



**Governing Council
Sixty-sixth Session**

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15 May 2024

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Hybrid format

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING
IARC, Lyon and web conference

Thursday, 15 May 2024, at 09:00 Central European Summer Time (CEST)

Chairperson: Professor Norbert IFRAH (France)

Secretary: Dr Elisabete WEIDERPASS, Director, IARC

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Participating State Representatives

France

Professor Norbert Ifrah, Chairperson
Monsieur Nicolas Albin, [unable to attend]
Dr Thomas Dubois

Australia

Professor Dorothy Keefe, Vice-Chairperson
Ms Lisa Malloy

Ireland

Mr James Scully, Rapporteur
Dr Joanne Uí Chrualaoich

Austria

Ms Elisabeth Tischelmayer

Belgium

Ms Eloïse Delforge
Ms Anne Swaluë

Brazil

Dr João Paulo de Biaso Viola
Dr Ronaldo Corrêa Ferreira da Silva
Ms Livia de Oliveira Pasqualin

Canada

Dr Emma Ito
Dr Madeleine Bird

China

Dr Yanhong Guo
Professor Jie He
Ms Ying Li
Ms Yawei Zhang
Mr Wenqiang Wei
Mr Wanqing Chen
Mr Jun Du

Denmark

Dr Morten Frisch

Egypt

Professor Mohamad Hassany
Dr Khaled Atallah
Prof. Dr Maha Ibrahim
Prof. Dr Hesham Elghazaly
Dr Hatem Amer

Finland

Ms Tuula Helander

Germany

Ms Marike Kranes

Hungary

Professor Gabriella Liskay

India

No Representative

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

No Representative

Italy

Dr Mauro Biffoni

Japan

Dr Hitoshi Nakagama
Mr Masato Izutsu [remotely]
Dr Kanami Kobayashi
Mr Tomohiro Matsuda
Ms Kay Ohara

Morocco

Dr Latifa Awatef Belakhel
Dr Loubna Abousselham
Dr Youssef Chami Khazraji

Netherlands

Dr Susan Potting
Mr Pieter de Coninck

Norway

Professor Tone Bjørge
Professor Pål Richard Romundstad

Qatar

Dr Al-Hareth M. Al-Khater
Dr Noora Al Hammadi

Republic of Korea

Ms Jinkyong Jeong
Mr Yeol Kim
Mr Sunghoo Hong

Russian Federation

Dr Ekaterina Karakulina
Dr Valeriya Gulshina
Mr Anton Minaev
Mr Ivan Tarutin
Dr Anna Shakhzadova
Dr Tigran Gevorkian
Dr Valeriy Breder
Ms Liubov Pashigorova
Ms Elena Iozhits

Saudi Arabia

Professor Mushabbab Al Asiri
Dr Ali Saeed AlZahrani
Professor Samar Alhomoud

Spain

Dr Elena Doménech

Sweden

Professor Jonas Oldgren [unable to attend]

Switzerland

Mr Florian Dolder

**United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland**

Dr Mark Palmer
Dr Isobel Atkin

United States of America

Dr W. Kimryn Rathmell
Ms Sofija Korac
Dr Matt Lim
Dr Satish Gopal
Ms Dalana Johnson
Mr Mark Dagher
Ms Christina Taylor
Dr Maya Levine

World Health Organization

Dr Bente Mikkelsen
Director, Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO headquarters

Ms Holly Moore
Senior Legal Officer, WHO headquarters

**Observers
Scientific Council**

Dr Manami Inoue, outgoing Chairperson
Dr Luis Felipe Ribeiro Pinto, incoming Chairperson

Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

Dr Cary Adams, Chief Executive Officer

External Audit

Mr Singh, Director of External Audit (WHO)
Office of the C&AG of India

Secretariat

Dr E. WEIDERPASS, *Secretary*
Ms C. MEHTA

Dr P. BASU
Ms A. BERGER
Dr F. BRAY
Dr P. BRENNAN
Dr A. CARVALHO
Dr V. CHAJES
Mr C. CHAUVET
Dr G. CLIFFORD
Mr O. EXERTIER
Dr P. FERRARI

Dr Z. HERCEG
Dr M. JENAB
Ms J. JONGERIUS
Mr D. KAVANAGH
Ms. A. KIRJASUO
Dr Z. KOZLAKIDIS
Ms N. LAMANDÉ
Dr B. LAUBY-SECRETAN
Ms T. LEE
Dr D. LOKUHETTY
Mr F. LOZANO
Mr S. LUBIATO
Dr F. MADIA

Dr V. McCORMACK
Dr J. McKAY
Ms S. MOLDAN
Ms K. MULLER
Dr S. RINALDI
Dr M. SCHUBAUER-BERIGAN
Dr J. SCHÜZ
Dr C. SCOCCIANI
Dr I. SOERJOMATARAM
Ms V. TERRASSE
Ms V. VOCANSON
Dr J. ZAVADIL

1. REQUEST FOR USE OF FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SPECIAL FUND: TEMPORARY INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND: Item 12 of the Agenda ([Document CG/66/21](#))

Ms MEHTA (Director of Administration and Finance, ad interim), introducing the item, recalled that the IARC Working Capital Fund (WCF) had been established in 1965 under resolution [GC/1/R9](#) to ensure the sound financial position of the Agency. It was financed by contributions from Participating States with sums being transferred from the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF). The authorized level of the WCF was €3 361 050.00 as of December 2018. The amount was usually sufficient to deal with situations where one, two or even three annual assessed contributions were not paid during the year.

The Secretariat had been faced with an exceptional situation with the non-payment of the assessed contributions by the Islamic Republic of Iran from 2018 to 2023; none had yet been received in 2024. In accordance with Article V (paragraph 5.3) of the IARC Financial Regulations, transfers had been made from the WCF towards the appropriations due from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the WCF balance had diminished accordingly each year. If the situation continued during 2024 and 2025, there would be a net financial deficit in the WCF of €734 000 by the end of the biennium. Accordingly, the Secretariat proposed a temporary increase of €4.2 million in the WCF financed from the GCSF. The amount would be gradually reimbursed to the GCSF upon receipt of each of the outstanding contributions from the Islamic Republic of Iran for the period 2018–2025. On the previous day, one Participating State had made an additional proposal.

Mr DAGHIR (United States of America) noted that the Working Capital Fund was intended to advance funds, where necessary, to finance annual appropriations and to be reimbursed as contributions from Participating States became available, typically in the same calendar year. Across the United Nations system, working capital funds were used to bridge short-term cash deficits that arose because of late payments: their purpose was not to manage chronic arrears. The United States did not support a temporary transfer to the Working Capital Fund, as doing so would accrue larger internal debt without a guarantee of payment. Instead, he proposed a one-time transfer from the Governing Council Special Fund to replenish the Working Capital Fund. He further proposed to add a paragraph to the draft resolution to instruct that the Working Capital Fund be used for short-term cash deficits and not for chronic arrears: the instruction would apply in the current situation. He anticipated the need for a future conversation on the subject to resolve questions such as: the threshold for chronic arrears; how the Secretariat should manage budget proposals in cases of chronic arrears and when receiving current-year funding appeared unlikely; and the payment of the current arrears and other chronic arrears to be allocated to the Governing Council Special Fund. According to Article V of the IARC Financial Regulations, the Governing Council would then be able to determine how to use the funds.

Dr BIRD (Canada) expressed grave concern for the current situation which had forced the Agency to request a substantive increase to the Working Capital Fund to cover the delayed receipt of assessed contributions. Addressing the shortfall and ensuring timely collection of contributions would allow the Agency to maintain its financial health and stability and enable it to implement its mandate. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, Canada could support the transfer, in principle, given that there was a sufficient balance in the Governing Council Special Fund. She understood that the funds were to be returned to the Governing Council Special Fund as soon as the Participating State had paid its outstanding assessed contributions. She wished to know what specific measures were envisaged in the event that the outstanding contributions were not received, and whether the receipt of funds from New Participating States into the Working Capital Fund had been factored into the total amount requested. She urged Participating States to pay their assessed contributions on time and in full and requested that IARC should adjust its budgeting and work planning as needed.

Mr DOLDER (Switzerland) said that his concerns were similar to those set out by the representative of Canada. He asked the Secretariat how it proposed to handle the situation in the longer term.

Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that it was clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran had reneged on its commitments to IARC since it had not engaged with the Agency for six years. On that basis, it would be sensible to assume that the Participating State would not make payments in the future and therefore its contributions should not be taken into account in the budget for the following biennium. He supported the proposal by the United States to make a one-off transfer to the Working Capital Fund which would essentially write off the debt. The Working Capital Fund must be re-established as originally intended, but a practical and pragmatic approach should be taken concerning the likelihood of receiving funds from the Participating State.

Ms MEHTA (Director of Administration and Finance, ad interim) thanked speakers for their comments and for the support expressed for a one-time transfer to the Working Capital Fund. The Secretariat had tried to contact the Islamic Republic of Iran, including through the Mission in Geneva, but there had been no reply. The Director would attempt to reach out to the Iranian Health Minister during the World Health Assembly. She did not want the Agency to accumulate additional debt as a result of the non-payment of the assessed contributions, but any cut in the budget would make the position of the Agency extremely difficult unless there could be a budget increase that would at least cover inflationary expenses. In terms of taking forward the Medium-Term Strategy, the Agency faced a dilemma, since there was an ambition to expand its work while there was a restriction concerning the budget. She hoped to learn more from Participating States about incremental increases in the budget. A formal discussion on the Working Capital Fund could be held in 2025.

The CHAIRPERSON said that a short-term solution would not solve a long-term problem.

Ms. TISCHELMAYER (Austria), participating remotely, echoed the points raised by the representatives of Switzerland and the United Kingdom. There should be a reflection on the situation at the next budget.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Request for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund – Transfer to the Working Capital Fund" which had been amended to include the proposals by the United States of America (GC/66/R7):

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed Document [GC/66/21](#) "Request for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund - Temporary increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund (WCF)",

In accordance with the IARC Financial Regulations (Article V),

1. AUTHORIZES the Director to effect a one-time transfer of €4 200 000 from the Governing Council Special Fund to the Working Capital Fund. This authority is dependent upon there being sufficient cash balances available in the Governing Council Special Fund;
2. REQUESTS the Secretariat to use the Working Capital Fund in accordance with Article V of the IARC Financial Regulations, to manage short-term cash deficits;
3. REQUESTS that payment of the arrears referenced in Document [GC/66/21](#), be paid into the Governing Council Special Fund; and
4. REQUESTS the Secretariat to report on the status of any repayment of the arrears and the budgetary implications of any continued non-payments.

Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) noted the reference in the draft resolution to managing “short-term deficits and not chronic arrears” and asked at what point a short-term deficit became a chronic deficit.

Ms MEHTA (Director of Administration and Finance, ad interim) said that IARC did not have a definition of the term “chronic” at the current time: it could perhaps be discussed further by the Governing Council in 2025.

Mr DOLDER (Switzerland) suggested that the term “chronic” could be taken to mean a period of one or two bienniums; it could remain in the draft resolution and be defined more clearly at the Governing Council meeting in 2025.

The CHAIRPERSON said that it was easier to define “short-term” than “chronic”.

Ms MEHTA (Director of Administration and Finance, ad interim) asked whether the term “recurrent” could replace “chronic” in the draft resolution.

The VICE-CHAIRPERSON asked whether it was necessary to include the word “chronic” at the present time since the resolution concerned a one-off payment. The decision on whether to use the term “chronic” or “recurrent” could be considered at a later stage.

Mr DAGHIR (United States of America) said that he would prefer to provide more direct guidance on the use of the Working Capital Fund at the present time, but he could accept that a discussion on the term “chronic” could be continued in the Working Group on Sustainable Financing and taken up by the Governing Council in 2025.

Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) asked whether the four words “and not chronic arrears” could be deleted from paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, thereby removing any ambiguity and making clear that the draft resolution dealt with short-term cash deficits. A definition of “chronic” could then be agreed in future discussions.

Mr DAGHIR (United States of America) said that he could accept the proposal by the representative of the United Kingdom. The goal of the amendments he had proposed was to align IARC with the best practices of international organizations. He would regret that the amendment was not adopted but recognized that there had not been much time to discuss the agenda item.

The CHAIRPERSON thanked the representative of the United States for his acceptance of the proposal by the representative of the United Kingdom.

Dr BIRD (Canada) said that she could accept the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom.

Dr AL-KHATER (Qatar) said that he supported the proposed amendment. He further questioned the need to make reference to arrears in paragraph 3.

The CHAIRPERSON, in the absence of any objections, noted that the reference to “chronic arrears” would be removed from the draft resolution on the understanding that a definition of the term would be considered by the Governing Council in 2025.

Mr DAGHIR (United States of America) said that he would propose to add the subject of the “depletion of the Working Capital Fund due to chronic non-payment of assessed contributions” to the list of items to be considered by the Working Group on Sustainable Financing. If the Working Group was not able to address the problem, he would propose to address it as a standalone agenda item at the Governing Council in 2025.

It was so **agreed**.

The resolution, as amended, was **adopted**.

2. DISCUSSION ON PARTICIPATION IN IARC'S ACTIVITIES AND PAYMENT OF ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS: Item 13 of the Agenda

A discussion on participation in IARC's activities and payment of assessed contributions was held in closed session from 09:40 to 10:10. The Governing Council then resumed its consideration of the agenda in open session.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE IARC MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY (MTS) 2021–2025 AND ITS WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP: Item 14 of the Agenda ([Document GC/66/8](#)).

Mr. EXERTIER (Consultant, Office of the Director) said that his mission was to evaluate the Medium-Strategy (MTS) 2021–2025 and to prepare the MTS 2026–2030. Presenting a summary of the evaluation assessment of the MTS 2021–2025, which was set out in Document GC/66/8, he thanked participants in the Section of Support to Research (SSR) and in the Scientific Branches for their precious collaboration, without which he would not have been able to produce the report.

The vision of the MTS 2021–2025 was to contribute to a world where fewer people developed cancer. The MTS 2021–2025 set out IARC's strategic priorities, focusing on four fundamental priorities for cancer prevention research: Data for Action; Understanding the Causes (to identify risk factors); From Understanding to Prevention (to effectively implement cancer prevention strategies); and Knowledge Mobilization (to disseminate knowledge about cancer research). The four research priorities were represented by four scientific pillars that corresponded to the organization of the Agency and to the value chain for cancer prevention. The MTS also channelled IARC investment into three emerging priorities: Evolving Cancer Risk Factors and Populations in Transition; Implementation Research; and Economic and Societal Impacts of Cancer.

In 2021, the Governing Council had requested the Agency to prepare an evaluation of the MTS once it had been initiated. The methodology, evaluation framework and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to assess progress in the implementation of the MTS had been approved by the Governing Council in 2022. The MTS evaluation was complementary to the Scientific Council reviews of the scientific branches which took place every five years through a peer review process. The MTS evaluation framework relied on the Theory of Change and the United Nations results-based management methodology, and it was built on the "IOOI" model (Inputs, Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts) to better consider the value chain of cancer research.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) included quantitative and qualitative content which was tested in the evaluation framework. Each category of KPIs referred to the main ambition of the MTS to address the global cancer burden. The MTS evaluability assessment submitted in Document [GC/66/8](#) contained four categories of KPIs covering Inputs, Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts.

The assessment conducted in 2023 had: identified existing data sources within the Agency; tested all the KPIs in the evaluation framework to confirm their relevance; and advised on further work to be completed by the Secretariat for the MTS evaluation that would be carried out in 2024. Overall, 80 per cent of the data for the KPIs (30 of the 38 KPIs) for the MTS evaluation were available. The eight remaining KPIs required some additional work. The KPIs on **Inputs** were available on Governance, Budget and Workforce and the KPIs on **Outputs** were available on Publications, Courses and Fellowships. KPIs on **Outcomes** were available on International collaboration, Dissemination and Open science. KPIs on **Impacts** were available on Cooperation with WHO, Prevention policies, and Clinical practices.

The MTS KPIs that required additional work were on: **Inputs** on the new headquarters building in Gerland and its operating costs for which more time was required to receive reliable data; **Outputs** on

data on carbon footprint monitoring; **Outcomes** on a database on partnerships and international collaborations and on scientific conferences; surveys on the Summer School and ECVS which would be run in 2024; and a survey of media releases which would also be implemented in 2024; **Impacts** on MTS case studies of the IARC Teams, which would be prepared in 2024.

The planning for the MTS evaluation 2024–2025 had begun with interviews and case studies and assessments of the research teams. The next step would involve workshops at the Pillar level. The first draft of the evaluation would be shared with the Scientific Council and the Governing Council and the results would feed into the preparation of the MTS 2026–2030. Deadlines had been established for deliverables between January 2024 and May 2025. A draft resolution on approval of the MTS 2021–2025 evaluation would be proposed to GC/67 in 2025.

The Secretariat had proposed to have a dedicated Working Group for evaluation of the MTS 2021–2025, which would include a representative from the WHO Evaluation Office. In February 2024, the Scientific Council had appointed members to be part of the Working Group.

Dr ITO (Canada) said that the MTS was the most important planning instrument to guide IARC's activities. The recommendations stemming from the MTS evaluation would contribute to the new MTS and the evaluability assessment would be essential in defining the intervention objectives and how they would be achieved, as well as ensuring the relevance and feasibility of the KPIs. The evaluability assessment relied on the Theory of Change, modelling how short-term change could lead to long-term public health impacts, and it would be critical in showcasing the value of IARC's work and its contribution to public health. The evaluability assessment demonstrated that IARC was well-positioned to conduct the MTS evaluation process. The measures incorporated into the framework were already routinely captured by IARC and had been supplemented by additional indicators that could be collected for a modest investment.

She noted that, in the case study on resource mobilization and fund raising, there was no mention of the fund-raising efforts made for the Nouveau Centre and, given the success of the multi-faceted fund-raising strategy to mobilize in-kind and financial resources for the new building, there would also be value in documenting the lessons learned from that process.

Overall, the Mid-Term Review documented the critical impact of the work of IARC in advancing global health and scientific advancement and showcased its achievements. Canada would continue to follow the evaluation process closely and looked forward to further updates on the MTS evaluation.

Mr TARUTIN (Russian Federation) said that Document [GC/66/8](#) was set out in a clear format that was easy to understand and the results of the MTS evaluation would enable the MTS 2026–2030 to be more holistic and results focused. The Medium-Term Strategy should be as universal as possible and take into account the cultural contexts in each country: for example, concerning the parameters mentioned in paragraph 2.3 of Document [GC/66/8](#), "Inputs: workforce", which included sexual orientation, he noted that workforce conditions in the United Nations system were determined by the decisions of the International Civil Servants Commission (ICSC), with the endorsement of the United Nations General Assembly. In the definition of "diversity", which had been developed by the ICSC, there was no definition of the term "sexual orientation". Therefore, he requested that, when developing the Medium-Term Strategy, IARC should not employ terms that had not been used in the United Nations system. He would also be interested to receive more detailed statistics on the recruitment of IARC staff, including the average time taken for the selection process. It would be helpful to receive the information in a report on human resources from the IARC Secretariat, thereby improving accountability and transparency. In the future, he wished to see more information on human resource mobilization and fundraising, as described in the case study outlined in paragraph 2.2 of Document GC/66/8.

Mr EXERTIER (Consultant, Office of the Director) said that the Secretariat would produce the documents requested by the representative of the Russian Federation; the Working Group would review and provide feedback on the documents during the course of three or four online meetings.

The CHAIRPERSON noted that representatives from France and Spain had volunteered to join the working group; they would be joined by a representative from the World Health Organization and two members of the Scientific Council.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Evaluability Assessment of the IARC Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2021–2025 and establishment of a working group” (GC/66/R8):

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed [Document GC/66/8](#) “Evaluability assessment of the IARC Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2021–2025 and its working group membership”;

Recalling its Resolutions [GC/63/R4](#) and [GC/64/R12](#),

1. APPROVES the proposed workplan and process for the evaluation of the MTS 2021– 2025;
2. ESTABLISHES a Working Group for the purpose of preparing the MTS 2021–2025 evaluation, composed of two members of the Scientific Council (Dr Pål Romundstad and Dr Luis Felipe Ribeiro Pinto), two members of the Governing Council and a representative from the World Health Organization;
3. NOMINATES the two respective Governing Council representatives from France and Spain, to be part of the Working Group; and
4. REQUESTS the Director to submit the Evaluation Report of the IARC Medium-Term Strategy for 2021–2025 for review by the Scientific Council at its 61st Session in February 2025 and approval by the Governing Council at its 67th Session in May 2025.

The resolution was **adopted**.

4. PREPARATION OF THE IARC MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY (MTS) 2026–2030 AND ITS ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERSHIP: Item 15 of the Agenda ([Document GC/66/9](#))

Mr. EXERTIER (Consultant, Office of the Director), introducing the item, said that the Director had held two meetings with IARC senior management to discuss the ambitions that would be put in place for the Agency through the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2026–2030, confirming the focus on cancer prevention and reinforced collaboration with WHO, in order to better translate science into public health policy. The senior management team had also agreed to continue to promote scientific excellence, equity and well-being, as well as investments for a sustainable research agency.

Concerning the ambitions for 2030, the vision was to consolidate the position of IARC as a leader for global cancer research and for open science, recognized for its public health impact and as a provider of capacity building for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In order to succeed in its mission, IARC aimed to build an ambitious MTS 2026–2030, focusing on a limited number of priorities due to budget constraints. Ambitions also included optimizing cooperation with WHO; consolidating the processes of the Agency thanks to the new Business Management System; to invest in the quality

certification of the biobank and laboratories; to promote gender balance and well-being in the Agency; and to become carbon neutral.

The objectives in preparing the MTS 2026–2030 were to define IARC’s priorities and actions over the next five years, consolidating the results of the evaluation of the former MTS. The MTS 2026–2030 would use the Theory of Change and the results-based management methodology of the United Nations. The priorities of WHO’s 14th General Programme of Work 2024–2028 would be taken into account, including the link between climate change and health; health inequities; and the prevention of emerging health risks and pandemics. There would be a key focus on a high level of scientific excellence; differentiation; and no redundancy with IARC partners. The four pillars of the current MTS (Data for action; Understanding the causes of cancer; From understanding to prevention; and Knowledge mobilization) would be consolidated under the value chain of cancer research with programmes based on scientific expertise. The new MTS would define the status of the three major emerging priorities that would eventually become part of the fundamental priorities. IARC would find ways to promote cross-cutting collaboration, working in a matrix organization and linking expertise both within and outside the Agency. A joint plan had been elaborated with WHO in Geneva and with the WHO Academy to take forward global cancer initiatives and programmes. Preparation of the new MTS was planned to take two years from May 2024–2026 through a new Joint Working Group in partnership with WHO and in consultation with key stakeholders. The aim of the exercise would be to define the priorities of the MTS at pillar-level, with a new version of the IARC project tree, and to prepare the programme and budget for 2026–2027. It was planned that the first draft of the new MTS would be prepared in 2025 and presented to the Scientific Council and the Governing Council in 2026. Two members of the Scientific Council had been nominated to form part of the Working Group and further members would be requested from the Governing Council.

Dr GOPAL (United States of America) expressed appreciation to IARC for coordinating the MTS 2026–2030 process; he supported the composition of the Advisory Group and looked forward to the opportunity to participate in its deliberations.

Mr DOLDER (Switzerland) expressed appreciation for the design of the MTS 2021–2025, which was built on the straightforward, high-level narrative of reducing the cancer burden worldwide and which had succeeded at the same time in formulating conceptually precise scientific goals that were easy to understand for policy makers and the broader public. Switzerland encouraged the Secretariat and the Advisory Group to follow the same conceptual approach when developing the MTS 2026–2030. The new MTS would not only inform the scientific work of IARC but would define how the organization would position itself more broadly in the global health architecture. Given the relevance of the process, the next MTS should be as inclusive as possible; he endorsed the formulation of the new Joint GC/SC MTS Advisory Group although the further involvement of all Governing Council members would be important throughout the process. Therefore, he would welcome additional rounds of consultations on the draft MTS documents with the full membership of the Governing Council, in coordination with the Advisory Group. Any programmatic discussion should be closely aligned with the long-term budget of the Agency and the MTS should be accompanied by an illustration of the expected costs of the proposed strategy.

The CHAIRPERSON noted the requests by Dr VIOLA (Brazil), Professor HASSANY (Egypt) and Professor AL ASIRI (Saudi Arabia) to be represented on the Working Group.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Preparation of the IARC Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2026–2030 and establishment of a Working Group” (GC/66/R9):

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed [Document GC/66/9](#) "Preparation of the IARC Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2026–2030 and its Advisory Group membership";

1. APPROVES the proposed timeline for the preparation of the MTS 2026–2030;
2. ESTABLISHES a Working Group for the purpose of preparing the new IARC MTS for 2026–2030, composed of two members of the Scientific Council (Dr Mohamed Berraho and Dr Satish Gopal), three members of the Governing Council and a representative from the World Health Organization;
3. NOMINATES the three respective Governing Council representatives from Brazil, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, to be part of the Working Group; and
4. REQUESTS the Director to submit the IARC Medium-Term Strategy 2026–2030 for review by the Scientific Council at its 62nd Session in February 2026 and adoption by the Governing Council at its 68th Session in May 2026.

The resolution was **adopted**.

5. SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF IARC – PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A FORMAL WORKING GROUP AND ITS COMPOSITION: Item 16 of the Agenda ([Document GC/66/10-Rev.1](#))

Ms MEHTA (Director of Administration and Finance, ad interim), introducing the item, said that, due to the fixed level of the regular budget received from Participating States, IARC was facing difficulties in maintaining its operations and in expanding its research agenda to include new initiatives. An informal working group on sustainable financing had met in 2023 and 2024 under the chairmanship of Professor Ifrah (France) to explore avenues to secure IARC's future. Members of the informal working group had examined what sustainable financing would mean for IARC, its objectives and deliverables and for IARC's unique contribution to global cancer research. The urgency of actions was underlined due to the growing global cancer burden.

Mr CHAUVET (Strategic Engagement and External Relations Officer) said that the Secretariat proposed the creation of a formal Working Group with the following objectives: to develop a comprehensive strategic framework to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of IARC, including not only funding from Participating States, but all of the extrabudgetary resources available to the Agency, such as grants and donations; to leverage strategic partnerships, explore direct funding mechanisms, and foster an alumni network. In collaboration with WHO, the Secretariat was working on an IARC Investment Case to demonstrate the value of donations and assessed contributions. The Working Group would be guided by principles of transparency, inclusivity and accountability. The terms of reference for the Working Group were set out in the appendix to Document [GC/66/10-Rev.1](#). The Governing Council was requested to establish the proposed Working Group and to nominate members to participate in it.

Mr DAGHIR (United States of America) expressed support for the proposal to establish a Working Group on Sustainable Financing; he had nevertheless submitted alternative terms of reference to more clearly highlight the core objectives of the Group. He hoped that the text proposed by the United States would assist Participating States. He strongly supported IARC developing its own investment

case with support from WHO, but the creation of the investment case should remain with the Secretariat, working closely with the Working Group. There should be a focus on bringing specific recommendations to the Governing Council on how to improve financial sustainability. Taking into account the financial constraints currently impacting many Participating States, the United States would be interested at looking beyond traditional, assessed contributions and instead to look at additional steps that had not yet been considered to mobilize resources, foster efficiencies and improve overall financing. The proposed edits to the section of the terms of reference on responsibilities were intended to more clearly indicate what kinds of information should be reviewed in order to achieve the objectives. The United States looked forward to participating in the Working Group and to identifying ways to better prepare IARC to carry out its important mission.

Dr BIRD (Canada) said that Canada recognized the important nature of IARC's work, acknowledged the financial challenges the Agency had been facing and commended its efforts to identify solutions to those challenges. She supported the establishment of the Working Group as part of broader efforts to strengthen IARC's financial sustainability. Recognizing that the focus of the Working Group would include proactive financing dialogues, she cautioned against a default increase in assessed contributions and instead urged IARC to leverage the Working Group as an opportunity for broader discussion on innovative ideas and approaches to strengthening IARC's overall approach to preparation and work planning. Canada believed that it would be critical to include the findings of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing when developing the Medium-Term Strategy and defining the strategic priorities that would underpin future budgets and work programme. While she encouraged the identification of best practices, including those at WHO, it should be stressed that IARC had different challenges and it must work to address the unique areas in which it required sustainable financing. Canada would be pleased to be represented on the Working Group.

Mr TARUTIN (Russian Federation) said that he did not object to the creation of a formal Working Group and expressed an interest in participating in it. He took it that the Secretariat would support the Working Group in the completion of its tasks, including providing the data that would allow the Group to establish a precise definition of "sustainable financing" and to come up with concrete and well-founded proposals.

Mr IZUTSU (Japan), participating remotely, said that he objected to the proposal to include a representative of WHO in the Working Group, since governance of IARC should remain fundamentally with the Participating States. Furthermore, coordination or consultation with WHO on its experience of sustainable financing should fall under the responsibility of the IARC Secretariat and not the Working Group. Consideration should be given to discussion of the Medium-Term Strategy in the Working Group on Financial Sustainability.

Ms MEHTA (Director of Administration and Finance, ad interim) said that the comments made by Participating States had been noted; the views expressed would help to make the processes of the Working Group more concrete. Concerning WHO's inclusion in the Working Group, she explained that WHO was, by default, a member of the Governing Council. She suggested that the Governing Council should pause its discussion of the Terms of Reference of the Working Group in order to allow time for further consideration and possible incorporation of the amendments proposed by the representative of the United States.

Mr DOLDER (Switzerland) thanked the Chairperson for his leadership in taking forward the subject of sustainable financing. Given the extensive work that WHO had already carried out on the topic, it would be crucial to align with that Organization and to build on its experience. With regard to the Terms of Reference, it might be ambitious to prepare all of the findings by 2025. He wished to know

whether the Case for Investment would be based on the current or the future MTS; he strongly advocated that the Case for Investment should be established in parallel with the development of the MTS 2026–2030.

The CHAIRPERSON said that one of the aspects of sustainable financing that would certainly be considered by members of the Working Group would be how representatives could communicate with their governments on the value of IARC's contribution and the return on investment generated by the Agency's cancer research. He proposed that the adoption of the draft resolution on the item should take place later that day after representatives had considered the amendments proposed by the United States.

It was so **agreed**.

6. STATEMENT BY THE IARC STAFF ASSOCIATION: Item 17 of the Agenda ([Document GC/66/11](#))

Ms COUTELIER (Chairperson, IARC Staff Association) presented the report of the IARC Staff Association contained in Document GC/66/11. A new Staff Association had been elected following the move to the new building in May 2023. In November 2023, two representatives of the IARC Staff Association had attended the WHO Global Staff Management Council (GSMC): topics of particular interest had included the implementation of the Business Management System (BMS) and the WHO Internal Justice System. A representative of the Staff Association had also attended the 77th Council of the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (FICSA), taking part in workshops on staff-management relations, social issues and the compensation package as well as trainings on legal issues, the UN Joint Common Pension Fund and the UN High-Level Committee on Management's Mental Health Strategy.

The IARC Staff Association (SAC) had called for a Cultural, Artistic and Sports Committee to be established at IARC. It had further organized a first joint meeting with the Sustainable Research Agency Committee and a member of the Staff Committee had joined the IARC staff cafeteria committee. The opening of the staff cafeteria had been long-awaited and was highly appreciated by staff.

The results of an anonymous workplace survey would be made available to personnel and would guide the SAC in determining its priorities for the biennium. The SAC communicated its activities to staff via regular newsletters and dedicated time during IARC's monthly townhall meetings. The SAC would meet shortly with the Director of the Agency, the Director of Administration and Finance and the Human Resources Officer; a meeting was held at least every month with the Human Resources Officer and the Staff Physician. Open and honest communication between the SAC and the Administration was instrumental to advancing and nurturing staff interests and well-being.

The Governing Council **noted** the report by the IARC Staff Association.

7. UPDATE ON COVID-19 CANCER INITIATIVE: Item 18 of the Agenda ([Document GC/66/12](#))

Dr SOERJOMATARAM (Cancer Surveillance Branch), introducing the item, recalled that the end of the COVID-19 pandemic had been declared as recently as 2023. Up to 2024, 705 million cases of COVID-19 had been diagnosed worldwide and there had been some seven million deaths. While the pandemic had ended, other crises continued, including natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, as well as human-made disasters. It was therefore proposed to adapt the COVID-19 initiative to build resilience in cancer control in the form of a global cancer surveillance platform to support national planning before, during and after crises. The aims and activities of the platform would be to collate evidence and strengthen data collection systems to better understand the linkages between policies and outcomes.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, 39 per cent fewer people had been screened for cancer, 23 per cent fewer people had been diagnosed and 28 per cent fewer people had been treated. During the COVID-19 pandemic and in other health crises, low-income countries were impacted the most. Even in high-income countries, there were regional disparities in the impact on detection and treatment of cancers. After conducting surveys and stakeholder interviews, the Cancer Surveillance Branch had identified key factors affecting delivery of cancer services in 2020, 2021 and 2022, including PPE shortages, staff shortages and burnout as well as the mitigation factors put in place. Data had been collected on specific cancers, including breast cancer and cervical cancer. IARC had funded the collection of data in ten sub-Saharan countries and had widened data collection through cancer registries in Asia and worldwide. A qualitative discussion would be held with stakeholders, including governments, on what could be learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and to develop tools to inform cancer control programmes. Workshops and training programmes on the tools and on data collection were planned in different countries.

Dr VIOLA (Brazil) commended the excellent work conducted by the IARC Cancer Surveillance Branch during the COVID-19 pandemic. Brazil had suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic and, as it entered the post-COVID-19 era, it would benefit from science and from the data collection and surveillance of cancer and other diseases that would help to improve its health system. Brazil congratulated IARC and supported the initiative.

Dr GOPAL (United States of America) said that, as noted by Dr Soerjomataram, the COVID-19 pandemic had caused unprecedented disruption, and he therefore supported the global cancer surveillance initiative and its updating and broader framing in health system resilience; the topic had also been discussed at the Scientific Council earlier that year. The United States encouraged IARC to continue integrating the COVID-19 initiative in its new form, and with existing work streams at WHO and with other partners and looked forward to reviewing the data that would be collected.

The CHAIRPERSON, speaking in his capacity as the representative of France, pledged his support in making available the data from the French National Cancer Institute.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “IARC’s COVID-19 and Cancer Initiative” (GC/66/R11):

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed [Document GC/66/12](#) “The IARC-IRCC: Initiative for Resilience in Cancer Control [*formerly the “IARC-C19: Covid-19 and Cancer Initiative”*] - ongoing activities and future steps”,

Recalling its Resolutions [GC/64/R5](#) and [GC/65/R4](#),

1. THANKS the Secretariat for the update on this initiative, noting the new name as now being “IARC-IRCC: Initiative for Resilience in Cancer Control”;
2. THANKS Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for their voluntary contributions to support funding for this initiative; and
3. REQUESTS regular updates to the Governing Council by the IARC Secretariat on progress throughout the term of the initiative.

The resolution was **adopted**.

8. WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE IARC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS – UPDATE ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION EFFORTS AND NOUVEAU CENTRE BUILDING: Item 19 of the Agenda ([Document GC/66/13](#))

Mr CHAUVET (Strategic Engagement and External Relations Officer), introducing the item, recalled that the Agency had employed a three-pronged fundraising strategy to mobilize in-kind and financial resources for the Nouveau Centre building, including from Ultra-High Net-Worth Individuals (UHNWI) and corporate donors. The first two parts of the fundraising campaign had been closed since the move to the new building had been made official, but the large donation campaign remained active. The Secretariat expressed deep gratitude to the Government of Germany for the contribution of €450 000 which would allow IARC to purchase laboratory equipment. Some equipment was still required for the laboratories and the Biobank, and it was hoped that further donations would be received from UHNWI or Participating States to cover the costs. Since the move to the Nouveau Centre had been completed, the Secretariat requested the closure of the Working Group on IARC infrastructure projects.

Dr BIRD (Canada) applauded the continued resource mobilization efforts. Recognizing that the Nouveau Centre building had been in use for over one year, she had no concerns regarding the proposal to discontinue the Working Group on IARC infrastructure projects. It had been a pleasure for Canada to serve on the Working Group and to contribute to moving the Nouveau Centre project towards its conclusion. She was concerned by the thousands of defects and malfunctions noted in the building but relieved to note that warranties had been extended. Recognizing that some defects and malfunctions were to be expected in a new build, she asked whether IARC's experience was considered to be within the norm. She further noted that the building operating system had not been finalized and she sought updates in that regard, including on any associated risks. She asked what would be needed for IARC to have a more reliable understanding of the operating costs for the new building.

Mr DAGHIR (United States of America) also supported the proposal to discontinue the Working Group on IARC Infrastructure projects. Noting that operating costs would be more accurately projected in 2025, he asked the Secretariat what the current estimate for operating costs for the Nouveau Centre was. He wished to know what further steps remained to finalize the building operating system. He looked forward to learning the results of resource mobilization efforts and to receiving improved operating cost projections in future updates.

Ms MEHTA (Director of Administration and Finance, ad interim), responding to the question from the representative of Canada, confirmed that the defects were within expected norms and no major problems had been identified. IARC would continue to work with the WHO Academy and other institutions on the possible sharing of contracts, including building maintenance, security services and utility contracts. Responding to the question from the representative of the United States, she confirmed that the building operating system was integrated in the building, and it was expected that it would be fully operational once certain features had been added. Once it was operational, the building operating system would enable the Agency to become more efficient through monitoring of costs relating to certain practices such as teleworking. 2023 had been a year of transition and therefore more accurate estimates on operating costs would be available towards the end of 2024.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Update on the Nouveau Centre building and resource mobilization” (GC/66/R12):

The Governing Council,

Having considered [Document GC/66/13](#) “Governing Council Working Group to examine IARC infrastructure projects – Update on resource mobilization efforts and Nouveau Centre building”,

Recalling its [Resolution GC/65/R5](#),

1. CONGRATULATES the Secretariat for a successful completion of the move to the new building and conclusion of the related fund-raising campaign;
2. NOTES that close follow-up with the Metropole de Lyon, as the owner of the building, is still required from the Secretariat as there remain a number of malfunctions under the responsibility of the Metropole de Lyon and falling under the extended warranty;
3. THANKS Germany for their voluntary contribution to support funding for new laboratory equipment;
4. ENCOURAGES Participating States to make voluntary contributions and provide support to the resource mobilization efforts towards new equipment for the Biobank;
1. Recalling its Resolution [GC/63/R11](#), whereby it authorized a loan of up to €1 million from the Governing Council Special Fund,
5. NOTES that the aforesaid loan was fully repaid into the Governing Council Special Fund at the end of 2023; and
6. REQUESTS the Director to keep the Governing Council apprised of future developments and resource mobilization efforts towards the Nouveau Centre on a regular basis as part of the standard Director’s Report and the reporting on donations, as applicable.

The resolution was **adopted**.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Governing Council Working Group to examine IARC infrastructure projects” (GC/66/R21):

The Governing Council,

Having considered [Document GC/66/13](#) “Governing Council Working Group to examine IARC infrastructure projects – Update on resource mobilization efforts and Nouveau Centre building”,

Recalling its Resolution GC/49/R11,

1. NOTES that the work of the Working Group to examine IARC infrastructure projects has been duly accomplished and that, with the move to the Nouveau Centre building, it is no longer required;
2. DECIDES to discontinue the Working Group to examine IARC infrastructure projects; and
3. THANKS the members of the Working Group, in particular Canada, France, Germany and Switzerland, for their work and longstanding support.

The resolution was **adopted**.

9. BIENNIAL REPORT ON PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES, 2022–2023: Item 20 of the Agenda ([Document GC/66/14](#))

Ms LEE (IARC Knowledge Manager), presenting the biennial report on IARC’s publication activities, said that for the years 2022–2023 there had been a significant uptake in annual subscriptions to the *WHO Classification of Tumours* online, which had been launched in 2019 and which currently had 19 000 subscribers. In 2022, the online platform had been enhanced with the addition of the first two volumes of the *IAC-IARC-WHO Cytopathology Reporting Systems* series. There had been a shift in dominance from print to online subscriptions. The accessibility of publications was seen as an increasing priority and there had been a growth in Open Access since the launch of the Open Access policy in 2014, with 26 per cent of articles being Open Access in 2014 rising to 67 per cent in 2023. Since 2015, €50 000 per annum had been earmarked for Open Access from the Governing Council Special Fund. Net revenue from the sale of IARC publications in 2022–2023 amounted to €4.459 million. In accordance with Resolution [GC/56/R12](#), 75 per cent of revenue was returned to the IARC publication programme. Nearly all of IARC’s print sales were accounted for by the *WHO Classification of Tumours*.

The CHAIRPERSON noted that the increase in free and Open Access to journals represented a cost for IARC.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “IARC biennial report on publication activities 2022–2023” (GC/66/R13):

The Governing Council,
Having reviewed [Document GC/66/14](#) “Biennial Report on Publication Activities, 2022–2023”,

1. NOTES the Report with great interest;
2. NOTES that the net revenue to the Governing Council Special Fund from the sale of IARC publications amounted to €2 172 648 in 2022 and €2 286 521 in 2023, of which 75% was allocated in the following years respectively to the publication programme; and
3. REQUESTS the Director to continue reporting biennially on publication activities at IARC.

The resolution was **adopted**.

10. ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS, INCLUDING REPORT ON INTEREST APPORTIONMENT: Item 21 of the Agenda ([Document GC/66/15](#))

Ms MEHTA (Director of Administration and Finance, ad interim) drew attention to [Document GC/66/15](#) which contained the report on grants and contracts, including interest apportionment.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Acceptance of Grants and Contracts” (GC/66/R14):

The Governing Council,
Having considered [Document GC/66/15](#) “Acceptance of grants and contracts”,
In accordance with the IARC Financial Regulations,

1. CONFIRMS the provisional approval given by the Governing Council Chair between sessions, in accordance with [Resolution GC/52/R13](#), paragraphs 2 and 3, for the following projects:
 - a. European Cervical Screening Quality Assurance Update [European Commission European Health And Digital Executive Agency: EU4H, in an amount of €1 080 000.00 for 36 months]
 - b. HPV Vaccine Effectiveness Coordination Center [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in an amount of €3 213 228.93 for 60 months];
 - c. Cancer in Children – Epidemiology, Registration, Omics [Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport of Netherlands, in an amount of €1 535 055.00 for 36 months]
2. NOTES the post facto reporting of grants and contracts accepted by the Director as detailed in [Document GC/66/15](#); and
3. COMMENDS the staff on its success in winning competitive research grants.

The resolution was **adopted**.

11. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS: Item 22 of the Agenda ([Document GC/66/16](#))

Ms MEHTA (Director of Administration and Finance, ad interim) drew attention to [Document GC/66/16](#) on acceptance of donations.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Acceptance of Donations” (GC/66/R15):

The Governing Council,

Having been informed by [Document GC/66/16](#) of the unconditional donations accepted during the year 2023 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/63/R10](#), the Director allocated €80 000 in 2023 from the Special Account for Undesignated Contributions for the Postdoctoral Fellowship programme.

The resolution was **adopted**

12. BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (OHSC), 2022– 2023: Item 23 of the Agenda ([Document GC/66/17](#))

Dr KORENJAK (Chair, Occupational Health and Safety Committee (OHSC)) said that the ten members of the OHSC included representatives for each floor of the IARC building, the Administrative Services and the Staff Association Committee, together with the Laboratory Safety Officer and the Staff Physician. Two main areas of focus of the OHSC were: personnel safety in the new premises (the implementation of a security and safety system adapted to the new building, installation of a communication system in the laboratories, and air quality testing); and a risk assessment document in which risk mitigation measures had been identified and based on which an action plan had been formulated.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Biennial report of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee (OHSC) 2022–2023” (GC/66/R16):

The Governing Council,

Having examined [Document GC/66/17](#) “Biennial Report of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee (OHSC) 2022–2023”,

1. EXPRESSES satisfaction with the arrangements which are in place to ensure the health and safety of the Agency’s personnel; and
2. REQUESTS the Director to continue reporting biennially on occupational health and safety issues at the Agency.

The resolution was **adopted**

13. IARC 60TH ANNIVERSARY: Item 24 of the Agenda ([Document GC/66/18](#))

Mr CHAUVET (Strategic Engagement and External Relations Officer) recalled that IARC had been created by decision of the World Health Assembly in 1965. IARC had celebrated its 50th anniversary by organizing a scientific conference which had been very well received within the cancer research community. IARC was well-known and its reputation was respected throughout the research community. To celebrate its 60th anniversary, IARC proposed to embark on a year-long campaign with a view to elevating its visibility to a wider audience, enhancing its reputation, attracting new stakeholders and showcasing its impact. It would be necessary to clarify the messaging, identify stakeholders and create a content repository to show IARC's work and impact. The campaign would be launched in May 2025 with IARC's close partners including WHO and UICC. The year would culminate in a large, multi-day scientific conference to be held in May 2026. The year-long campaign would include social media activity and engagement with donors, policy makers and Participating States. Post-conference follow-up would include a review of lessons learned for the future.

Mr DOLDER (Switzerland) asked whether IARC had previous experience of organizing large conferences and whether there would be any rationale for organizing such a conference beyond the celebration of the Agency's 60th anniversary.

Mr CHAUVET (Strategic Engagement and External Relations Officer) confirmed that IARC had organized a three-day conference in 2016 in Lyon; the conference had been attended by just over 1000 participants with high-level speakers and the feedback received had been positive concerning both the content of the presentations by guest speakers and the related discussions. The proposed conference in 2026 would provide an opportunity for IARC to define and showcase its activities. Currently, the Agency lacked external branding, with its *Monographs* well-known within the scientific community, but not in the wider world. By increasing its visibility, it was hoped that the Agency would be able to attract more stakeholders and more resources.

Dr BIRD (Canada) said that Canada supported IARC's communication and dissemination strategy and the proposed campaign for the 60th anniversary celebrations. She looked forward to the scientific conference and would support the relevant communications in Canadian networks.

Professor HASSANY (Egypt) suggested that Participating States could also promote the proposed 60th anniversary celebrations and the conference on their websites and in their social media pages. He envisaged that Egypt could advocate in the Middle East and North African region as well as more widely in Africa for the event and for the programmes offered by IARC.

Mr DAGHIR (United States of America) said that the 60th anniversary of IARC would be a critical moment to celebrate the Agency as a global leader in combating cancer and propelling scientific research globally. He was pleased that IARC was planning to use the 60th anniversary to increase the Agency's visibility and showcase its critical impact. It would be an opportunity to make IARC stronger and to attract new partners, collaborations and diversified funding opportunities, which would be key to IARC's continued success.

Dr AL-HOMOUD (Saudi Arabia) supported the remarks by the representative of Egypt regarding the opportunity to disseminate information concerning IARC's activities in the Middle East and North African region. Participating States could ensure that IARC's achievements and impact were communicated at regional conferences and meetings and to nongovernmental organizations.

Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that the 60th anniversary of the Agency would provide an opportunity to engage more widely with the public and to raise awareness of the public health measures, prevention and risk factors on which IARC had led. In general, IARC received a negative press because it was seen as infringing on people's enjoyment of

certain foods and alcohol. It would be an appropriate moment to create a more positive message about IARC's work.

Professor BJØRGE (Norway) said that IARC's work could be promoted through national patient's organizations for cancer which were active in engaging the public.

Dr BELAKHEL (Morocco) expressed support for the proposed communication campaign. She had participated in the 50th anniversary celebrations, which had included a celebration with the French authorities at the Hôtel de Ville in Lyon and which had been highly successful. The present communication campaign on IARC's 60th anniversary could be disseminated through the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Morocco. She asked whether the communication campaign would have a separate budget.

Mr CHAUVET (Strategic Engagement and External Relations Officer) said that the Secretariat would create a communication and media campaign that could be disseminated jointly with all Participating States. The Scientific Council had strongly endorsed the proposed campaign and the scientific conference. The campaign required a budget, some of which had been supplied by a high-level donor. Participating States would be requested to align and engage with the campaign.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "IARC 60th ANNIVERSARY" (GC/66/R17):

The Governing Council,

Having considered [Document GC/66/18](#) "Maximizing the impact of IARC: Dissemination and communication strategy – Celebrating 60 years of IARC Research",

1. NOTES with great interest the proposal outlined by the Secretariat for celebrating the 60th anniversary of IARC;
2. THANKS the members of the Scientific Council for their comments, as summarized in their Report of the 60th Session of the Scientific Council ([Document GC/66/5](#)); and
3. ENDORSES the one-year campaign culminating in the Scientific Conference to celebrate the 60th anniversary.

The resolution was **adopted**

The meeting rose at 13:00.