



**REPORT FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ADMISSION OF NEW PARTICIPATING STATES<sup>1</sup>:  
APPLICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL**

Participants:

Professor Norbert Ifrah (Governing Council Chairperson – Member ex Officio)  
Professor Dorothy Keefe (Governing Council Vice Chairperson)

Brazil : Dr João Paulo Viola

Egypt: Dr Mohamed Gamal

Japan : Dr Masato Izutsu, Mr Motohiro Hamada and Dr Wakako Toga

Qatar: Dr Al-Hareth Al-Khater

USA: Ms Lauren B. Mikulsky and Ms Maya Levine

IARC Secretariat:

Dr Elisabete Weiderpass, Director

Ms Charu Mehta, Director of Administration and Finance

Mr Clément Chauvet, Strategic Engagement and External Relations Officer

Ms Nathalie Lamandé, Governing Council Meetings Coordinator

Apologies: Dr Mark Palmer (United Kingdom).

1. The Governing Council Subcommittee on the Admission of New Participating States met by teleconference on 9 April 2025 to consider the application of the Government of Portugal for admission in the International Agency for Research on Cancer.
2. The Subcommittee considered the application of the Government of Portugal and noted that it was received on 24 March 2025 under cover of a letter and transmitted by the Director-General to all Participating States on 31 March 2025.
3. As required by Resolution [GC/54/R17](#), in order to assess whether “the State is able to contribute effectively to the scientific and technical work of the Agency” (Statute Article XII), the Subcommittee was tasked to review the report on the status of cancer research activities in Portugal (see [Document GC/67/18 Annex](#)), which comprises:
  - a. The description of the current cancer research community in Portugal;
  - b. The description of the National Cancer Hub composed of three centers of Portuguese Institutes of Oncology (Lisbon, Coimbra and Porto);

---

<sup>1</sup> *Composition of Subcommittee (Resolution GC/66/R19):*

*[...] Chairperson of the Governing Council (member ex officio), and representatives of Brazil, Egypt, Japan, Qatar, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, who shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council.*

- c. The description of the Cancer research funding in the public and Non-Governmental Organizations Sectors;
  - d. The description of the National Cancer Control Plan;
  - e. The contribution to IARC's research priorities (cancer screening, fundamental and translational cancer research, capacity building), and
  - f. The evidence of current scientific and technical exchanges with IARC.
5. From this review, Brazil, Egypt and Japan appreciated the important role played by Portugal in cancer research as well as the scientific and technical exchanges with IARC in many projects.
6. The Subcommittee observed the late submission of the request for admission from Portugal, mainly due to administrative delays, and suggested that the Secretariat explores the possibility of revising Rule 50<sup>2</sup> of the Rules of procedure of the Governing Council, reducing the deadline and better reflecting the new ways of communication.
7. The Subcommittee noted that the Government of Portugal undertook "to observe and apply the provisions of the IARC Statute", in its application letter, in accordance with Article III of the Statute, and recommended that the Governing Council do not delay the admission of the Government of Portugal as a Participating State of the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

---

<sup>2</sup> ADMISSION OF NEW PARTICIPATING STATES - Rule 50

*Applications made by Members of the World Health Organization for admission as Participating States in the Agency shall be addressed to the Director-General and shall be transmitted immediately to Participating States and the Director of the Agency.*

*Any such application shall be placed on the agenda of the next session of the Governing Council provided the application reaches the Director-General at least ninety days before the opening of such session.*