



RCSTT Summary Report and Work Plan
Presented To 20th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)
Durban, South Africa
Session1: Wednesday, 31 October 2018

Mr. Chairman,
Madam Secretary-General,
Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply honored to join you again as the Director of IORA-RCSTT in this CSO meeting, which coincides with the centenary of the birth of the former President of the Republic of South Africa, Mandela; a great leader whose legacy will live on through younger generations and provides a major source of inspiration for all those who strive for a more equal and just world.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me also remind that this year marks the tenth anniversary of RCSTT. Exactly 10 years ago, on 28 October 2008 IORA-RCSTT was born by signing an MOU between the IORA Secretariat and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the occasion of this decennial anniversary, RCSTT has already put in motion a complete overhaul of its activities, analyzing the weaknesses and strengths of its activities in the past and taking a fresh look at future opportunities and threats in this changing environment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Member States who have so far supported RCSTT' in many different forms. In the second decade of its activities, RCSTT tries to be more strategically focused. As a step in this direction, we have decided to discontinue our consideration about two projects that I referred to in my previous report. We did it with a view to respect other countries requests and to avoid duplication of efforts.

In the month of August, I had the pleasure and honor to welcome in Tehran our dear Chairman, H.E. Mr. Anil Sooklal, during his short stay in Tehran.

I also would like to thank the delegations who attended the Second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting in Delhi NCR, India, from 2 to 4 October 2018, for their recognition of the role RCSTT can play in promoting the development and transfer of science and technology within IROA Member States. I am also grateful that the cluster of S&T under the Indian leadership added our three suggestions for strengthening the RCSTT. Moreover, RCSTT welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat to develop a template for future reports by Specialized Agencies to the CSO.

Mr. Chairman,

Now, allow me to briefly introduce the annual programme of IORA RCSTT. A report containing a summary of the Programme is in front of you for your kind consideration:

This programme was presented to the 8th CSO Bi-Annual Meeting in 30 July and taken note of with appreciation in the 24th Meeting of IORAG, in 3 August 2018. It was also redistributed to Member States for their review of approval inter-sessionally.

I. The Completed activities:

IORA RCSTT's Coordination Center of Herbal Medicinal Plants, Lucknow, India.
Signing MOU of Coordination Centre on Medicinal Plants, hosted by CSIR-CIMAP in India on 25 Feb. 2018, in Tehran-I.R. Iran.
Inauguration of IORA-RCSTT Coordination Centre on Medicinal Plants at CSIR-CIMAP, on 7 May 2018 at the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) campus of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Lucknow.

II. The current activities:

1. Training Programme on "Diversity, documentation, Gene banking and Database for Medicinal Plants", in , 2018, Lucknow-India
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The above programme is the first official activity of IORA-RCSTT Coordination Centre on Medicinal Plants at CSIR-CIMAP to be held by CSIR-CIMAP in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India and IORA RCSTT. (A brief report is attached hereto containing more information)

2. Complete overhaul and restructuring RCSTT by establishing policy research unit, a self-funded activity. It aims ex-post evaluation of performance and revitalizing the missed / underscored missions and objectives during the initial decennial period. RCSTT would like to appeal to all Member States to consider supporting RCSTT by sharing their expertise and knowledge to lead this specialized agency more effectively and efficiently. With this goal, we approached two international organizations, namely, UNIDO and UNCTAD

Action to be taken: CSO takes note this activity and invites Member States to kindly send us their feedback.

The Secretariat was asked to clarify the status of RCSTT with the especial agencies such as APCTT and UNCSTT and facilitate our communication with them.

3. Establishing IORA RCSTT Coordination Centre on Water and Sanitation, Research, Innovation and Technological Cooperation and Commercialization

On the basis of IORA RCSTT proposal and initial agreement with the Water Research Commission of South Africa, the establishment of the Coordination Centre on WATER AND SANITATION, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AND COMMERCIALISATION COORDINATION, was discussed in the Eighth Bi-annual Meeting of the CSO and noted by the meeting. Meanwhile, both parties had proper time and opportunity to discuss different dimensions of the cooperation and the modalities of establishing the Centre and finally prepared the basic draft MOU to formalize this cooperation and both agreed upon the content.

Action to be taken: RCSTT is hoping the Draft will be approved in this Meeting and be signed on 1 November 2018.

4. Elaborating a concept note for the coordination center of medical technology in Aachen University.

<p>Referring to the visit of the RCSTT's director to the University of Aachen to explore the possibility of establishing IORA RCSTT Coordination Centre for Health and Medical Technology at that University, Aachen University has welcomed this proposal and decided to create a working group to develop certain procedures and guidelines to host this Coordination Centre. As this issue was brought forth to the 8th Bi-Annual Meeting of the CSO, the chair asked about the scope and modalities of this cooperation. Through communications with the people in charge in Aachen university, the scope and modality of our cooperation are agreed upon by the two parties as follows:</p>
<p>- Scope: This cooperation will be done in artificial organs, tissue engineering, Novel Drug Delivery Systems (NDDS) and surgical and medical instruments.</p>
<p>- Modality: The cooperation will be done through different channels and instruments including workshops, conferences, training courses, technical visits, joint projects, research paper and annual reports publications and etc. for benefit of all Member States.</p>
<p>- Action to be taken: RCSTT is hoping German official reply addressing this issue will soon be sent.</p>

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES:

<p>5. Projects to Be Implemented by Fund Requested from IORA Especial Fund</p>
<p>The Workshop on Effects of Climate Change on the Marine Environment of the Indian Ocean” (November 2018)</p> <p>To be organized in cooperation with the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) and Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOA).</p> <p><i>(The Concept Note is attached hereto.)</i></p>
<p>This will be managed within the funding made available by China for this purpose. The Workshop will be arranged with the support of China in Iran. The Special Fund application has been circulated to Member States for their views. The Applicant is the RCSTT Coordination Centre in ISDMU, SOA, China.</p> <p><i>(The Concept Note is attached, hereto).</i></p>

6. The Workshop on Effects of Climate Change on the Marine Environment of the Indian Ocean (November 2019)

This workshop is to be organized in cooperation with the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) and Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOA).

(The Concept Note is attached hereto.)