



**Governing Council  
Sixty-sixth Session**

**GC/66/9**  
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Hybrid format*

## **PREPARATION OF THE IARC MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2026–2030 AND ITS ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

### **INTRODUCTION: THE DEFINITION OF THE IARC MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2026–2030**

1. The Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2026–2030 will define IARC’s priorities and action plan over the five-year period. Its development and the first years of implementation will be coordinated by the current Director of IARC, who will remain in office until the end of 2028.
2. The preparation of the MTS 2026–2030 will rely on a process of consultation beginning during the Governing Council (GC) session in May 2024. The development of the new MTS will run in parallel with the MTS 2021–2025 evaluation to better consider and integrate its conclusions and recommendations. The methodology, the evaluation framework of the MTS 2021–2025 and its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were approved by the 64<sup>th</sup> GC in May 2022, as detailed in [Document GC/64/13](#).
3. An Advisory Group for the development of the new MTS will guide and review the document of the MTS 2026–2030. Its members, coming from IARC’s governance and WHO HQ, will present the draft proposal of the MTS 2026–2030 to the Scientific Council (SC) in February 2026 and to the GC in May 2026.

### **WORKPLAN AND PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MTS 2026–2030**

4. The definition the MTS 2026–2030 and its action plan will be built in accordance with the Results-based Management methodology of the United Nations System.
5. The IARC Secretariat proposes the following principles for the development of the MTS 2026–2030:
  - Establish a Joint GC/SC MTS Advisory Group (AG), including representation from WHO HQ, by a resolution to be approved at the GC session in May 2024. This AG would meet remotely during 2024–2026.
  - Conduct consultation with IARC personnel, the Senior Advisory Team (SAT) and key stakeholders.
  - Take into consideration the conclusions of the evaluation on the implementation of the MTS 2021–2025 to define the priorities of the MTS 2026–2030, the project tree and the preparation of the programme and budget 2026–2027.
6. Parts of this consultation process and editing work may be outsourced.

### TIMELINE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MTS 2026–2030

7. A detailed plan for 2023–2026 to define the MTS 2026–2030 will give an overview of the key deadlines, its interface with the conclusions of the evaluation of the MTS 2021–2025, as well as the preparation of the programme and budget 2026–2027.
8. The development of the MTS 2026–2030 is a two-year process from May 2024 until May 2026, which will cover the following timeline and deliverables:
  - May 2024: a high-level discussion will take place during the GC session to initiate the process of the MTS definition,
  - June-July 2024: the Secretariat will organize interviews with the Governance (SC & GC Chairs and Vice-Chairs), IARC main stakeholders and funders,
  - In parallel, in July 2024: the IARC SAT will agree on an updated version of the MTS project tree, to allow the preparation of the programme and budget 2026–2027,
  - July 2025: the Secretariat will circulate the draft document of “IARC Medium-Term Strategy for 2026–2030” for consideration by the AG,
  - September 2025: the Secretariat will circulate a second draft of the MTS document taking into consideration the AG contributions, and will integrate the final remarks,
  - December 2025: the Secretariat will send the draft document of the MTS 2026–2030 to all SC members for discussion during the SC session in February 2026,
  - March 2026: the Secretariat will produce a final draft version of the “IARC Medium Term Strategy for 2026–2030” incorporating the SC recommendations,
  - May 2026: the GC will formally discuss and adopt the MTS 2026–2030 in May 2026 for immediate implementation.

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE MTS 2026–2030

9. At the sixty session of the SC in February 2024, **the SC nominated Satish Gopal and Louisa Gordon to be part of the Advisory Group** for the development of the MTS 2026–2030.
10. The GC is kindly requested to nominate two of its members to be part of the Joint GC/SC & WHO/HQ MTS Advisory Group for the development of the MTS 2026–2030.