

# International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

## Orientation session for new Scientific Council members

Tamás Landeszt, Director of Administration and Finance

Charu Mehta, Administration and Finance Officer

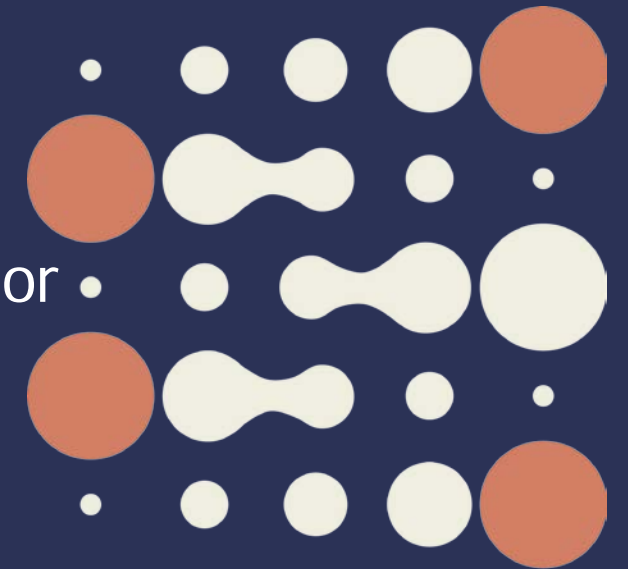
Véronique Chajès, Programme Officer, Director's Office

Chiara Scoccianti, Ethics & Compliance Officer, Director's Office

Elisabete Weiderpass, IARC Director

Agnès Meneghel, Governing Bodies & Meetings (GBM) Coordinator

International Agency  
for Research on Cancer



*ORS for Scientific Council members, 17 January 2023, by web conference*

# Agenda

I - IARC's mission, and main areas of activity

II - IARC's governance, operations and financing

III – IARC Ethical Framework



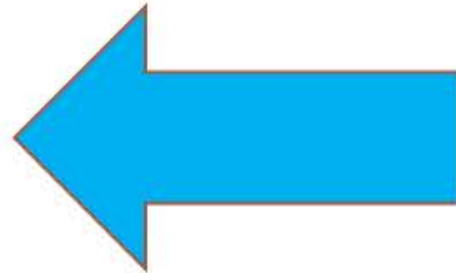
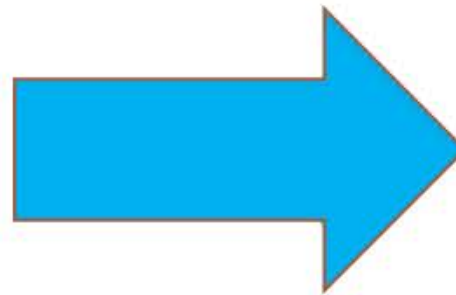
# IARC and WHO: a complementary partnership

## International Agency for Research on Cancer



### RESEARCH ON CANCER PREVENTION

Evidence-base for cancer prevention and control programmes



World Health Organization

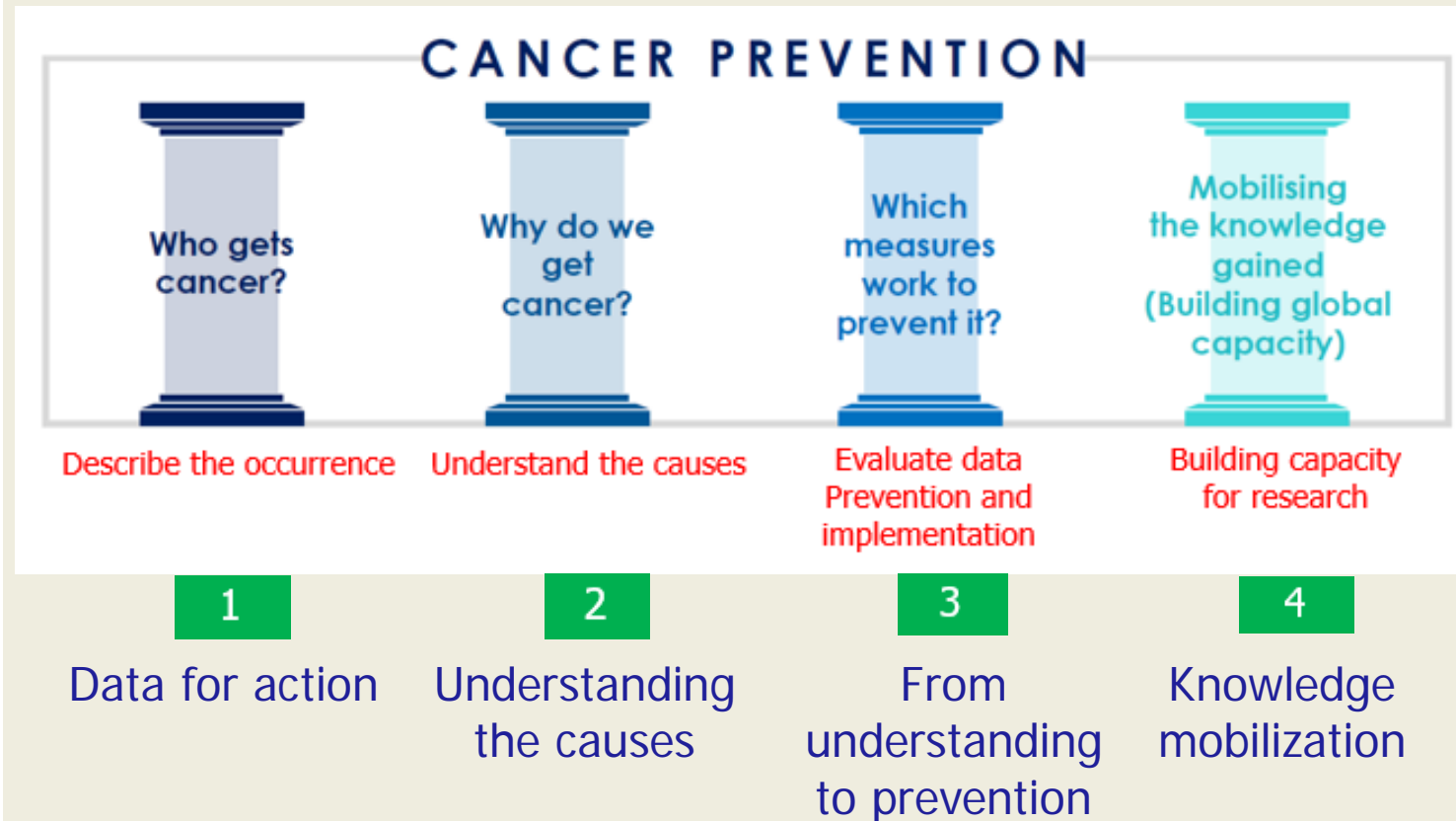
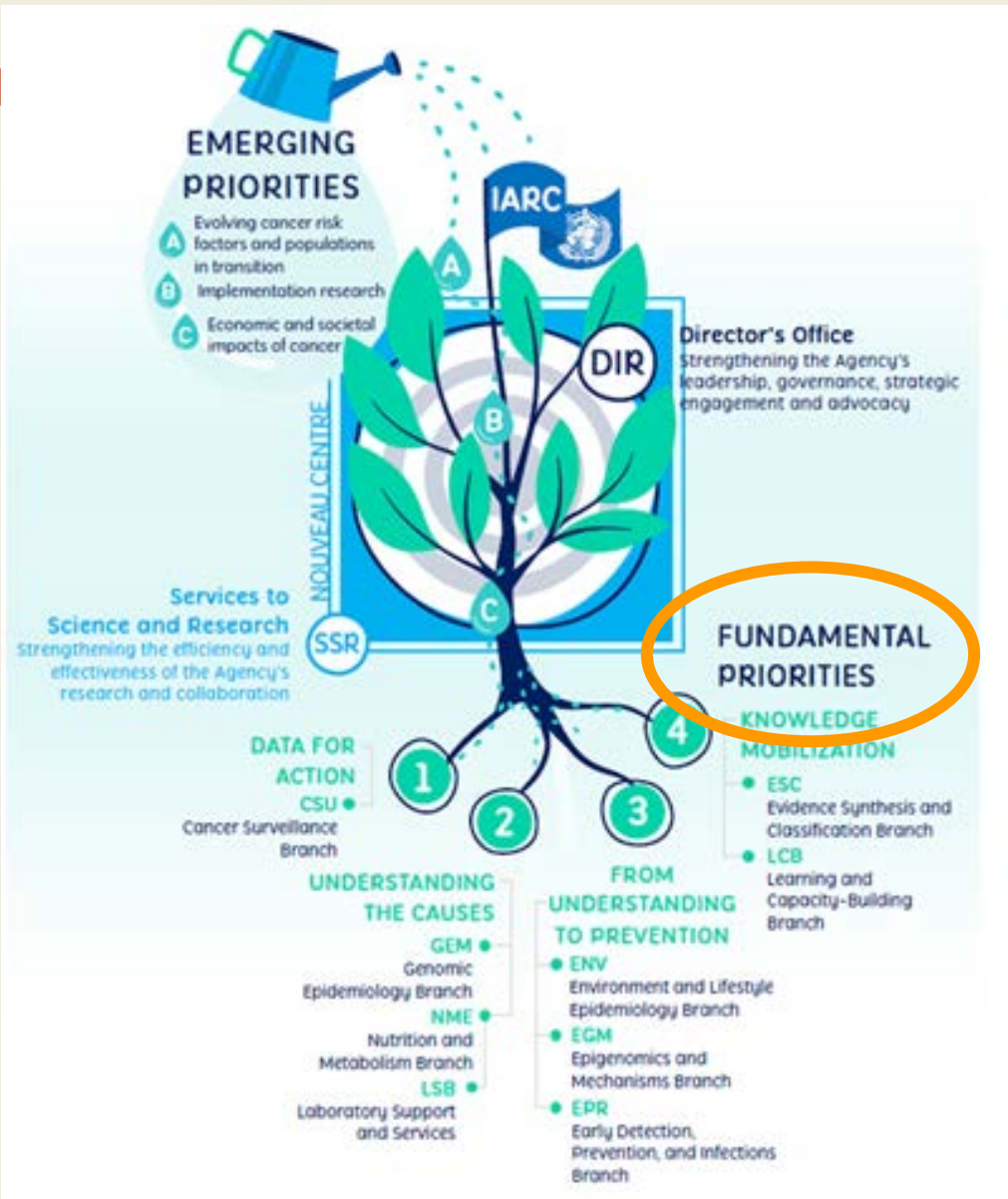
Translates the scientific evidence into guidelines and policies

# Why research on cancer prevention?

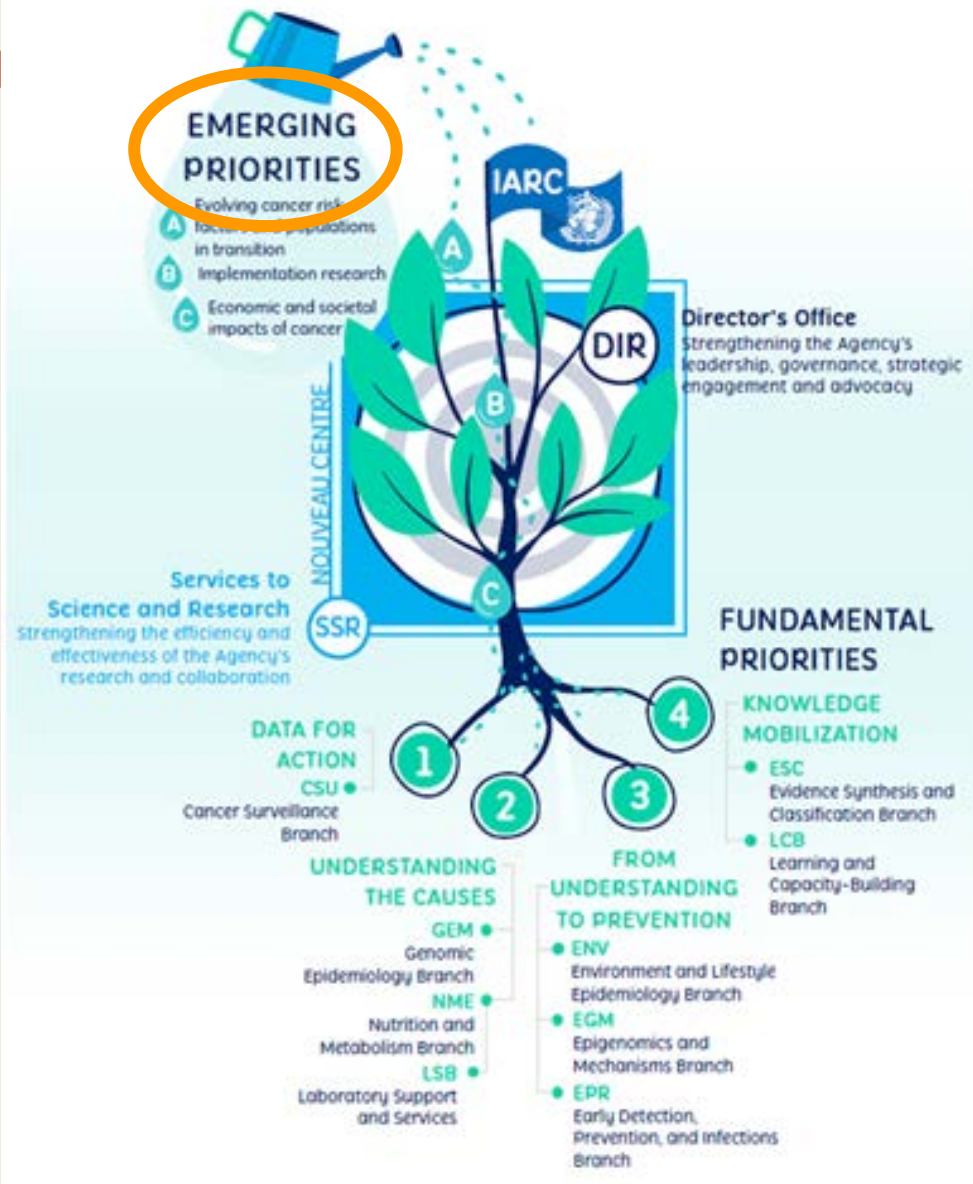
- ❑ Because thanks to research, we know now that up to **50% of all cancers can be prevented**
- ❑ Best way to prevent cancer is to identify and understand the causes and evaluate their interventions



# IARC new Medium-Term strategy 2021-2025



# IARC new Medium-Term strategy 2021-2025



Implementation research



Evolving cancer risk factors and populations in transition

Economic and societal impacts of cancer

[Document GC/63/6A](#)

[https://events.iarc.who.int/event/29/attachments/67/154/GC63\\_6A\\_MTS\\_2021-2025.pdf](https://events.iarc.who.int/event/29/attachments/67/154/GC63_6A_MTS_2021-2025.pdf)

# Pillar 1: *data for action*

## Cancer Surveillance (CSU) Branch

Dr Freddie Bray  
[BrayF@iarc.who.int](mailto:BrayF@iarc.who.int)

### 6 Regional Hubs

work in collaboration to coordinate GICR activities



**GLOBAL INITIATIVE  
FOR CANCER REGISTRY  
DEVELOPMENT**

Global Cancer Observatory based  
on *GLOBOCAN* estimates of  
incidence, mortality, and prevalence  
in **185 countries in 2020**



Network of IARC–GICR

Regional Trainers:

**14 e-learning modules developed**

Second IARC–GICR Summer School held  
virtually in collaboration with National Cancer  
Center of Republic of Korea

### New research programmes

Cancer inequalities  
Health economics

Targeting **Childhood  
Cancer (ChildGICR)** project



**COVID-19 and Cancer  
Global Taskforce  
COVID-19 and Cancer Global  
Modelling Consortium**



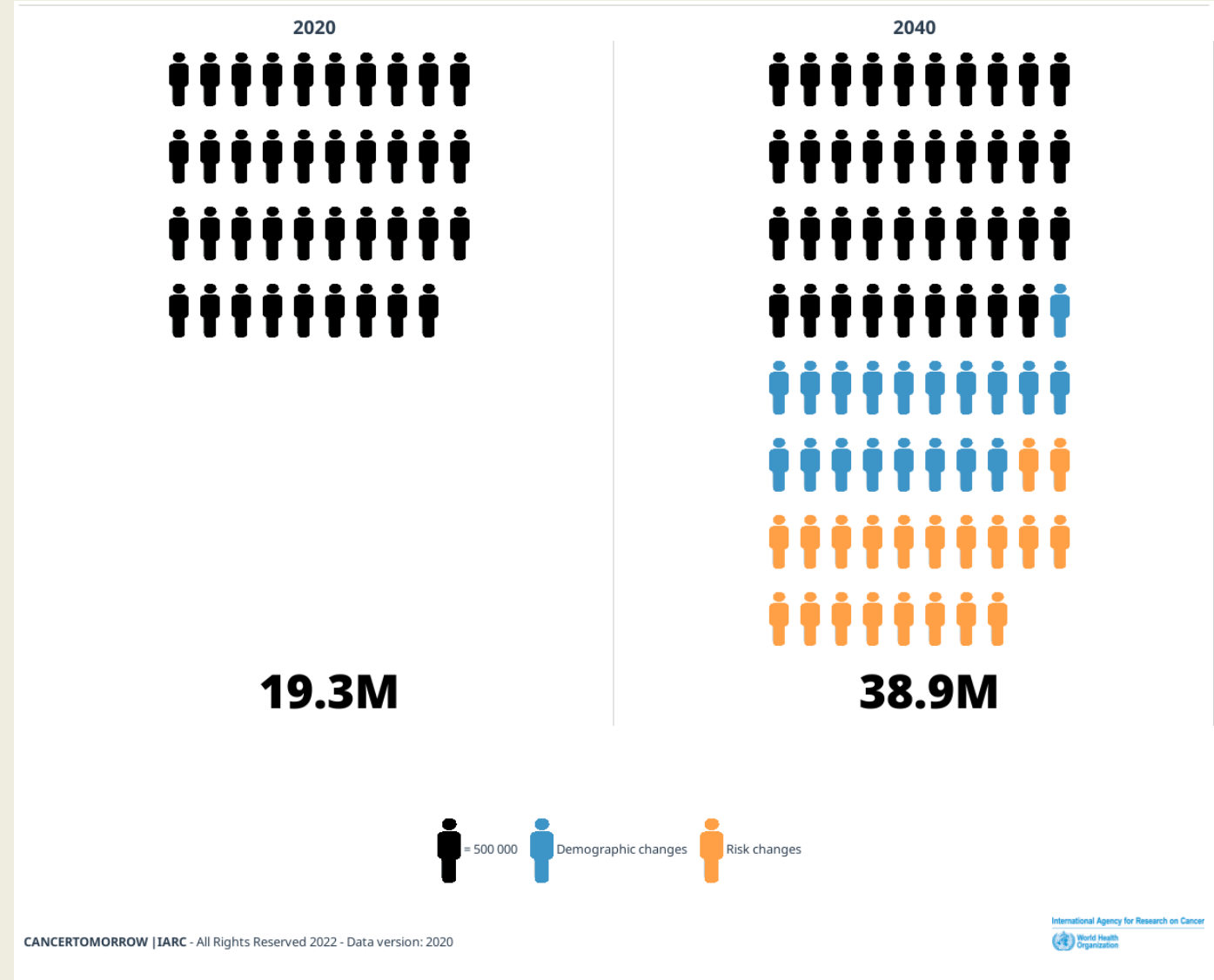
**CanStaging+**

tool provides calculation of stage  
for **12** cancer types



# Global cancer burden: GLOBOCAN estimates 2020

Estimated cases 2020 and predicted 2040 (+ 1.5% per annum rate increase)



2022 estimates available in 2023

# Pillar 2: *Understanding the causes*

## Nutrition and Metabolism (NME) Branch

Dr Marc Gunter  
[GunterM@iarc.who.int](mailto:GunterM@iarc.who.int)

## Genomic Epidemiology (GEM) Branch

Dr Paul Brennan  
[BrennanP@iarc.who.int](mailto:BrennanP@iarc.who.int)

## Laboratory Support, Biobanking and Services (LSB) Branch

Dr Zisis Kozlakidis  
[KozlakidisZ@iarc.who.int](mailto:KozlakidisZ@iarc.who.int)

**IARC Biobank**  
has **6 million**  
biological specimens  
collected worldwide



Mutational signatures of  
**5 cancers across 5 continents:**  
**Mutographs Grand  
Challenge project**

**Rare Cancers Genomics  
initiative**  
**Open-source packages**  
(<https://github.com/IARCbioinfo>)

**500 000** participants in  
**EPIC study** recruited in 1992–2000  
in **10** European countries, with **10 000**  
country-specific foods and beverages  
in database

Assessment of **new biomarkers**  
for cancer risk prediction to improve  
early detection

**1 000 biomarkers**  
of exposure to dietary factors and  
pollutants in **Exposome-Explorer database**



# Pillar 3: *From understanding to prevention*

## Epigenomics and Mechanisms (EGM) Branch

Dr Zdenko Herceg  
[HercegZ@iacr.who.int](mailto:HercegZ@iacr.who.int)

## Environment and Lifestyle Epidemiology (ENV) Branch

Dr Joachim Schüz  
[SchuzJ@iacr.who.int](mailto:SchuzJ@iacr.who.int)

## Early Detection, Prevention and Infections (EPR) Branch

Dr Partha Basu  
[BasuP@iacr.who.int](mailto:BasuP@iacr.who.int)

Epigenome-wide profiling  
of oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma

Implementation research

HPV vaccination programmes  
*Helicobacter pylori* eradication  
Cancer screening strategies  
Training of Trainers in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)  
with **CanScreen5**  
Management of precancers  
Modelling systems

Major barriers to improving breast cancer survival in low- and middle-income countries: **ABC-DO study**

4th edition of  
**European Code Against Cancer**

**Latin American and Caribbean Code Against Cancer**

**World Code Against Cancer initiative**

# Pillar 4: Knowledge Mobilization

## Evidence Synthesis and Classification (ESC) Branch

Dr Ian Cree

[CreeI@iacr.who.int](mailto:CreeI@iacr.who.int)

Dr Mary Schubauer-Berigan

[BeriganM@iacr.who.int](mailto:BeriganM@iacr.who.int)

Dr Béatrice Lauby-Secretan

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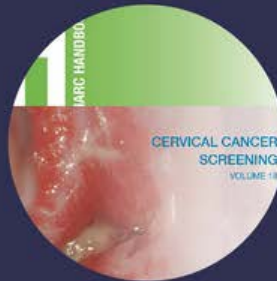
Learning and Capacity Building (LCB) Branch



### 50 years

of the *IARC Monographs* with 1032 agents evaluated for carcinogenicity

20 classifications thanks to 5 Working Groups in 2020–2021



### IARC Handbooks

of *Cancer Prevention* Volume 18 (Cervical Cancer Screening) and Volume 19 (Oral Cancer Prevention)



### 3 volumes of the WHO Classification of Tumours series

 (WHO Blue Books) published:

*Soft Tissue and Bone Tumours*, 5th edition (2020)

*Female Genital Tumours*, 5th edition (2020)

*Thoracic Tumours*, 5th edition (2021)

# Pillar 4: Knowledge Mobilization

## Evidence Synthesis and Classification (ESC) Branch

## Learning and Capacity Building (LCB) Branch

Mrs Anouk Berger  
[BergerA@iarc.who.int](mailto:BergerA@iarc.who.int)

253 Early Career and Visiting Scientists from 58 different countries joined IARC during 2020–2021 through the IARC Research Training and Fellowship Programme

73 participants in the **IARC Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology 2021**, held online

7 IARC Postdoctoral Fellowships awarded to candidates from low- and middle-income countries

2 Fellowships on paediatric cancers

7 UICC-IARC Development Fellowships

2 IARC learning programmes selected as part of the **WHO Academy**

18 training courses and webinars targeting low- and middle-income countries

300 participants from 100 countries for the webinars on “Human Papillomavirus Vaccination” and “Obesity and Cancer”

5 webinars on the **World Cancer Report Updates learning platform** attended by 1100 health professionals from 116 countries

**IARC**  
learning

The logo for IARC learning features the text "IARC" in a bold, white, sans-serif font above the word "learning" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic consisting of several vertical lines of varying heights and colors (blue, green, yellow, orange, red) that resemble a fan or a cluster of rays.

# Agenda

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II - IARC's governance, operations and financing

III – IARC Ethical Framework

# IARC Participating States



# IARC Participating States

- Any member of WHO may become an IARC Participating State (PS) provided:
  - Undertake to **“observe and apply the provisions of the IARC Statute ”**
  - Should be **“able to contribute effectively to the scientific and technical work of the Agency”**
- Applications from new PS are evaluated by the Governing Council’s (GC) “Subcommittee on the Admission of New PS”
- Approval by more than 2/3 majority of the GC



# Role of the Governing Council

- The Governing Council (GC) oversees the work of the Agency
- It is composed **of one representative of each Participating State** and the WHO Director-General (or representative)
  - representatives are appointed by and represent their Governments
- GC **meets at least once per year** in Lyon (*virtual since 2020*), usually in May the week prior to WHO's World Health Assembly
- Specific tasks/responsibilities:
  - decide on changes to IARC's Statute, Rules and Regulations
  - elect the IARC Director
  - adopt the budget
  - considering the recommendations of the SC:
    - adopt the Medium-Term Strategy and the programmes of the Agency
    - approve any special projects

# Role of the Scientific Council

- Reviews IARC's scientific activities providing advice and making recommendations on the scientific aspects of its **programme, strategy and priorities**
- Composed of senior scientists from all PS, selected on the basis of competence, **not as national representatives**
- Members are appointed by the GC for **one four-year term**
- Meets once per year in Lyon (*virtual in 2021, 2022 and 2023*), in late January/February
- Specific tasks/responsibilities:
  - periodic evaluation of the Agency's activities (participating in the peer-review of Branches)
  - evaluation of special projects proposed by the Agency
  - advising the GC on the scientific aspects of the Programme
  - advising the GC on the evaluation of the MTS and its implementation

# Communication between Governing and Scientific Councils – a crucial relationship

- **Regular teleconferences** between the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of both Councils and the Director
- **Joint Working Groups**, e.g. to advise on the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and its evaluation
- Scientific Council members can **brief their Governing Council members** – advocacy role
- Scientific Council members can **advise Governing Council members on their successor**

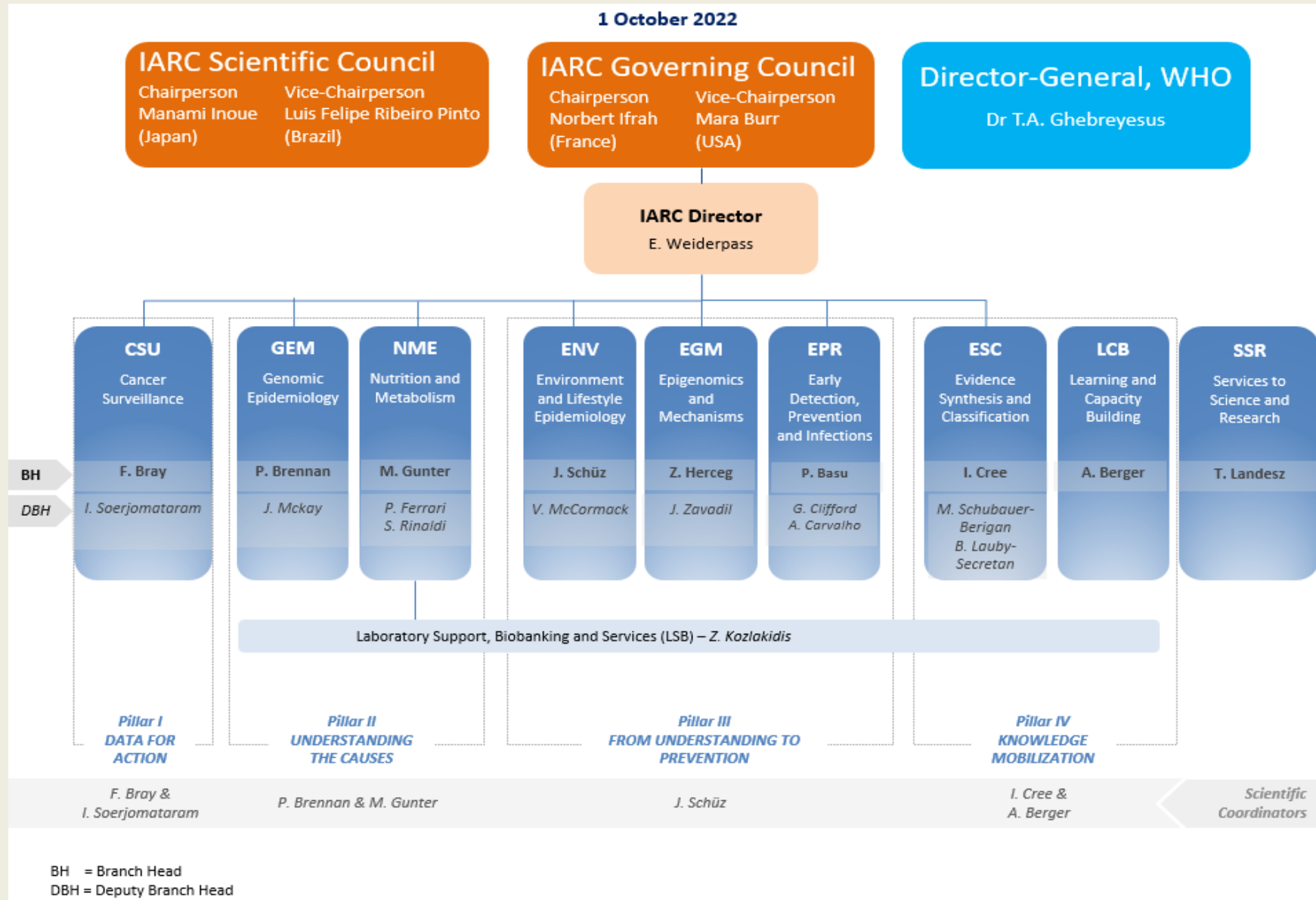
# IARC Director

- **Provides leadership and sets the strategy and direction** for the Agency
- **Ex-officio Secretary of the GC, SC** and of any of their committees and working groups
- **Formulates the IARC Medium-Term Strategy**
- Responsible for **preparing the Agency's biennial programme and budget**
- **Reports to the SC and GC annually** on progress of the implementation of the scientific programme

# IARC organizational structure *(effective from 1 January 2021)*

## Organizational structure:

- ❑ 4 Pillars
- ❑ 8 scientific Branches
- ❑ 1 administrative/operations Branch



BH = Branch Head  
DBH = Deputy Branch Head

# Review of IARC scientific activities

## Two complementary levels of review:

### I - Peer-review of Branches

- Primary mechanism for evaluating the scientific quality of the outputs of individual Branches
- Assesses the alignment of the programmes of the Branches to the Agency's Strategy and their contribution to its broader Mission
- Rolling 5-year cycle independent from the Medium-Term Strategy

### II - Review of the implementation of the IARC Medium-Term Strategy

- Evaluates the overall progress in the implementation of the MTS by monitoring results and their alignment to the stated priorities
- Assesses the impact of the Agency's activities and their contribution towards fulfilling its high-level strategic objectives
- Evaluates the implementation of the Agency's programmes transversally across the organisation, independently from the Branch structure

# Scientific Peer-Review Process

- The objective is to conduct a detailed review of the scientific activities of each IARC Branch providing:
  - an **assessment of scientific quality and merit** of the work performed **based on past achievements and future plans**
  - an assessment of **how well it fits with the overall mission of IARC**
- Each Branch reviewed approx. every 5 years (2 Branches per year)
- Review Group composed of 5-7 members with appropriate expertise, including at least two members of the SC
- Report of the Review Group presented to the SC by the Chairperson
- Each IARC Branch scored in relation to:

## Scientific quality

- **O** (Outstanding)
- **F** (Forefront)
- **C** (Competitive)
- **NC** (Not Competitive)
- **U** (Unsatisfactory)
- **P** (Preliminary)

## Relevance to IARC's mission

- Perfect fit
- Good fit
- Questionable fit
- Poor fit

# IARC Programme and Budget

- **Biennial Programme and Budget** prepared by the IARC Secretariat
- SC **reviews the Programme and Budget** and makes recommendations to the GC
- GC considers recommendations, **approves the Programme and adopts the Budget**
- GC approves special projects and decides on allocation of supplementary funds



# IARC funding sources and composition of budget

**Regular Budget (RB)** – comes from the assessed contributions on Participating States (PS)

- RB approved for the **biennium 2022-2023** is **45 371 329 euros**
- RB covers core staff and operational costs, and a modest non-staff budget (~100,000 euros per annum per Group)

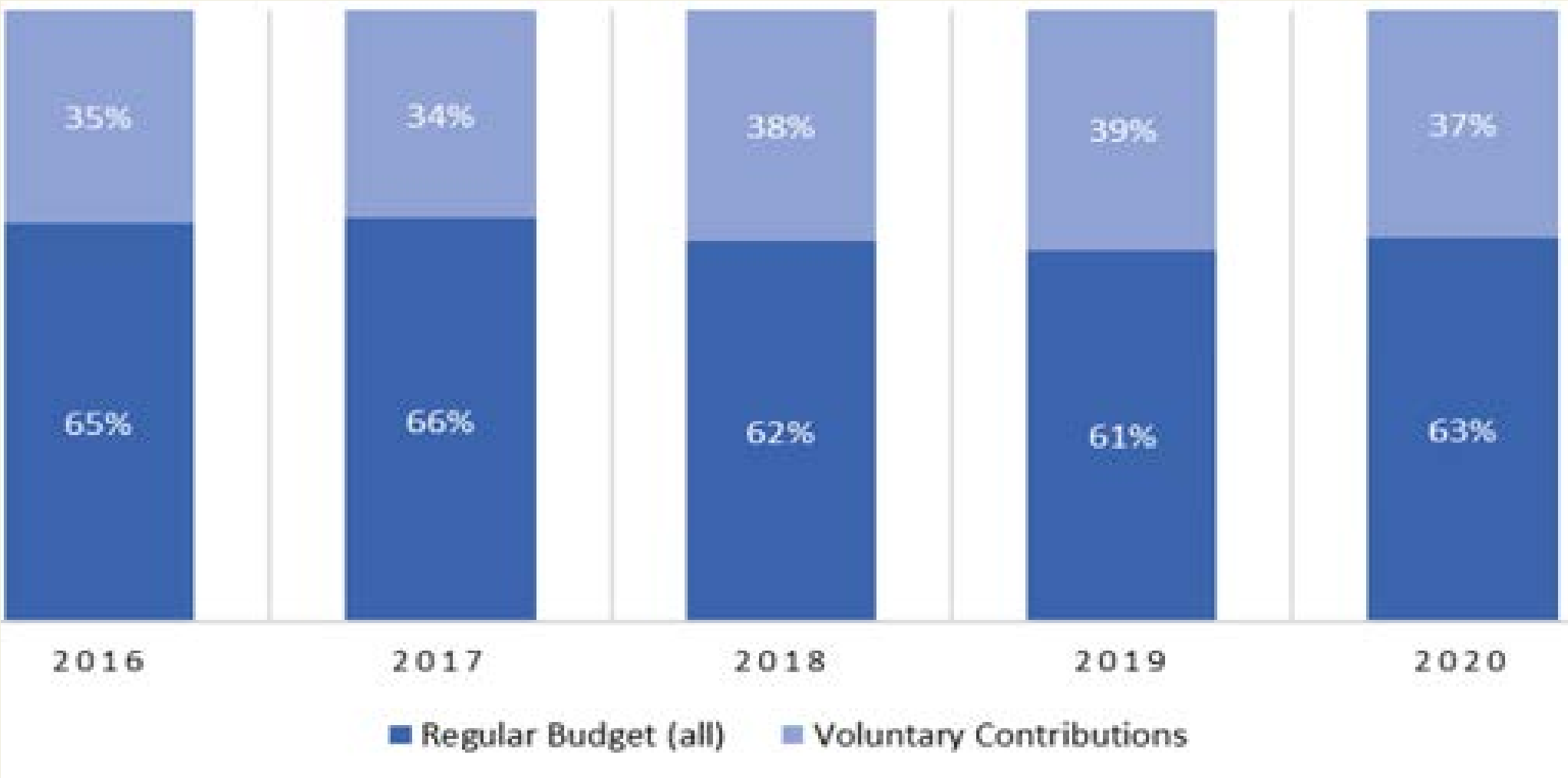
**Extrabudgetary sources** – mainly from:

- **Voluntary Contributions** – from competitive grants, direct contributions and donations (*main donors: Cancer Research UK, NIH USA, World Cancer Research Fund, BMGF, INCa France, European Commission ...*)
- **Programme Support Costs or Indirect Costs** – generated from overheads recovered on research grants
- **Governing Council Special Fund** – variety of sources i.e. revenue from sales of publications, interest income, contributions from new Participating States (unbudgeted assessment), and miscellaneous income

# Assessed contributions on Participating States

- Calculation of the assessed contribution from IARC PS
  - **70% of the Regular Budget is borne equally by all PS**
  - **30% is assessed in accordance with a unit system** based on each country's participation in the WHO scale of assessment:
    - Group 1 ( $\geq 8\%$  in WHO scale) - 8 units
    - Group 2 ( $\geq 4\%$  and  $< 8\%$  in WHO scale) - 4 units
    - Group 3 ( $\geq 2\%$  and  $< 4\%$  in WHO scale) - 2 units
    - Group 4 ( $\geq 0.5\%$  and  $< 2\%$  in WHO scale) - 1 units
    - Group 5 ( $< 0.5\%$  in WHO scale) - 0 units
- Gradual increase in financial participation in the first two years (*Fin. Reg. Article 4.3*)
- All PS make a similar contribution/voice, ensuring equity in decision making

# Expenditure financed from Voluntary Contributions compared to Regular Budget



# A Nouveau Centre for IARC

*“The Nouveau Centre will host cutting-edge technologies for meeting management, digital and flexible workplaces, collaborative workspaces, cloud-based scientific data management, and a modern biobank and laboratories”. (IARC MTS 2021-2025)*



# A “Nouveau Centre” for new ambitions



## NEW BEGINNING

Located in the Lyon Gerland-Biodistrict area of Lyon, the Nouveau Centre opened its doors on 2 January 2023 (moving October-December 2022). As the IARC’s new flagship premises, it will become a central element of the agency’s identity. A Nouveau Centre for a renewed IARC.

## ‘OPEN SCIENCE’

The culture of the Nouveau Centre is centred on ‘openness’. This will be promoted through open days, conferences and events, expanded biobank access to national and international partners, etc, Thus giving an opportunity for the IARC to interact with a broader public.

## STRATEGIC LOCATION

Strategically located, its proximity with other key players in the field of global health, like the WHO Academy, both national and international, will increase not only collaborations but also the IARC’s visibility.

## COLLABORATIVE SPACE

A modern building with state of the art infrastructure, the Nouveau Centre will become a space to host world renowned scientists, experiments and innovative projects; flagship events and conferences as well as bring together multi-sectoral donors, influencers and ambassadors. An opportunity to position IARC’s excellence

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# For effective maintenance of IARC reputation

- ❖ **IARC Reputation:** credibility, objectivity, trust
- ❖ Quality of our work and collaborations
- ❖ Alignment of decisions with IARC's culture and mandate

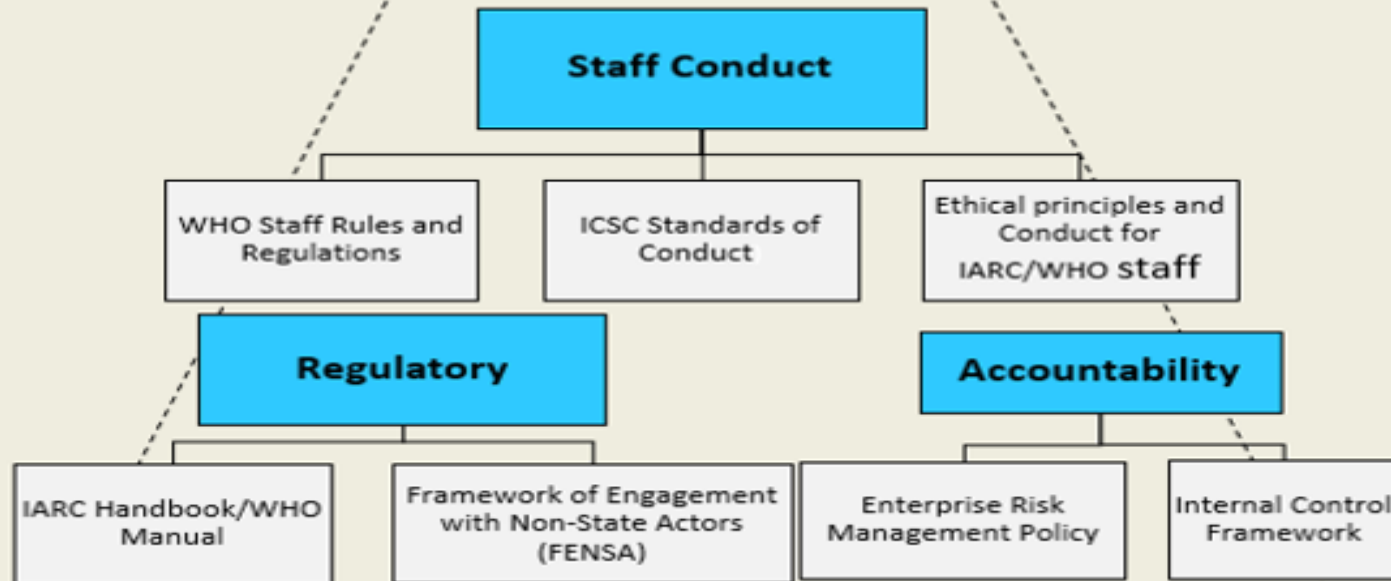
# Main components

- ❖ **IARC Values Charter and Standards of Conduct**
- ❖ **Mitigation of reputational risk**
- ❖ Channels for support and guidance
- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Training
- ❖ Update of policies and mechanisms

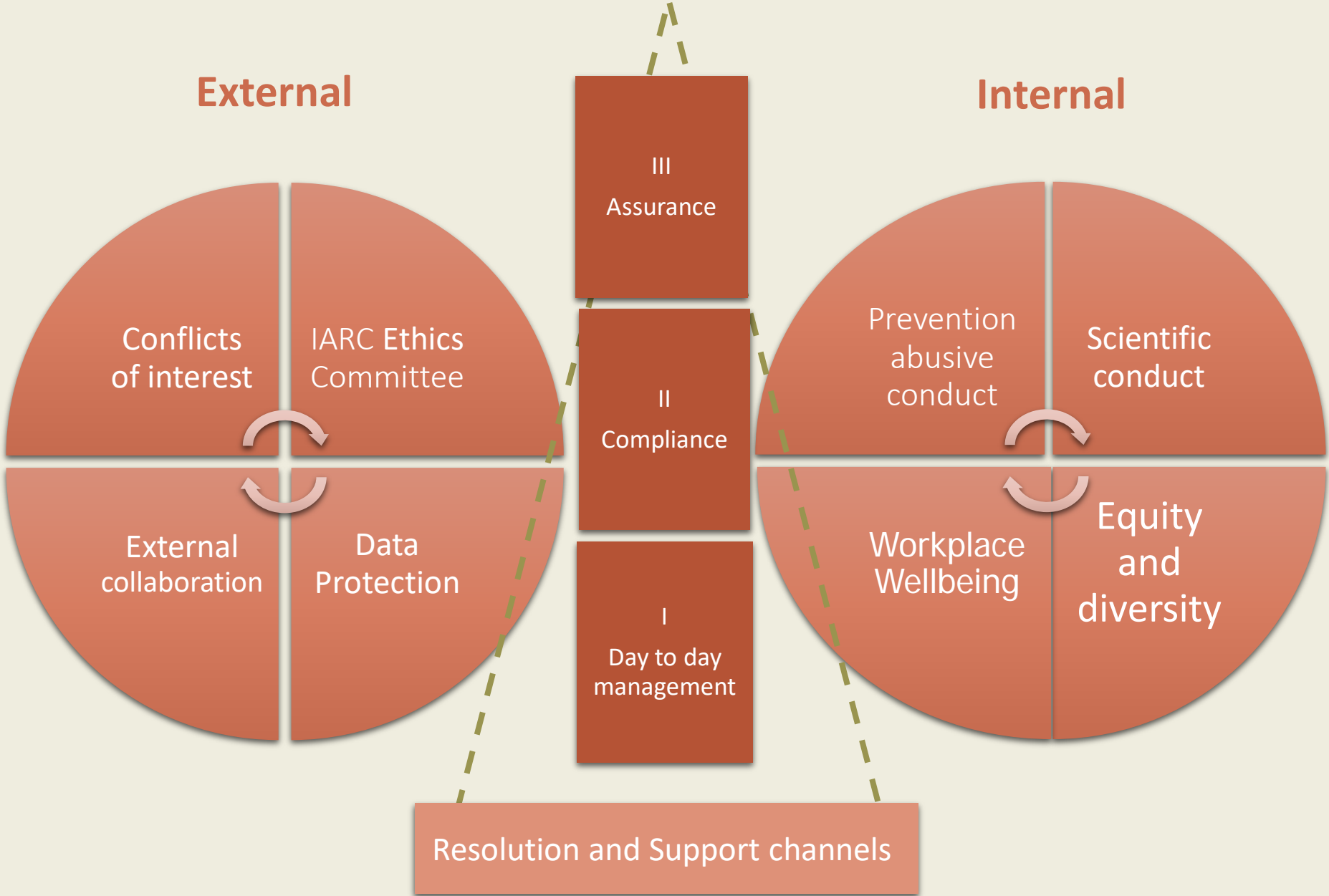


# Values Charter and Professional Standards of Conduct

Value	Icon	Why is this value important?	How can you demonstrate this value?
Collaborative colleagues and partners	Two hands shaking	Together, we can achieve more and work more efficiently. Collaborative approaches work better between colleagues and partners. We can achieve more on a larger scale and have a bigger impact on public health. Collaboration helps us to give our best, use professional and personal time.	How can you demonstrate this value? Share your ideas, competencies, knowledge, and experience. Be inclusive and open. Participate actively in the life of the Agency. Be honest, be open, and listen to others.
People caring about people	Hand holding a heart	It creates a better and more motivating work environment. We are working to improve the health of others, public health, world health.	How can you demonstrate this value? Foster learning, mentorship, and mutual respect. Demonstrate care in the ways you relate to others and cooperate with others. Be punctual, reliable, and polite. Make yourself available to your colleagues.
Professionals committed to excellence in health research	Rose award	It ensures the high quality of our work. Our efforts are focused where they can have the greatest impact. We are ambassadors for the Agency both within and outside the office.	How can you demonstrate this value? Share knowledge, skills, and resources widely. Encourage continuous personal and professional development. Conscientiously aim for high quality in everything you do.
Persons of integrity	Scales of justice	It ensures the trust and reputation of the Agency and its personnel. The Agency is a trusted reference and model. It makes us proud to work for the Agency. Our decisions are based on our values, not just by ourselves. We do what we say we will do.	How can you demonstrate this value? Take responsibility for your actions. Be honest as a member, formal, supervisor, and fan. Encourage honest and open communication. Celebrate and overcome cultural differences. Involve all the contributors of offices.
Trusted to serve public health at all times	Hand holding a globe	It increases the impact of our work. Science that can be trusted has greater value. It will add power to the message we carry. Our decisions and communications are motivated by trust, independence, and transparency. We act in the public interest before our personal interests. Encourage freedom of expression of our ideas.	How can you demonstrate this value? Trust your colleagues, and encourage transparency behaviour. Put the public interest before your personal interests. Encourage freedom of expression of our ideas.



# Mitigation measures



# Thank you

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