



**REGIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE PROMOTION  
OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**REPORT OF THE XX MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF ARCAL REPRESENTATIVES (ORA)  
DURING THE  
63rd SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**19 SEPTEMBER 2019  
VIENA, AUSTRIA**

**ORA 2019-04  
SEPTEMBER 2019**

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## **I. Introduction**

On September 19, 2019, the XX Meeting of the Board of ARCAL Representatives (ORA) was held at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in line with Article II of the Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Science and Nuclear Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL).

Representatives of the following countries participated in the meeting: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The meeting was attended by the representative of the Government of Spain., Mr. Senén Florensa Palau, in his capacity as a strategic partner of ARCAL.

At the beginning of the meeting, the ORA Board of Directors was composed by the representative of the Permanent Mission of Mexico as president, the representative of Cuba as Vice-President and the representative of Brazil as Secretary of the ORA. During the meeting, Mr. Alberto Ignacio Glender Rivas, representing H.E. Ms. Alicia Buenrostro Massieu, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the IAEA, transferred the presidency of ORA to H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Fernández Palacios, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the IAEA.

After the transfer, the Board of Directors was formed by the President of the ORA, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Fernández Palacios, Permanent Representative of Cuba, as the Vice-President of ORA, H.E. Mr. Eric Anderson Machado, Permanent Representative of Peru, and by the Secretary of the ORA, Mr. Alberto Ignacio Glender Rivas, on behalf of the H.E. Ms. Alicia Buenrostro Massieu, Permanent Representative of Mexico.

In addition, participants from the IAEA included Mr Dazhu Yang, Deputy Director General, Head of the Technical Cooperation Department, Mrs. Mary Alice Hayward, Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of Management and Administration; Ms. May Abdel-Wahab, Director of NAHU, on behalf of the Head of the Department of Nuclear Applications; Mr. Juan Carlos Lentijo, Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety; Mr. Luis Longoria, Director of the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean; Mr. Raúl Ramírez, Chief of Section 1; Mr. Saúl Pérez-Pijuan, Chief of Section 2, Program Administration Officers of the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean (PMOs), and other technical officers of the Agency.

## **II. Adoption of the agenda and development of the meeting**

Mr. Alberto Ignacio Glender Rivas opened the meeting of the Body of ARCAL Representatives and, after thanking the representatives and participants for attending the meeting, submitted the provisional agenda for the consideration of participants, which was approved by consensus (Annex 1).

Afterwards, Mr Dazhu Yang was welcomed, who proceeded to deliver his speech. Mr Yang referred to this year's celebration of the 35th anniversary of ARCAL, highlighting the contribution of the agreement as a collaborative framework that encourages and nurtures collaboration in the countries of the region for the promotion of nuclear science and technology.

Furthermore, he pointed out the importance of the preparation of the regional programme proposed by ARCAL for the technical cooperation cycle 2020-2021 as well as the process of formulating the next Regional Strategic Profile for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2022-2026

Finally, the Deputy Director General mentioned the good implementation of the current program in line with that of recent years and encouraged compliance with the financial commitments of the countries. The full text of the intervention is attached to this report (Annex 2).

Mrs. Mary Alice Hayward highlighted the changes and improvements in the services provided by the Department of Management and Administration, which have experienced a growing demand in recent years. The attention given within the IAEA to the effectiveness of the services in terms of conferences and simultaneous interpretation as well as equipment purchases through technical cooperation was mentioned. Similarly, she highlighted the benefits of ARCAL's South-South cooperation thanks to the excellent cooperation of Member States. Finally, she took the opportunity to congratulate ARCAL for the actions taken on gender equality, raising the representation of women in the nuclear field.

After this, Mr. Juan Carlos Lentijo, in addition to congratulating ARCAL on his anniversary, mentioned the tangible and social advances of the region in relation to its regulatory security frameworks and the strengthening of the protective capabilities of workers, patients and the environment. The Director of the Department of Nuclear Safety also noted that individualized support to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean has allowed the IAEA to respond effectively to the needs and priorities particular to each of the countries. To conclude, he encouraged the participants to participate in other forums on Nuclear Safety in the region.

Finally, Ms. May Abdel-Wahab highlighted the joint effort at the IAEA to provide technical support to the Latin American and Caribbean region. He also noted the economic and social importance of the contribution of the Department of Nuclear Applications together with the IAEA and ARCAL technical cooperation program in the field of irradiation-induced crop mutations, the Sterile Mosquito Technique (SIT), and others. Finally, he took the opportunity to highlight the rapid and successful capacity of the Agency to respond to the challenges faced by the region, thus expressing its desire to transfer the knowledge acquired globally.

On the next point, the President of ORA presented a video to be projected for the celebration of the 35th anniversary of ARCAL, which emphasizes the contribution to sustainable development that ARCAL provides in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Next, Mr. Alberto Ignacio Glender Rivas proceeded with the transfer of the Presidency of ORA inviting S.E. Mr. Ambassador Juan Antonio Fernández Palacios to assume the Presidency on behalf of Cuba. The new President then welcomed Ambassador Eric Anderson Machado in his capacity as Vice President of the ORA and the representative of Mexico in his new position as Secretary. The new President of the ORA expressed his gratitude for the position and acknowledged the successful capacity of the Mexican Ambassador leading the ARCAL Presidency. He also pledged to continue the good dynamics that had been created for the benefit of the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

The next item in the meeting agenda included a presentation by Mr. Raul Ramirez on the extension agreement of the ARCAL Agreement, valid until September 2020. All ARCAL member states were informed about the proposed draft text for the new extension agreement for a period of 5 years (2020-2025), as well as the process and steps to be followed for its adoption. It was agreed that the deadline for sending comments related to the draft Extension Agreement would be October 4, 2019 and that the adoption of the Extension Agreement and sending certified copies thereof to all ORA representatives would be given on November 8 of 2019. The documents referring to this agenda item are found in Annex 3.

On the next item on the agenda, the President of ORA presented the report of activities carried out by ORA in the period between September 2018 and September 2019 (ORA document 2019-01) and submitted it for approval. The report was adopted by the plenary of the meeting.

Next, Mr. Luis Longoria presented the Report on the main activities carried out by the Secretariat within the framework of the ARCAL Program in 2018 (Document ORA 2019-03). The report contains an analysis of the meetings and initiatives supported by the Secretariat held in 2018 in the ARCAL Framework, as well as the funds disbursed in the activities implemented throughout the year. The high implementation rate achieved by the Division in 2018 was also highlighted and the

great importance of the extrabudgetary contributions received in 2018 from Chile, Japan, the United States, Costa Rica and Spain for the execution of the ARCAL Program was recognized. The report of the Secretariat was adopted by the plenary of the meeting.

Regarding the planning process of the Regional Technical Cooperation Program proposed for the 2020-2021 cycle, Mr. Raúl Ramírez made a presentation that included an overview of the regional program that has been designed for the next cycle. The plenary of the meeting approved the ARCAL program for the 2020-2021 cycle, which will be submitted to the IAEA Board of Governors for approval in November 2019.

Next, the President of the Technical Coordination Body of ARCAL (OCTA) and National Coordinator of ARCAL in Cuba, Mr. Daniel Lopez Aldama, presented the main points of the Report of the activities carried out by the OCTA during the period between September 2018 and September 2019, contained in document ORA 2019-02 circulated before the meeting. The President reported on the proposed ARCAL project without IAEA funding focused on strengthening the full and equitable participation of women in nuclear science and technologies, as well as on the process of preparing the Regional Strategic Profile for Latin America and the Caribbean (PER) 2022-2029.

At the end of the meeting, Ambassador Fernández Palacios emphasized the objective of ARCAL and the IAEA to address the priority areas and needs defined by Member States and the importance of the strong commitment and support of countries to work together in the scope of the Regional Agreement.

Participants were invited to a celebration cocktail for the 35th anniversary of ARCAL, which was attended by all participants.

### **III. Decisions adopted**

As a result of the discussion topics included in the agenda of the meeting, the Representatives of the ORA agreed to:

1. Adopt all the reports presented at the meeting: Document ORA 2019-01, Document ORA 2019-02, Document ORA 2019-03.
2. Approve the proposal of ten regional projects that will be considered for the approval of the IAEA Board of Governors.

Vienna, September 19, 2019.

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**  
**XX Meeting of the Body of ARCAL Representatives (ORA)**  
**and Celebration of the 35th Anniversary of ARCAL**

Vienna, September 19, 2019, 3:30 p.m.  
Room C4, C Building, VIC

Opening of the meeting.

Adoption of the agenda.

1. Welcome by the President of the ORA, HE Alicia BUENROSTRO MASSIEU, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the IAEA and Representative of Mexico to ARCAL.
2. Introductory statement by Mr. Dazhu YANG, Deputy Director General, Head of the Technical Cooperation Department.
3. Introductory statements by Mrs. Najat MOKHTAR, Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of Nuclear Applications; Mr. Juan Carlos LENTIJO, Deputy Director General, Head of the Nuclear Safety Department; and Mrs. Mary Alice HAYWARD, Deputy Director General, Head of the Management and Administration Department.
4. Video “35th anniversary of ARCAL”.
5. Transfer of the Presidency:
  - a) Appointment of the Board of Directors of the XX meeting of the ORA.
  - b) Statement by the President of the ORA, HE Mr. Juan Antonio FERNÁNDEZ PALACIOS, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the IAEA and Representative of Cuba to ARCAL.
6. Information about the Extension Agreement of ARCAL (2020-2025).
7. Approval of the report of activities carried out by ORA during the period between September 2018 and September 2019 (Document ORA 2019-01).
8. Report of the Secretariat on the main activities carried out within the framework of the ARCAL Programme in 2018 (Document ORA 2019-03) and regional programme proposed for Latin America and the Caribbean for the 2020-2021 cycle.
9. Presentation: main initiatives of the ARCAL Technical Coordination Body (OCTA) (Document ORA 2019-02):
  - a) Project WiN ARCAL.
  - b) Formulation of the Regional Strategic Profile 2022-2029.
10. Celebration cocktail on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of ARCAL (16:45, coffee corner, F7)

**XX Meeting of the ARCAL Board of Representatives  
Vienna, 19 September 2019  
15:30 hrs – Room C4, C Building**

**Welcoming remarks by Mr. Dazhu Yang  
IAEA Deputy Director General,  
Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation**

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Representatives of ARCAL States Party and other Member States, Delegates, Colleagues,

Buenas tardes!

I am pleased to attend this 20th Meeting of the ARCAL Board of Representatives.

You are also marking ARCAL's 35th anniversary, and I would like to congratulate you on this anniversary and on ARCAL's successful role as a framework for the promotion of collaboration in the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology in Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the most recent meeting of ARCAL's Technical Coordination Body in May of this year in Cuba, our late DG Amano recognized ARCAL's importance to the IAEA Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean. He highlighted the significant progress made by countries in the region in using nuclear techniques for development over the last 35 years, and underlined ARCAL's contribution to this achievement. The ARCAL Agreement has indeed proven itself to be an essential mechanism for a strategic and coordinated approach to using nuclear technology to address common challenges across the region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past 35 years, more than 160 IAEA regional technical cooperation projects have been implemented under the framework of ARCAL. Many signature achievements have been made.

Among recent examples, fruit fly infestation has been curbed in countries including Mexico, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, using the sterile insect technique.

Radiation-induced mutation techniques have led to the development of new varieties of rice, tomato and quinoa, resulting in stronger crops with higher yields, greater resistance to disease and pests, and higher tolerance of drought.

ARCAL projects have helped countries to improve the management of water resources and to monitor marine pollution.

Considerable progress has been made in the region in the use of nuclear medicine and radiotherapy for better diagnosis and treatment of diseases. The IAEA is proud to have contributed to the organization of key regional training programmes for oncologists, specialists in nuclear medicine, radiotherapy technicians and medical physicists.

More recently, ARCAL has taken important steps in strengthening the sustainability of national nuclear institutions and in attracting more young professionals and young women to its activities. Progress on both fronts is very important for the continuous improvement of the ARCAL programme.

These are only a few examples of the many achievements that have been made thanks to the excellent cooperation between you, members of the Body of ARCAL Representatives, the National ARCAL Coordinators, project counterparts and the IAEA Secretariat. Congratulations once again.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The new programme submitted by ARCAL for the 2020-2021 TC cycle was prepared through an intensive strategic and consultative process and consists of 10 new projects. It focuses on health, food safety and agriculture, environment, industry energy and knowledge management.

I understand that National ARCAL Coordinators and the Designated Team Members have worked very hard with IAEA staff to design high quality projects, in line with the TC quality criteria.

The new programme has also been designed based on the Regional Strategic Profile for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2016–2021. This key document supports the proposal of projects that respond to real needs according to the priorities of the region.

In this regard, I recognize the hard work being currently undertaken by ARCAL and the IAEA to draft the third Regional Strategic Profile for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will cover the period 2022–2029. I commend those efforts, which will contribute to the continuous improvement of the regional technical cooperation programme.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to remind you that financing the Agency's technical cooperation programme is a shared responsibility and reflects the commitment of all Member States. Although some countries have made considerable efforts to bring their TCF contributions up to date, not all Member States have fully paid their contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund. I would like to ask you, as ARCAL representatives, to convey a message to your authorities, encouraging the timely payment of the contribution to the TCF. As we embark on the 2020–2021 TC programme, I would also like to remind you that the early payment of the National Participation Cost (NPCs) is extremely important and ensures the timely start-up of national projects.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In closing, I congratulate Cuba, represented today by H.E. Ambassador Juan Antonio Fernández Palacios, on taking on the presidency of ARCAL, I compliment Mexico, represented today by H.E. Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu, on the successful leadership for the past two years.

I would like to reiterate my appreciation for your efforts to continue and expand fruitful cooperation under the framework of ARCAL, and I assure you of the full support of the TC Department, particularly through the Division of Latin America and the Caribbean, for your programmes.

I wish you all the best in your continuing mission to strengthen the ARCAL agreement in the years to come.

Thank you.

Muchas gracias!

Muito obrigado!

## **Documents referring to the ARCAL Extension Agreement**

### **Agreement to further extend the Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### THE STATES PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT

CONSIDERING that Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay are Members of the International Atomic Energy Agency (hereinafter referred to as “the IAEA”) and Parties to the Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean which entered into force on 5 September 2005, (hereinafter referred to as “ARCAL”), as extended;

CONSIDERING that, in accordance with Article XI thereof, ARCAL was concluded for an initial period of ten years following its entry into force but may be extended by periods of five years if the States Parties so agree;

CONSIDERING that an Agreement to extend ARCAL for a period of five years entered into force on 5 September 2015 and that, consequently, ARCAL is due to expire on 4 September 2020 unless the States Parties agree on a further extension;

CONSIDERING that the aforementioned States Parties to ARCAL, represented by the Board of ARCAL Representatives, wish to extend ARCAL for a further period of five years, in view of its usefulness in establishing a regional framework for promoting and strengthening technical cooperation by the IAEA in Latin America and the Caribbean;

AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

#### **Article 1 Extension of ARCAL**

ARCAL shall remain in force for a further period of five years with effect from 5 September 2020.

#### **Article 2 Notifications and Entry into Force**

The present Agreement shall enter into force on 5 September 2020 for those States Parties to ARCAL who have notified the Director General of the IAEA prior to this date of their consent to extend ARCAL. For each State Party to ARCAL that provides notification after this date, this Agreement shall enter into force on the date of such notification.

DONE at Vienna, on [date of adoption], in two copies, in Spanish and English, the texts in both languages being equally authentic.

**WORKFLOW ARCAL EXTENSION AGREEMENT  
ARCAL III (2020-2025)**

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline (to be endorsed by the ORA)</b>
<b>1</b>	<p>Sending of documents relevant to the extension (text of the draft Extension Agreement and workflow) to all representatives of the ORA and OCTA <i>Responsible: Secretariat</i></p>	6 September, 2019
<b>2</b>	<p>Presentation to Member States of the draft Extension Agreement during the ORA meeting <i>Responsible: Presidency ORA and Secretariat</i></p>	19 September, 2019
<b>3</b>	<p>Deadline for sending observations relating to the draft Extension Agreement <i>Responsible: Member States</i></p>	4 October, 2019
<b>4</b>	<p>Adoption of the Extension Agreement and sending of certified copies thereof to all ORA representatives <i>Responsible: Secretariat</i></p>	8 November, 2019
<b>5</b>	<p>Sending of sample notifications of acceptance of the Extension Agreement to the representatives of the ORA <i>Responsible: Secretariat</i></p>	8 November, 2019
<b>6</b>	<p>Sending to the Secretariat (OLA) of notifications of acceptance, signed by the Head of State or Government, or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the States concerned <i>Responsible: Member States</i></p>	31 August, 2020