



**Scientific Council
Sixty-first Session**

SC/61/6
12 February 2025

Lyon, 12–14 February 2025
By Web conference

UPDATE – IARC @60 ANNIVERSARY

A year-long anniversary campaign celebrating 60 years of scientific excellence, designed to broaden IARC’s reach and engage a wider audience

1. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) was established on 20 May 1965 by a resolution of the World Health Assembly (WHA) as the specialized cancer research agency of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Its objective is to promote international collaboration in cancer research, coordinating research across countries and organizations with a particular interest in conducting research in low- and middle-income



countries through partnerships and collaborations with researchers in these regions.

2. With the appointment of its current Director, Dr Elisabete Weiderpass, in May 2019, the implementation of its Medium-Term Strategy 2021–2025 and the opening of its new headquarters in Lyon (France), IARC has embraced an *Open Science* approach. This initiative aims to foster transparency and collaboration within the scientific community while engaging the general public. This concept of Open Science will be at the heart of this year-long celebration of IARC 60th anniversary, starting in May 2025.

An opportunity to highlight the importance of cancer research on prevention and strengthen collective prevention efforts

3. To embrace this ambitious project, IARC will organize local and international events and scientific initiatives, through a partnership approach and propose that key stakeholders, such as the organizations represented by the Governing Council members, be involved.

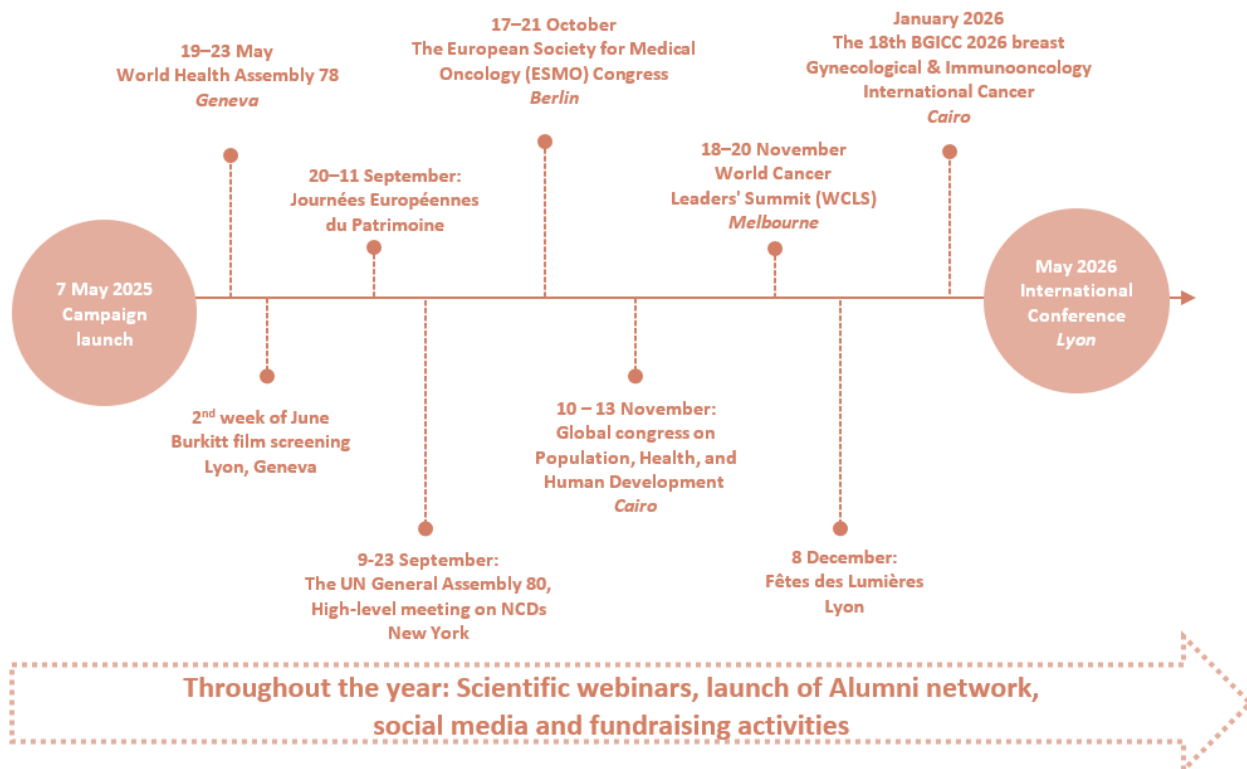
4. In addition, a visibility campaign will be launched and will also run from 2025 to 2026, to raise awareness of IARC’s core mission, i.e. *Cancer research that matters*; and to increase IARC’s recognition among a diverse audience, including those outside the scientific community, a challenging objective for a research agency.

5. The 60th anniversary will start in May 2025 with the launch of a one-year campaign during the IARC Governing Council (GC/67) meeting. It will culminate in May 2026 with a large-scale scientific conference hosted in Lyon."

6. The anniversary year will provide an opportunity to celebrate IARC's major achievements since its inception while strategically positioning the agency for future success. It will particularly focus on enhancing IARC's visibility and raising awareness of its core mission.

7. We aim for the combination of the one-year campaign and the scientific conference to highlight IARC's unique role within the scientific research ecosystem. Additionally, we hope it will attract new stakeholders and strategic partners, fostering future collaborations."

Key highlights of the anniversary year / May 2025–May 2026



Join us to celebrate our anniversary and contribute to enhancing cancer research

The Scientific Council is requested to provide feedback and suggestions and to support the Director to engage in the one-year campaign and the scientific conference highlighting 60 years of IARC research.