**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSERS OF PRE-CONCEPTS FOR THE RCA PROGRAMME FOR 2026/27**

As per approved procedures for development of RCA Projects implemented under the TC programme of the IAEA, Pre-Project Concept proposals are hereby invited from the RCA Government Parties (GPs). The template for Pre-Concept proposals is attached.

The Pre-Concept proposals should be uploaded to the RCA website. Instructions for uploading the proposals will be provided by the RCARO in due course.

Pre-Concept proposals should be in priority areas of the RCA GPs outlined in the RCA Regional Programme Framework (RPF) and should be based on the results and achievements of the previous relevant RCA projects. Pre-Concepts in areas of new emerging needs that did not exist at the time of the preparation of the RPF require strong justifications. **The Pre-Concepts should conform to the criteria for RCA and TC projects and the RCA Strategic Directions given in pages 5 and 6 of the RPF.**

**Evaluation Criteria:**

The following criteria will be used by the RCA PAC in evaluating the Pre-Concepts.

1. Conformity to the priority areas of the RCA Regional Programme Framework for 2024-29
2. Whether the Pre-Concept addresses a regional need
3. The role of nuclear technology in the project
4. Whether the Pre-Concept is focused on technology transfer or research
5. Whether due consideration has been given to previous RCA projects in the same area, in drafting the pre-Concept.

The deadline for submission of the Pre-Concept proposals is **21 July 2023.** The timeframe for development of the RCA prgramme (up to Project Concept stage) is given below.

| **Time Frame** | **Activity** |
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| 21 July 2023 | Deadline for submission of Pre-Concepts for 2026/27 programme |
| 2nd August – 10th September 2023 | Review of the Pre-Concepts by PAC |
| 10 – 15 September 2023 | Consolidation of the reviews of the Pre-Concepts by PAC Chair |
| 22nd September 2023 | Presentation of the outcomes of the reviews to the 52nd RCA General Conference Meeting |
| 22nd September – 31st  December 2023 | Preparation and submission of Project Concepts by NRs |
| January – February 2024 | Review of Project Concepts by PAC |
| March - May 2024 | Submission of the recommendations of PAC to the 46h NRM |

**Pre-Concept Template** **for the RCA Programme 2026/2027**

All Concept proposals for the RCA Programme 2026/2027 must be prepared using the following template and posted on the RCARO website. The Pre-Concepts will be reviewed by the RCA PAC and subsequently submitted to the 52nd RCA GCM to be held in September 2021 for further consideration and decision.

Please note that the Pre-Concept proposals must be endorsed by the respective NRs, confirming conformity to the RCA and TC requirements.

**PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE FILLING THE TEMPLATE.**

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| **Proposed Title:** *(Should be concise and reflect the expected impact of the project)* |
| **A brief description of the project (max. 300 words)**  (*Should include the problem to be addressed, the objective of the project and the nuclear or related technique to be used*) |
| **Alignment with the RCA Regional Programme Framework for 2024/29**  Is the project in a priority area of the RCA RPF for 2024/29 ? Yes No  If yes, state the title and the number of the priority area. (eg. Food Safety –A1)  If no, give a justification for the project proposal. |
| **Does the proposal address a new technical area for regional cooperation?**  Yes No  **Is this proposal a continuation of a previous project?** YesNo  **If yes, indicate the project number:**  **Was the proposal drafted in consultation with the stakeholders of other GPs?**  Yes No |
| **Contact for this Pre-concept**  Name of Proposer:  Email Address: |
| **Endorsement of the Pre-Concept:**  I have reviewed this pre-concept and confirm that it conforms to the RCA and TC requirements.  RCA National Representative:  Government Party:  Email Address:  Date: |