

Lyon and web conference, 17–18 May 2021

## **MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING (Revision 1)**

IARC, Lyon and web conference

Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 12:00 Central European Summer Time (CEST)

Chairperson: Dr Stephen M. Robbins (Canada)

Secretary: Dr Elisabete Weiderpass, IARC

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### Participating State Representatives

Dr Stephen M. ROBBINS, <i>Chairperson</i>	Canada
Ms Lucero HERNÁNDEZ	
Ms Jennifer IZAGUIRRE	
Ms Johanna KRÜGER	
Mr William WANG	
Professor Pål Richard ROMUNDSTAD, <i>Vice-Chairperson</i>	Norway
Dr Karianne SOLAAS ( <i>unable to attend</i> )	
Dr Diane STEBER BÜCHLI <i>Rapporteur</i>	Switzerland
Professor Dorothy KEEFE	Australia
Mr Agastya BHARADWAJ	
Dr David MEREDYTH	
Mr Jeff ROACH	
Ms Christine STURROCK	
Ms Elisabeth TISCHELMAYER	Austria
Mr Lieven DE RAEDT	Belgium
Dr Marc VAN DEN BULCKE	
Dr Ana Cristina PINHO MENDES PEREIRA	Brazil
Mr Igor BARBOSA	
Dr Livia DE OLIVEIRA PASQUALIN	
Dr João Ricardo RODRIGUES VIEGAS	
Professor JIE HE	China (People's Republic of)
Dr MIN DAI	
Dr WEI WANG	
Dr XIAOCHEN YANG	
Dr ZE CONG	
Professor Anders HVIID	Denmark
Dr Markku TERVAHAUTA	Finland
Ms Tuula HELANDER	
Dr Eero LAHTINEN	
Professor Norbert IFRAH	France
Dr Jocelyne BÉRILLE	
Ms Christine BERLING	
Mr Bernard DEREBERGUE	
Mr Thomas DUBOIS	
Mr Jérémie PETIT	
Mr François RIVASSEAU	
Mr Serge TOMASI	

Ms Elisabeth SCHULTE Dr Chris BRAUN Mr Thomas IFLAND	Germany
Professor Ildikó HORVÁTH Dr Péter NAGY	Hungary
Mr Vishal CHAUHAN Mr Vimarsh ARYAN Dr Pradeep KHASNOBIS Dr Rupinder Singh DHALIWAL	India
Professor Reza MALEKZADEH ( <i>unable to attend</i> ) Mr Ciarán MURPHY ( <i>unable to attend</i> )	Iran (Islamic Republic of) Ireland
Professor Silvio BRUSAFERRO Dr Mauro BIFFONI	Italy
Dr Kazunori UMEKI Dr Kenji FUJITA Dr Hisayo HORIUCHI Dr Masahiro KAMINOTA Dr Takato KOIZUMI Dr Tomohiro MATSUDA Dr Hitoshi NAKAGAMA Ms Kay OHARA Dr Yukio SAITA Dr Tatsuya SUZUKI	Japan
Dr Latifa BELAKHEL Dr Loubna ABOUSSELHAM	Morocco
Ms Florian VAN DER WINDT Mr Jeroen HULLEMAN	Netherlands
Dr Al-Hareth M. AL-KHATER Ms Maha Ahmad AL-ANSARI	Qatar
Dr Sangkyun HAN Dr Jaekwan JUN Dr Jinhyuk YANG Dr Chongwoo YOO	Republic of Korea
Dr Igor KOROBKO Dr Sergey MURAVIOV Dr Eduard SALAKHOV Dr Oleg SONIN	Russian Federation
Dr Gonzalo AREVALO NIETO Dr Maria José GONZÁLEZ DE SUSO ( <i>unable to attend</i> )	Spain

Professor Madeleine DURBEEJ-HJALT  
Dr Karin SCHMEKEL

Sweden

Dr Mark PALMER  
Dr Mariana DELFINO-MACHIN  
Ms Esther LAWRENCE

United Kingdom of Great  
Britain and Northern Ireland

Dr Mara BURR  
Ms Ann BLACKWOOD  
Ms Tracy CARSON  
Dr Ann CHAO  
Ms Carrie DENVER  
Dr Satish GOPAL  
Ms Brittany HAYES  
Ms Gabrielle LAMOURELLE  
Mr Gilbert MORTON  
Dr Amy NORRIS  
Ms Kristen PISANI  
Mr Phillip RIBLETT  
Ms Marie RICCIARDONE  
Mr James P. SHUSTER  
Mr Howard SOLOMON

United States of America

### **World Health Organization**

Dr Agnès BUZYN, Director-General's Envoy for Multilateral Affairs

Ms Sigrid KRANAWETTER, Principal Legal Officer, Office of the WHO Legal Counsel

Dr Bente MIKKELSEN, Director, Noncommunicable Diseases Department

### **Observers Scientific Council**

Dr Christine FRIEDENREICH, Outgoing Chairperson, Scientific Council

Dr Janne PITKÄNIEMI, Incoming Chairperson, Scientific Council

### **IARC Ethics Committee**

Dr Samar AL-HOMOUD, Chairperson, IARC Ethics Committee

### **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)**

Dr Sonali JOHNSON, Head, Knowledge, Advocacy and Policy, Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

### **External Audit**

Mr Krishnaraju SUBRAMANIAM, Director of External Audit (WHO), Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

#### **Secretariat**

Dr E. WEIDERPASS,  
*Secretary*  
Dr T. LANDESZ

Dr M. ALMONTE  
Dr P. BASU  
Ms A. BERGER  
Dr F. BRAY  
Dr P. BRENNAN  
Dr V. CHAJES  
Mr C. CHAUVET

Dr G. CLIFFORD  
Dr I. CREE  
Mr O. EXERTIER  
Dr P. FERRARI  
Ms E. FRANÇON  
Dr M. GUNTER  
Dr Z. HERCEG  
Mr D. KAVANAGH  
Dr Z. KOZLAKIDIS  
Dr B. LAUBY-SECRETAN  
Dr T. LEE

Mr F. LOZANO  
Dr V. MCCORMACK  
Dr J. MCKAY  
Dr S. RINALDI  
Ms A. SANTHIPRECHACHIT  
Dr M. SCHUBAUER-BERIGAN  
Dr J. SCHÜZ  
Dr I. SOERJOMATARAM  
Dr M. TOMMASINO  
Dr J. ZAVADIL

## **1. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE XIII OF THE IARC STATUTE: Item 20 of the Agenda (Document GC/63/12)**

Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), speaking in his capacity as Chairperson of the Working Group on the amendment of Article XIII of the IARC Statute, said that, at its Sixty-first session in May 2019, the Governing Council had been advised that the Government of Turkey had submitted a letter to the Director-General of WHO at the end of 2018, indicating that it intended to withdraw from IARC at the beginning of June 2019. During subsequent discussions, representatives of Participating States had expressed concern at the impact on the Agency's budget if Participating States chose to leave part-way through a biennium. A working group had been established to examine the six-month statutory withdrawal period and its implications for the budget and to make recommendations on whether the IARC Statute should be changed.

The Working Group had met twice in early 2020 and had discussed a number of options for withdrawal periods. Having examined the options at its Sixty-second session, the Governing Council had requested the Working Group to examine the options in more detail, deferring any decision until 2021. The Working Group had met again in November 2020, at which time it had been informed that, although the Statute required a six-month notice period before a Participating State could withdraw, under the IARC Financial Regulations, General Provisions, Article 7.3, a State that had submitted notice to leave the Agency was required to pay "the full amount of its contributions up to and including the year in which the withdrawal becomes effective". The Secretariat had informed the Working Group that, although Turkey had left the Agency in June 2019, it had continued to pay its contributions until the end of the year. The concerns of Governing Council members regarding the withdrawal period were therefore somewhat mitigated by Article 7.3 of the Financial Regulations. In the light of that information, the Working Group had decided to propose two options: (1) Article XIII of the Statute and Article 7.3 of the Financial Regulations should remain unchanged or; (2) Article XIII of the Statute should remain unchanged but Article 7.3 of the Financial Regulations should be amended to require a Participating State that withdrew from the Agency under Article XIII of the Statute to pay the full amount of its contributions "up to and including the second year of the biennium in which the withdrawal becomes effective".

Dr LANDESZ (Director of Administration and Finance) said that the preference of the Secretariat was for the second option. The Agency would face problems if a Participating State withdrew in the first year of a biennium, since it would lead to a shortfall in the budget for the second year. The Governing Council would have the authority to make the necessary amendment to the Financial Regulations in accordance with Article VIII of the Statute.

Ms KRANAWETTER (Principal Legal Officer, WHO) confirmed that, from a legal perspective, it was within the authority of the Governing Council to make the change to the Financial Regulations which would be required to implement the second option.

Mr MORTON (United States of America) said that the United States supported the second option to ensure that IARC's operations were not negatively impacted. However, he also wished to listen to the views of other representatives.

Ms HERNÁNDEZ (Canada), speaking as a member of the Working Group and supported by Professor HORVÁTH (Hungary) and Ms TISCHELMAYER (Austria), said that she was mindful of the need not to increase pressure on Participating States and therefore favoured the first option, which would maintain the obligation to pay the full amount of contributions to the end of the year in which the withdrawal took place. The introduction of a change in financial obligations might be a deterrent to States wishing to join the Agency. The financial regulations should be made clear to any new Participating State before it joined.

Dr AREVALO NIETO (Spain), speaking as a member of the Working Group, said that he favoured the second option provided that a transition period was introduced for those States that had already joined IARC.

Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), speaking on behalf of the United Kingdom, said that the budget constraints on the Agency were quite severe and that it would be preferable to require the two-year commitment to the end of the biennium in order to protect IARC. He supported the second option.

Professor IFRAH (France) said that it was important for IARC to be able to plan its activities and therefore he supported the second option, which appeared to be the most reasonable; the commitment to the budget for a biennium would be bearable for most States.

Professor KEEFE (Australia) also supported the second option as a sensible and simplistic way to support IARC with more predictable budget cycles.

Dr PINHO MENDES PEREIRA (Brazil) and Ms SCHULTE (Germany) said that they also supported the second option.

Dr STEBER-BÜCHLI (Rapporteur, Switzerland), speaking on behalf of Switzerland, favoured the second option since it would assist IARC with respect to financial stability, planning and prioritizing its work.

Dr SCHMEKEL (Sweden), Dr BIFFONI (Italy), Professor ROMUNDSTAD (Norway), Dr KOROBKO (Russian Federation), Ms VAN DER WINDT (Netherlands), Dr HAN (Republic of Korea), Dr AL-KHATER (Qatar), Dr TERVAHAUTA (Finland), Dr HVIID (Denmark), Dr UMEKI (Japan) and Dr MIN DAI (China) said that they all supported the second option.

The CHAIRPERSON, noting the overwhelming support for the second option, asked whether it would be possible to reach a consensus view or whether the Governing Council should proceed to a formal vote.

Ms HERNÁNDEZ (Canada), Professor HORVÁTH (Hungary) and Ms TISCHELMAYER (Austria) said that they would support the consensus view.

Mr MORTON (United States of America) indicated that he was content with that outcome.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Proposed amendments to Article XIII of the IARC Statute” (GC/63/R14):

The Governing Council,

Recalling its Resolution GC/62/R17,

1. THANKS the Working Group for examining additional possible options<sup>1</sup>; and
2. DECIDES to leave Article XIII of the Statute as it is and modify Article 7.3 of the Financial Regulations to “7.3 A Participating State which withdraws from participation in the operation of the Agency under the provisions of Article XIII of the Statute shall be required to pay the full amount of its contributions up to and including the second year of the biennium in which the withdrawal becomes effective”.

<sup>1</sup> [Document GC/63/12](#)

The resolution was **adopted**.

## **2. REQUESTS FOR FUNDING SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SPECIAL FUND: Item 15 of the Agenda (Documents GC/63/9 and GC/63/Inf.Doc.No.2)**

The CHAIRPERSON, illustrating his remarks with slides, noted that the item consolidated two requests for funding support from the Governing Council Special Fund: the request for purchase of scientific equipment at a cost of €70 000 and the request for support for core IT infrastructure and services at a cost of €350 000. The Scientific Council had reviewed the requests at length. Dr Cree (Branch Head, Evidence Synthesis and Classification) and Mr Lozano (Head, IT Services), were available to answer questions regarding the two requests.

There being no comments, the CHAIRPERSON invited the RAPPORTEUR to read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Request for support from the Governing Council Special Fund” (GC/63/R9):

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed [Document GC/63/9](#) “Request for support from the Governing Council Special Fund: A. Scientific equipment and B. Core IT infrastructure and services” and [Document GC/63/Inf.Doc. No.2](#) “Projection of Governing Council Special Fund Account for 2021–2023”,

Noting the support from the Scientific Council (as contained in [Document GC/63/4](#)),

AUTHORIZES the Director to use up to a maximum of €420 000 from the Governing Council Special Fund, subject to there being sufficient fund balance, for the acquisition of scientific equipment detailed below (€70 000) and for core IT infrastructure and services (€350 000):



	Approximate cost (€)
<b>Equipment for the Histopathology laboratory</b>	
Digital imaging upgrade	20 000
Histostainer	30 000
Cryostat	20 000
<b>Sub-total for equipment</b>	<b>70 000</b>
<b>Core IT infrastructure and services</b>	
Cloud Services, Storage Systems, Servers, Software Licenses (Virtualization, Disaster Recovery, Backup, Monitorization)	350 000
<b>Sub-total for Core IT infrastructure and services</b>	<b>350 000</b>
<b>Total requested budget</b>	<b>420 000</b>

The resolution was **adopted**.

### **3. PROPOSED PRIORITIES FOR RESOURCES MOBILIZED AS UNDESIGNATED VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: Item 16 of the Agenda (Document GC/63/10)**

The CHAIRPERSON recalled that Document GC/63/10 had been made available on the INDICO platform with comments open until 10 May 2021. He recalled that, in 2016, the Governing Council had approved a standing authorization to the Director, for 2016–2020, to allocate funds from the undesignated voluntary contributions account to five priority projects, based on the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016–2020 (Resolution GC/58/R12, paragraphs 2 and 3). During the period, a total of €388 622 had been allocated to the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development and the IARC Nouveau Centre Plus, as recorded in Documents GC/61/14 and GC/63/18. The Director currently requested the Governing Council to approve a similar mechanism for the allocation of unearmarked funds from the Special Account for Undesignated Contributions to four priority areas within the MTS 2021–2025: the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR); the IARC Monographs and IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention; IARC Training Fellowships; and IARC Nouveau Centre Plus.

Professor KEEFE (Australia) noted the proposed approach for the allocation of unearmarked funds but wished to know whether there would be a cap on the proportion that could be allocated to an individual priority project and what process was in place to ensure that funds were appropriately allocated across priorities. She would be particularly interested to learn about the funds allocated to the Nouveau Centre.

Ms SANTHIPRECHACHIT (Administration and Finance Officer) said that there was no cap but that allocations were based on the priorities of the Agency. There was not a great deal of money in the Special Account for Undesignated Contributions and it was only used when really necessary. The funds allocated to the Nouveau Centre had already been assigned by the previous Director as a result of escalating costs which had been shared with the host partner.

The CHAIRPERSON asked whether, in terms of internal processes, there was an executive committee that took decisions on allocation of funds in the best interests of IARC.

The SECRETARY said that, as Director of the Agency, she worked closely with the Director of Administration and Finance and the Administration and Finance Officer, with each financial decision being scrutinized and taken forward only on the basis that all three officers were in consensus. In the daily management of the Agency, she worked with a Senior Advisory Team composed of Pillar Coordinators, the Director of Administration and Finance and the Administration and Finance Officer. She also turned to the Chairperson of the Governing Council for external advice.

Ms HERNÁNDEZ (Canada) asked whether it would be possible to fill the Nouveau Centre funding gap from this account.

Ms SANTHIPRECHACHIT (Administration and Finance Officer) said that the available fund in the Special Account for Undesignated Contributions was very small and comprised individual donations. The Agency had been fortunate to receive two legacy funds in recent years which had increased the amount available. The balance in the Special Account was less than €0.5 million, which would not be enough to fund the Nouveau Centre gap.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Proposed priorities for resources mobilized as undesignated voluntary contributions” (GC/63/R10):

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed [Document GC/63/10](#) “Proposed priorities for resources actively mobilized as Undesignated Voluntary Contributions”,

Noting the mechanism for allocation of funds from the Special Account for Undesignated Voluntary Contributions in between its yearly sessions,

1. APPROVES a standing authorization to the Director, for the period 2021–2025, to allocate *unearmarked* funds mobilized into the Special Account for Undesignated Voluntary Contributions to the four priority projects listed below:
  - a. Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR);
  - b. IARC Monographs and IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention;
  - c. IARC Training Fellowships;
  - d. IARC Nouveau Centre Plus.
2. REQUESTS the Director to report to the Governing Council on the use of the Special Account for Undesignated Contributions on a yearly basis, clearly indicating funds mobilized and allocated according to the programmatic priorities listed above.

The resolution was **adopted**.

#### **4. UPDATE ON THE “NOUVEAU CENTRE” AND THE “NOUVEAU CENTRE” FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN: Item 17 of the Agenda (Document GC/63/11)**

The CHAIRPERSON said that the document had been made available on the INDICO platform for comment until 10 May 2021.

A short video was shown, outlining progress made in construction of the Nouveau Centre.

Ms FRANÇON (Administrative Services Officer) said that the structure for the building had been completed and weatherproofing had begun.

Mr CHAUVET (Strategic Engagement and External Relations Officer) said that a fundraising campaign had started for the Nouveau Centre, based on a three-pronged strategy. The campaign was reaching out to private sector entities, especially for-profit entities, to see whether they could provide in-kind contributions to equip the Nouveau Centre. Most of the funding gap was for scientific and IT equipment as well as furniture. He was particularly grateful to the Government of Japan which had put IARC in touch with Japanese multinational companies; one of them agreed on supplying laptop computers. In-kind pledges of tables for meeting rooms and –80°C degree fridges for the biobank had already been made. He requested that Participating States should follow the example of Japan in putting the Agency in touch with other potential corporate donors.

The second part of the strategy involved major gifts from wealthy individuals or from Participating States. One major donor had provided a very large gift for the Nouveau Centre and gratitude was due to the Government of Norway which had provided €150 000 to cover the funding gap. He encouraged other Participating States to consider making a donation.

The third part of the strategy involved online donations from the general public. For this purpose, IARC has created a crowdfunding platform (<https://isupport.iarc.fr/>), reaching out to a large number of people who could each make a small donation of €50, €100 or €150; in return, the names of individual donors would be inscribed on the glass door of the Nouveau Centre. All of the IARC family, including members of the Governing and Scientific Councils, as well as collaborators, staff and visiting scientists, would receive an information pack in the coming weeks, requesting them to disseminate the crowdfunding campaign in order to attract the most possible support. A further campaign would be conducted to attract local support from within the City of Lyon and an advertising agency had offered to provide in-kind assistance to help increase the visibility of this crowdfunding campaign, including a press conference and the launch of a dedicated Facebook page.

Dr FRIEDENREICH (Outgoing Chairperson of the Scientific Council) asked what possibility there was to donate an individual sum greater than €150.

Mr CHAUVET (Strategic Engagement and External Relations Officer) said that a minimum sum of €50 could be donated over the website and that up to €150 was suggested; it was nevertheless possible to donate more than €150.

Dr FRIEDENREICH (Outgoing Chairperson of the Scientific Council) said that the Scientific Council was very supportive of the fundraising campaign and would do everything it could to disseminate the information concerning the crowdfunding and other activities.

Professor IFRAH (France) said that France was fully mobilized to support the Nouveau Centre and for the development of Lyon as a global health hub. The first stone of the Nouveau Centre had been laid in February 2020. France welcomed the fundraising campaign and the success achieved to date and encouraged other Participating States to come forward.

Ms HERNÁNDEZ (Canada) thanked the Secretariat for the update, the Government of France for its continued support and all donors for their generous contributions. She noted that discussions with the design and build team could lead to an increase in costs that would be supported by the Métropole de Lyon and asked for further information on the costs and on the potential delay in the timeline. She wished to know what could be done to address IARC's lack of branding presence outside the medical research community since it appeared to be a factor in the success of resource mobilization efforts. She was pleased to note that the Agency had worked with WHO on the acknowledgement guidelines for in-kind contributions. She asked whether the guidelines had been reviewed. In the event that other resource mobilization efforts were exhausted, Canada would support the use of a loan of up to €1 million from the Governing Council Special Fund.

Ms FRANÇON (Administrative Services Officer) said that the crisis of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) had had an impact on the Nouveau Centre project and there had been a period of three months in 2020 when construction had stopped. IARC was not a partner for the financial aspects of the build: it would help to fund the new equipment but would not bear any of the construction overcosts. More information concerning the project could be shared after a meeting with the Métropole de Lyon which was due to take place in the following week.

Mr CHAUVET (Strategic Engagement and External Relations Officer) wished to underline once again the Agency's gratitude to France for the construction of the Nouveau Centre. The vision of a global health hub in Lyon, which would include the WHO Academy, would further help to strengthen ties with WHO. The visibility of the Agency could be improved with the support of Participating States: the Agency had worked closely with Japan in recent weeks and ministries could assist by putting IARC in touch with large corporates and by facilitating in-kind donations. A major donor campaign was being also launched and Participating States could also assist in identifying potential high-net worth individuals that could be interested in supporting the Nouveau Centre project. Everybody, including Governing Council members, could contribute to the crowdfunding campaign and help to publicize it in their own countries.

Dr PINHO MENDES PEREIRA (Brazil) praised IARC's resource mobilization efforts. She undertook to make her own donation to the crowdfunding website and to start a campaign within the Ministry of Health in Brazil.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Update on the “Nouveau Centre” and the “Nouveau Centre” Fundraising Campaign” (GC/63/R11):

The Governing Council,

Having considered [Document GC/63/11](#) “Update on the “Nouveau Centre” and the “Nouveau Centre” fundraising campaign”,

1. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the French national authorities, the Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the Métropole de Lyon, and the City of Lyon for the strong support received both for the continued efforts to ensure adequate conditions of the current premises and for the progress made on the “Nouveau Centre” project;
2. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the IARC Secretariat for closely monitoring the building works and for its efforts to mobilize funds;
3. ACKNOWLEDGES the remaining funding gap of €7.6 million for a fully operational, modern, smart and open building, with €2.6 million to be mobilized prior to September 2021 to ensure that “Priority 1” operational equipment is purchased prior to the move to the Nouveau Centre, currently planned in the last quarter of 2022;
4. AUTHORIZES the Director to accept donations in cash or in kind for the purpose of furnishing and equipping the Nouveau Centre, subject to and in accordance with applicable internal rules and regulations, including inter alia with regard to FENSA and partner recognition;
5. AUTHORIZES a loan of up to €1 million from the Governing Council Special Fund to fund “Priority 1” items, should there remain a funding gap for such critical items prior to September 2021, to be reimbursed over a five-year period from the operational budget and/or resource mobilization results;
6. ENCOURAGES Participating States to make voluntary contributions and provide support to the resource mobilization efforts towards the Nouveau Centre; and
7. REQUESTS the Director to report, every six months, on resource mobilization efforts and to keep the Governing Council Working Group on Infrastructure apprised of major future developments in relation to the “Nouveau Centre”.

The resolution was **adopted**.

**5. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL (*closed session*): Item 18 of the Agenda (Document GC/63/13)**

The Governing Council met in closed session from 13:50 to 14:30 CEST. Following resumption of the meeting in open session, the RAPPORTEUR read out the following resolution, entitled “Appointment of new members of the Scientific Council” (GC/63/R12), which had been **adopted** during the closed session:

The Governing Council,

In accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Statute of the Agency,

1. APPOINTS

Professor Walter Berger, Austria )  
Dr Luis Felipe Ribeiro Pinto, Brazil )  
Professor Marie-Elise Parent, Canada ) to serve for four years on the Scientific Council.  
Professor Jie He, China )  
Dr Mathilde Touvier, France )  
Dr Einas Abdulaziz Eid Al Kuwari, Qatar )

2. THANKS the outgoing members of the Scientific Council, Drs Salha M. Bujassoum Al Bader (Qatar), Jacqueline Clavel (France), Christine Friedenreich (Canada), Maria Sibilia (Austria) and João P.B. Viola (Brazil) for their valuable work in the Scientific Council and for the contribution which they have made to the research activities of the Agency.

The SECRETARY paid tribute to the flawless professionalism and expertise of Dr Friedenreich, the Outgoing Chairperson of the Scientific Council, and thanked her for her great contribution to its work.

**6. BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE IARC ETHICS COMMITTEE (IEC), 2019–2020: Item 19 of the Agenda (Document GC/63/16)**

Dr AL-HOMOUD (Chairperson, IARC Ethics Committee) said that the Committee had met 10 times in 2019–2020 and had considered 84 new projects and 70 resubmissions of earlier projects, of which 79% and 88%, respectively, had been approved. It had updated its standard operating procedures and its website. It continued to monitor potential conflicts of interest and the conduct of the Large-scale Retrospective Research of Risk of Oncological Disease caused by Occupational Exposure to Chrysotile Asbestos-containing Dust (ASBEST) study in the Russian Federation, and to provide training for new Committee members and IARC staff.

The CHAIRPERSON thanked Dr Al-Homoud and the other members of the Committee for their valuable work.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Biennial Report of the IARC Ethics Committee, 2019–2020” (GC/63/R13):

The Governing Council,

Having examined the Biennial Report of the IARC Ethics Committee 2019–2020, as contained in [Document GC/63/16](#),

1. WELCOMES the Biennial Report of the IARC Ethics Committee 2019–2020; and
2. REQUESTS the Director to continue reporting biennially on issues related to ethics at the Agency.

The resolution was **adopted**.

#### **7. STATEMENT BY THE IARC STAFF ASSOCIATION: Item 12 of the Agenda (Document GC/63/15)**

Mr VALETTE (Chairperson, IARC Staff Association) drew attention to the written statement by the Staff Association ([Document GC/63/15](#)), which detailed the challenges and difficulties faced by the staff over the previous year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges, the staff had demonstrated great resilience and an admirable work ethic. The flexible teleworking policy had made it possible to maintain the continuity of the Agency's day-to-day work. The Staff Association had conducted a wide range of activities to support staff, and looked forward to working even more closely with senior management in future.

Ms HERNÁNDEZ (Canada) commended the staff for their resilience and their work ethic, which had enabled them to maintain their scientific productivity.

Professor KEEFE (Australia) likewise praised the dedication and resilience of the staff and called upon senior management to continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic on staff at all levels.

Dr LANDESZ (Director of Administration and Finance) thanked all the staff for their dedication to the Agency and expressed his gratitude to the officials of the Staff Association who represented their interests. The year 2020 had been full of challenges, but the staff had displayed resilience and solidarity. Now it was time to look forward to the innovative new MTS and the move to the new headquarters.

The Governing Council **took note** of the report of the Staff Association.

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS, INCLUDING REPORT ON INTEREST APPORTIONMENT: Item 13 of the Agenda (Document GC/63/17)**

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Acceptance of grants and contracts, including report on interest apportionment" (GC/63/R7):

The Governing Council,

Having considered [Document GC/63/17](#) "Acceptance of grants and contracts",

In accordance with IARC Financial Regulations,

1. NOTES the post facto reporting of grants and contracts accepted by the Director as detailed in Document GC/63/17;
2. NOTES the amount of interest income apportioned; and
3. COMMENDS the staff on its success in winning competitive research grants.

The resolution was **adopted**.

**9. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS: Item 14 of the Agenda (Document GC/63/18)**

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Acceptance of donations" (GC/63/R8):

The Governing Council,

Having been informed by [Document GC/63/18](#) of the unconditional donations accepted during the year 2020 under the authority vested in the Director by Resolution GC/4/R3,

1. EXPRESSES its deep appreciation to the donors for their generous contribution to the research activities of the Agency; and
2. NOTES that, in accordance with the standing authorization granted to the Director under Resolution GC/58/R12, €163 622.43 were allocated from the Special Account for Undesignated Contributions to the Nouveau Centre Plus project in 2020.

The resolution was **adopted**.



## **10. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ADMISSION OF NEW PARTICIPATING STATES: Item 21 of the Agenda**

The CHAIRPERSON asked for volunteers to serve on the Subcommittee.

Ms VAN DER WINDT (Netherlands), Dr BURR (United States of America), Dr UMEKI (Japan), Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Dr PINHO MENDES PEREIRA (Brazil) indicated their willingness to remain members of the Subcommittee.

The CHAIRPERSON said that, accordingly, the membership of the Subcommittee would remain unchanged.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Membership of the Subcommittee on the Admission of New Participating States” (GC/63/R15):

The Governing Council,  
Recalling its Resolution GC/18/R14 nominating members of the Subcommittee on the Admission of New Participating States and the requirement to nominate new members at the end of each session of the Governing Council,  
Recalling its Resolution GC/53/R20 deciding that the number of members and composition of the Subcommittee shall be agreed upon at each regular session of the Governing Council,  
DECIDES that this Subcommittee shall be composed of the Chairperson of the Governing Council (member ex officio), and representatives of Brazil, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, who shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council.

The resolution was **adopted**.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Item 22 of the Agenda**

There was no other business.

## **12. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR NEXT SESSION: Item 23 of the Agenda**

Professor Romundstad (Norway), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

On the proposal of Dr STEBER-BÜCHLI (Switzerland), Dr Robbins (Canada) was re-elected Chairperson, the proposal being seconded by Ms TISCHELMAYER (Austria) and Dr BURR (United States of America).

Dr Robbins resumed the Chair.

On the proposal of Dr STEBER-BÜCHLI (Switzerland), Professor Romundstad (Norway) was re-elected as Vice-Chairperson, the proposal being seconded by Ms TISCHELMAYER (Austria).

Dr SCHMEKEL (Sweden), supported by Dr BURR (United States of America), welcomed the re-election of Dr Robbins and Professor Romundstad, but called for due attention to be paid to gender equity in future elections.

### **13. DATE OF THE NEXT REGULAR GOVERNING COUNCIL SESSION: Item 24 of the Agenda**

The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the next regular session of the Governing Council should be held in the week preceding the World Health Assembly. It was to be hoped that the session could take place in person in Lyon.

The SECRETARY said that Thursday and Friday of that week would be the most convenient days for the Secretariat.

Dr BURR (United States of America) pointed out that those days coincided with a session of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee (PBAC) of the WHO Executive Board; they might not, accordingly, be convenient for all members.

The SECRETARY suggested Tuesday and Wednesday of the same week, which came before the PBAC session.

Ms HERNÁNDEZ (Canada), supported by Dr BURR (United States of America), suggested the Thursday and Friday of the previous week, i.e. two weeks before the World Health Assembly.

Professor KEEFE (Australia) said that she would not attend the PBAC session, as Australian members of the Governing Council had often done in the past. The Thursday and Friday preceding the World Health Assembly would therefore be convenient as far as she was concerned.

The SECRETARY suggested the wording “in the two weeks preceding the World Health Assembly”, with the final dates being decided later. The Governing Council session could be organized as a hybrid meeting, with some members attending in person and others online.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Date of the Sixty-fourth session of the Governing Council” (GC/63/R16):

The Governing Council,

1. DECIDES to hold its next regular session in Lyon, France, or in a hybrid form, for two days within the two weeks preceding the opening of the World Health Assembly in the year 2022; and
2. REQUESTS the Director to inform members of the Council as soon as these dates are known.

The resolution was **adopted**.

#### **14. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION: Item 25 of the Agenda**

The CHAIRPERSON again congratulated China and thanked all participants for their flexibility while attending the online meeting. He thanked the Director and her staff, particularly the scientific staff, and the Principal Legal Officer for their hard work in preparing the session.

The SECRETARY reiterated the Chairperson's congratulations to China on its accession to membership of the Agency, which would help to strengthen international collaboration in cancer research, prevention and control. The cancer burden was due to increase sharply in the coming years, although at least 40% of cancers were preventable using measures that were already available. The Agency had reacted quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic and introduced relevant changes to the draft MTS which had now been adopted. She called upon members to take action in their own countries to encourage voluntary contributions, crowdfunding initiatives or in-kind donations for the fitting-out of the Nouveau Centre building, to which the Agency would transfer the following year. She thanked all the members of the Governing and Scientific Councils, particularly the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur of the Governing Council, for their active support for the Agency's work, and colleagues from IARC and WHO headquarters for their hard work in preparing for the session.

The CHAIRPERSON declared the session closed.

**The meeting rose at 15:20 (CEST).**