

**Governing Council
Sixty-eighth Session**

GC/68/21
17 May 2026

Lyon, 27–28 May 2026
Hybrid format

NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL OF A PARTICIPATING STATE – IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

1. Through communication of 13 January 2026, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran notified the Director-General of the World Health Organization of its intention to withdraw from participation in the operations of the Agency. The notification was received by the Director-General on 20 February 2026; a copy thereof is presented in the Annex to this document.
2. In accordance with Article XIII of the IARC Statute, the notification of its intention to withdraw by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran shall take effect on 20 August 2026.
3. The Governing Council is invited to note the above-mentioned notification of the Islamic Republic of Iran to withdraw from the Agency.

ANNEX

IN THE NAME OF GOD



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL EDUCATION
Deputy for Research and Technology

Ref: B/192
Date: 13 January 2026

Your Excellency Dr. Tedros,

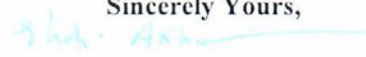
With due respect, on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to formally notify the intention of this Ministry to withdraw from participation in the operation of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IRAC) with immediate effect.

This decision has been taken following the formal announcement of the Health Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in conformity with the report dated 22 October 2025 on withdrawal provision of the Islamic Republic of Iran from IRAC. Subject to the above report, the continuation of participation in the Agency is not recognized as necessary and does not have legal basis. Henceforth, Ministry of Health and Medical Education is required to take necessary action on the basis of the decision of above legal authorities.

In this context, It would be appreciated that the formal procedures for withdrawing of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran from participation in the operation in IARC will be taken at your earliest convenience.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely Yours,


Prof. Shahin Akhondzadeh, Pharm.D, Ph.D
Deputy Minister for Research and Technology

CC: Dr. Christopher P. Wild, Director of IRAC

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