Future Directions Process: Where we are now

- **FOCUS:** Organizational effectiveness and improvement
- **TIMEFRAME:** 3 years
- **PREVIOUSLY:**
  - P4 identified the need for future directions planning. Organizing group established (December 2014)
  - P5 initial consultation with constituent groups in RDA, a report of the meeting’s consensus presented to RDA membership, and published online (March 2015)
  - Community survey about priorities and actions developed, conducted and analysed (May / June 2015)
  - Report from the consultations

- **CURRENTLY:**
  - Analysis of feedback and development of initial draft of future directions for P6 to test consensus (September 2015)
  - Final draft of Future Directions document prepared presented to Council for agreement (October/November 2015)
  - Move from plan to action
  - Report on Future Directions Document and initial implementation report-out (March 2016 at Plenary 7)
Goal: Over the next 3 years, RDA will be a community that:

- Makes engagement easy
- Provides an on-going set of outputs that are recognized and adopted
- Is recognized as a venue of choice to improve research data interoperability
- Is served by an effective, agile, and sustainable organisation
Engagement Action Plan

Develop a systemic engagement approach that includes engagement with external stakeholders and strategic groups, the RDA community, and next generation leadership with the following specific actions:

- Create an annual targeted list of strategic organizations, communities, professional societies, and countries to expand the engagement and impact of RDA and devise strategies to execute on the list.

- Identify and recruit 50 members who are domain experts who can serve as conduits between RDA and specific organisations and to facilitate joint events with those organisations.

- Continue RDA international plenaries as a primary engagement tool for membership and to broaden the range of members by recruiting industry, startups, and entrepreneurs to plenaries. Regions should be encouraged to develop, fund and administer a travel fund for participation in the Plenaries.

- Develop a set of succession plans for all constituent groups within RDA and RDA regional organisations as part of recruiting next generation leadership.

- Develop white papers to promote discussion of key data-related issues within the RDA community.
Communication Action Plan

Develop an integrated communications approach that includes communication to external groups, internal groups, and support for communications efforts with the following specific actions:

- Identify and recruit an additional cohort of members who are skilled communicators who can communicate about RDA to wider audiences as RDA Ambassadors.

- Develop appropriate support material and training for RDA domain experts and ambassadors.

- Update from Council, TAB, OAB, and the Secretariat to the membership quarterly.

- Develop clear statements of value and compelling targeted messaging to existing and new communities, stakeholders, and the membership.

- Recruit individuals/organizations to write stories/create content (including regional RDAs) to highlight member contributions/adoptions.

- Create and publish an RDA Annual Report targeted to internal and potential external stakeholders. Improve RDA website for better internal communication, transparency, and co-ordination and better external navigation and visibility.
Develop robust coordination mechanisms that improve organizational effectiveness and integration with the following specific actions:

- Develop an approach and appropriate groups or mechanisms to maintain/expand adoption of the outputs of Working Groups.
- Develop an effective process to track and expedite RDA processes, actions, and outputs.
- Develop an organisational map to articulate and improve missions, outcomes and interactions between groups. Realize the map in RDA processes and mechanisms to improve coordination, engagement and communication.
- Develop an RDA approach and mechanisms for better coordination and communication among RDA Regions.
**Next Steps**

- **THIS WEEK:** Gather additional feedback this week from Council and Membership

- **IN THE NEXT MONTH:** Directions Document Organizing Committee and the Secretary General will develop a 3-year blue print for implementation including milestones and metrics for success.

- **THIS FALL:** Council approves 3-year blue print. Council appoints an Implementation Steering Committee to support the Secretary General in his responsibility for implementing the blueprint.

- **OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS:**
  - The Steering Committee meets with Secretary General to conduct semi-annual review of milestones
  - The chair of the Steering Committee and the Secretary General report to council in advance of each plenary
  - The chair of the Steering Committee and the Secretary General report on progress to the membership at each plenary