



**Governing Council  
Sixty-eighth Session**

**GC/68/R7**

*27 and 28 May 2026, hybrid format*

## **INTRODUCTION OF A GENERAL RESERVE MECHANISM FOR LONG-TERM ARREARS**

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed Document [GC/68/8](#) “Report of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing of IARC – Activity Report and recommendations”,

Recalling its Resolutions [GC/66/R7](#) and [GC/67/R9](#),

1. NOTES the recommendation of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing of IARC to introduce a General Reserve mechanism to manage the budgeting of assessed contributions from Participating States in prolonged arrears i.e. with arrears that equal or exceed the total due for the two preceding financial years, and to enhance budget realism and programme implementation;
2. DECIDES that, at the time of preparation of the proposed programme and budget to be submitted to the Governing Council for approval the following year, the assessed contributions of Participating States with prolonged arrears as described in paragraph 1 above will be transferred to the General Reserve line of the proposed budget and will not be used for the programmatic activities;
3. DECIDES that the use of any portion of a Participating State’s assessed contributions transferred to this General Reserve will be subject to (i) receipt of the full amount corresponding to the Participating State’s assessed contributions due for the biennium or biennia in arrears; and (ii) decision by the Governing Council on the purpose of use;
4. DECIDES that, if the Governing Council has approved a repayment schedule for a Participating State in prolonged arrears and the Participating State complies with such schedule, the assessed contributions of that Participating State may be transferred to the regular budget and used for programmatic activities;
5. RESOLVES that any portion of the budget that remains in the General Reserve at the end of a biennium will not be considered as unspent funds and thus, will not be returned to the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF);
6. AGREES that the above General Reserve mechanism shall be effective immediately for future biennial programme and budget proposals;
7. REQUESTS the Secretariat to make all reasonable efforts to make savings in the approved Programme and Budget 2026–2027 to compensate for any prolonged arrears that, under this new guidance, would have been included in the General Reserve line, to avoid use of the Working Capital Fund for this purpose; and
8. RESOLVES that any unused balance of the budget falling under the above category at the end of the biennium 2026–2027 will not be returned to the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF).