



**Governing Council  
Sixty-sixth Session**

**GC/66/13**  
15 March 2024

*Lyon, 15–16 May 2024*  
*Hybrid format*

**GOVERNING COUNCIL WORKING GROUP  
TO EXAMINE IARC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

1. As per Resolution [GC/65/R5 paragraph 6](#), the Governing Council (GC) requested the Director to report on resource mobilization efforts and keep the GC working group apprised of major development on the Nouveau Centre (NC).
2. Since 2020, the Secretariat has implemented a three-pronged fundraising strategy to mobilize in-kind and financial resources for the Nouveau Centre building. The three axes of the campaign were the following:
  - a. A local campaign targeting private individuals in Lyon and its surroundings;
  - b. An in-kind contribution campaign targeting corporate organizations and for-profit entities, and
  - c. A major gift campaign targeting Ultra-High Net-Worth Individuals (UHNWI) and Participating States (PS).
3. Following the implementation of the three axes of the campaign, the Secretariat was able to mobilize over €2 million that helped cover some of the equipment and installation costs in IARC's new premises (for the Auditorium for example).
4. While the Secretariat has decided to close the first two parts of the fundraising campaign since the move to the new building was made official, the last part of the campaign, i.e. the large donation campaign targeting UHNWI and PS, remains active to allow the mobilization of additional funding for the remaining equipment needed, especially focusing on investment for the laboratories and the Biobank.
5. The Secretariat express its gratitude to the Government of Germany for the contribution of €450 000 made to IARC through the Core Voluntary Contribution Account mechanism (CVCA). This generous donation from Germany contributed to the purchase of a new state-of-the art platform for metabolomics, consisting of two liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) instruments from Agilent Technologies: a time-of-flight system Revident, and a triple quadrupole system 6495.
6. The Secretariat encourages other PS to make voluntary contributions and provide support to the resource mobilization efforts as there are still some needs for equipment in the Biobank, e.g. an automated freezer or a laboratory information management system (LIMS).

8. In parallel, and because the new premises of IARC represent a great tool to increase the visibility of the Agency, the Secretariat organized several events throughout the year starting with the official inauguration ceremony which was organized during the 65<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Session in the presence of IARC PS representatives and other government officials.
9. On 12 May 2023, around 500 people, including more than 250 external participants, celebrated the inauguration of IARC's new premises. This official event was attended by the French Minister for Health and Prevention, the Vice-President of the Region Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes, the President of the Metropole de Lyon and the Mayor of Lyon among other dignitaries. WHO HQ was represented by Professor Jérôme Salomon (Assistant Director-General) for communicable and noncommunicable diseases) and Dr Bente Mikkelsen (Noncommunicable Diseases Director). This event was highly visible in the media (more than 52 press articles covered the event) and confirmed IARC as one of the major actors in cancer research.
10. Since the official inauguration, many other events have taken place in IARC's new premises, notably, The launch of the Global Health Strategy by the French Government on 12 October in the presence of three French Ministers (Health and Prevention, Secondary Education & Research and Foreign Affairs) as well as WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.
11. A one-day conference on health and nutrition was co-organized by IARC, the Evertea Foundation and the Société Francophone Santé et Environnement (SFSE); the "Entretiens Jacques Cartier" organized by the Metropole de Lyon and Quebec; and a one-day conference on HIV, cancer and sexuality organized by Centre Leon Berard.
12. In addition to these events, numerous meetings were also hosted and/or organized by IARC scientists with their collaborators, such as the Monographs meetings that involve more than 100 renowned scientists from all over the world,.
13. Hosting high-level events in its new premises positions IARC as an essential organization in cancer research locally and globally, promoting the concept of an open infrastructure for Open Science.
14. Regarding the Nouveau Centre building update, the new IARC headquarter is located in the 7<sup>th</sup> district of Lyon, a competitiveness cluster focused on scientific and research activities. The building is laid out over six floors offering 11 500 m<sup>2</sup> in total, representing an almost 20% increase in capacity compared to the previous premises. It provides attractive offices (5000 m<sup>2</sup>), meeting rooms (1100 m<sup>2</sup>) and modern laboratories (3000 m<sup>2</sup>). It will enable IARC to expand its workforce to at least 500 personnel and its eco-friendly design will contribute to reducing IARC's ecological footprint.
15. The French authorities invested a total of more than €60 million for the building construction (Lyon Metropole €19 million, French State €17 million, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region €14.2 million, and land provided by Ville de Lyon €13 million). The fundraising campaign (over €2 million of financial and in-kind donations), the sale of the buildings owned by IARC (€1.5 million), the Governing Council Special Fund (€1 million loan) and other sources contributed to significant investments in new equipment and furniture.
16. The Secretariat would like to highlight that out of the loan of €1 million authorized by the Governing Council through resolution [GC/63/R11](#), to be used for the "Priority 1" list of critical purchases related to the Nouveau Centre, only an amount of €149 742 was needed to be spent for this purpose. Subsequently, during the year 2023, efforts were made to generate savings from the operational

budget, which were then used to cover this expenditure. As a result, the loan of €1 million was fully repaid into the Governing Council Special Fund at the end of 2023. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank the Governing Council for the provision of this loan.

17. The construction of the “Nouveau Centre” was officially completed on 28 October 2022, after 27 months of work (excluding preparation) and the collaboration of more than 60 companies. IARC’s equipment and furniture have been moved into the new building as planned, including the delicate transfer of the Biobank and its six million biological samples. IARC personnel gradually moved into the new building in January and February 2023.
18. The owner of the building, the Metropole de Lyon, took delivery of the building and handed over the keys to IARC in October 2022. During the first year of commissioning, all of the 6000 defects, observations and remarks recorded in the joint inspection report were fixed and/or addressed. To this must be added the daily monitoring by the technical teams, who identified over 300 additional malfunctions, reported to the owner and then corrected within the framework of the warranty period.
19. The warranty has been extended by six months on all heating, ventilation, and air conditioning installations, as there are still major malfunctions in the laboratories.
20. Finally, it should be noted that the Building Operating System, the tool used to manage and supervise the technical installations, has still not been finalized.
21. The operating costs of the new building can only be estimated, as 2023 was a year of transition, with partial activity of the laboratories and monitoring equipment. It will require one additional year to have a more reliable vision of these costs.
22. Considering the completion of the move to the Nouveau Centre and the termination of the fund-raising campaign totally dedicated to the same, the Secretariat suggests discontinuing the Working Group on IARC infrastructure projects and to keep the GC apprised of future resource mobilization efforts in the standard Director’s Report and/or in the Report on Donations as appropriate.