



**Governing Council  
Sixty-fifth Session**

**GC/65/6**  
3 March 2023

*Lyon, 10–12 May 2023*  
*Nouveau Centre Auditorium*

**DIRECTOR'S RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS  
FROM THE 59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL**

1. The Scientific Council of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has the essential roles of advising the Director and the Governing Council on the Agency's scientific strategy and its implementation and evaluating the scientific quality of the research carried out at IARC through the participation of its members in the Review Panels.
2. Dialogues with and between the two Councils is promoted through regular teleconferences between the Director and the Governing and Scientific Council Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and by the Chair's attendance of the other Council's sessions.
3. The 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the IARC Scientific Council, the third to be held remotely, was held from 8 to 10 February 2023. It was opened by Dr Manami Inoue (Scientific Council Chairperson) and was attended by the Chair of the Governing Council (Professor Norbert Ibrah, France). The following sections of this document present a summary of the actions taken in response to the discussions and recommendations made during the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Council that are not addressed, either in the Report for the Scientific Council, or elsewhere on the agenda of the current Governing Council session.

**DISCUSSION WITH THE DIRECTOR, THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE AND THE  
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL ONLY**

4. The Scientific Council enquired about gender balance at the leadership level within IARC.
5. The Director expressed her willingness to continue *ensuring equity, diversity, and inclusion in all IARC's activities and at the leadership level*.
6. New measures to address gender equality at IARC have been implemented, including the appointment of female Deputy Branch Heads (50%), the creation of IARC Teams (50% female leaders) and of IARC Teams related to the WHO Global Initiatives (100% female leaders).
7. The Director thanks the Scientific Council for the positive comments in respect of the work of the Equity and Diversity Advisory Group (EDAG).

### **PROPOSED PROGRAMME AND BUDGET (2024–2025)**

8. Ms Charu Mehta (Administration and Finance Officer) made a presentation of the proposed Programme and Budget 2024–2025. The proposed budget of €51.12 million reflects the priorities set out in the IARC Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2021–2025.
9. The Scientific Council recommends that the Governing Council adopts the proposed Programme and Budget.
10. The Scientific Council remains deeply concerned about the severe financial constraints faced by IARC. The available budget has experienced zero nominal growth for more than a decade, despite major inflationary pressures faced by all organizations worldwide. This poses an existential threat to the world-leading and highly unique research conducted by the Agency. The constant pressure to produce more with less support is already beginning to affect staff morale, recruitment and retention of exceptional talent, and research quality. These worrisome trends will only continue if budgetary pressures on the Agency are not mitigated.
11. The Scientific Council suggested the provision of tailored arguments about the benefits of IARC research that are specific to particular countries and/or regions to better communicate the clear added value of the Agency relative to national efforts and interest. In response, this document has been developed by the Secretariat and sent to all Scientific Council members.
12. The Director thanked the Scientific Council for its strongest unqualified support for the Proposed Programme and Budget, along with other current and future actions to improve the financial health of the Agency.