the importance for ARCAL to acquire the status of an intergovernmental agreement as it had previously been an interinstitutional agreement.

From the relevant Secretariat's perspective, it was noted that a lot of progress has been made regarding inter-Agreement collaboration. Ms Najat Mokhtar, DIR-TCAP stated that organizing cooperation activities would be beneficial to participants with the same language across the different regions. Mr Raul Ramirez, SH-TCLAC1 suggested to identify a small number of activities of common interest, such as the ongoing experience of training African candidates from Portuguese-speaking countries in Brazil under the postgraduate Education course in radiation Protection. Other Agreements were invited to participate as observers in the main ARCAL meetings.

All parties agreed that the next meeting should be held during the IAEA General Conference in 2017. The next meeting will be organized by RCA.

The Chairs of regional/cooperative agreements discussed and shared views on possibilities to further develop inter-regional collaboration through capacity building and training. Following deliberations, the meeting adopted the following recommendations.

Recommendations:

1. The Meeting endorsed the importance for the regional/cooperative Agreements to share information, experiences and lessons learned and to identify common areas of inter-regional collaboration.
2. The Concept Paper to Establish an Interregional Collaboration between the Four Regional/Cooperative Agreements was presented by the Chair of AFRA, Agreement that undertook the preparation of such paper. The meeting endorsed the Concept Paper as a basis for inter-Agreement collaboration. It was also agreed to disseminate the Concept Paper among the States Parties of respective Agreements.
3. All regional agreements shared their good practices and lessons learned for the functioning of their Agreement's activities and projects. The sharing of training opportunities between the Agreements according to common languages in the different regions was highlighted as a good practice. Participants reiterated their availability to continue receiving professionals from other regions to be trained. This was considered beneficial, among other, in order to avoid duplication of activities under each Agreement.
4. The Agreements will continue to support inter-Agreement collaboration and will identify activities to that end. Following a step by step approach, the activities will be implemented and monitored. It was agreed to report on progress achieved towards the implementation of the Concept Paper during the next Quadripartite Forum.
5. The Meeting also decided that the Focal Persons of regional/cooperative Agreements in the Secretariat should hold periodic meetings (every quarter) in order to find ways to make the Concept Paper operational, taking into account the previous point. These meetings will be organized by ARCAL Secretariat until the meeting of next year.
6. It was agreed to convene the next Quadripartite Meeting at the margins of the GC in 2017, and RCA agreed to undertake the organization.

MEETING AGENDA

14.00 – 14.05	Opening (ARCAL Chair)
14:05 – 14:15	Welcome remarks by Mr. Dazhu Yang - Deputy Director General - Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation
14:15 – 14:20	Meeting objectives and expected outcomes (ARCAL Chair)
14:20 – 14:30	Presentation of the Concept Paper to establish a Quadripartite Forum (AFRA) <i>(10 minutes)</i>
14:30 – 15:10	Presentation of good practices / proposals based on the Concept Paper (AFRA, ARASIA, ARCAL, RCA) <i>(10 minutes each)</i>
15:10 – 15:30	Regional perspective from the Secretariats of the Agreements (Regional Directors) <i>(5 minutes each)</i>
15:30 – 15:40	Next Quadripartite Meeting
15:40 - 15:55	Summary of recommendations and conclusions (ARCAL Chair)
15:55 – 16:00	Closing (ARCAL Chair)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Representatives of AFRA

Mr Ali Jibre, Head of Business Development and Partnership Division
National Centre for Energy, Nuclear Sciences and Technology (CNESTEN) representing Dr Khalid El
Mediouri (AFRA Chair)
Prof Atef Abdel Fattah, Incoming AFRA Chair (Egypt)

Representatives of ARASIA

Mr Bilal Nsouli, ARASIA Chair (Lebanon)

Representatives of ARCAL

Mr Laercio Vinhas, ARCAL Chair (Brazil)
Ms Lydia Paredes, ARCAL Vice-Chair (Mexico)

Representatives of RCA

Mr Chadraabal Mavag, RCA Chair (Mongolia)

IAEA Staff

Mr Dazhu Yang, DDG-TC
Ms Najat Mokhtar, DIR-TCAP
Mr Neil Victor Jarvis, SH-TCAF2
Mr Raul Garcia Ramirez, SH-TCLAC1
Mr Saul Perez-Pijuan, SH-TCLAC2
Ms Jane Gerardo-Abaya SH- TCAP2
Mr Mickel Edwerd, TCAF
Mr Sinh Van Hoang, TCAP
Ms Petra Salame, TCAP
Ms Crosby Plaza, TCLAC
Ms Melina Belinco
Mr Alejandro de la Cuesta
Ms Carla Cueva