



**INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER
CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHE SUR LE CANCER**

**Governing Council
Fifty-first Session**

**GC/51/14
18/03/2009**

*Lyon, 14–15 May 2009
Auditorium*

**PROCESS TO DEFINE AND ENDORSE
IARC MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY
AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR 2010–2014**

BACKGROUND

1. At its 45th Session, in May 2004, the Governing Council decided to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Governing Council in Lyon on 4-5 November 2004, to which the Scientific Council members were invited, to review and endorse a medium-term strategic vision for the Agency (see Resolution GC/45/R2). Following this extraordinary meeting, a small Working Group was set up including members of the Governing Council, the Scientific Council and a representative of WHO, to assist in the development of the strategy document (including goals, evaluation indicators, cost implications, etc.) (see Resolution GC/46/R1). The current Medium-Term Strategy 2005–2009 was developed by this Working Group and was discussed and approved by the Governing Council in 2005 (see Documents GC/47/4, GC/47/Inf. Doc. No.1 Rev.1 and Resolution GC/47/R1).

2. The Medium-Term Strategy 2005–2009 (Document GC/47/Inf. Doc. No.1 Rev.1) detailed the overarching criteria and principles upon which decisions were based and how research would be carried out over the five-year period covered by the document. The Agency's Strategic Implementation Plan (Document GC/47/Inf. Doc. No.2 Rev.1) was developed in parallel and outlined the principal approaches to the IARC strategic objectives described in the Medium-Term Strategy 2005–2009.

3. A new Medium-Term Strategy (2010–2014) has to be established by the end of 2009 so that it can be implemented in 2010. The Scientific Council at its 45th session in January 2009 endorsed a proposal (see below) by the Secretariat on how to proceed in best developing a Medium-Term Strategy that recognizes the timing of the arrival of the new Director and permits him to develop a strategy to reflect his priorities for the Agency.

PROPOSAL

4. It is proposed to create a joint Working Group in 2009, comprised of five members of the Governing Council, three members of the Scientific Council, a representative of WHO and the Secretariat (the Director and two senior scientists from IARC), to consider and finalize a draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2010–2014.

5. The Director would prepare his proposed Medium-Term Strategy for 2010–2014 for consideration and finalization by the above-mentioned Working Group. The document resulting from the meeting of the Working Group would then be discussed in detail at a full meeting of the Scientific Council at its 46th session on 27–29 January 2010. Given the support and recommendation by the Scientific Council, the Governing Council would then formally discuss and approve the new strategy at its 52nd session in May 2010.

JUSTIFICATION

6. The above proposal entails the Medium-Term Strategy being formally adopted by the Governing Council after its official start date. The IARC Medium-Term Strategy, 2005–2009 itself was formally adopted by the Governing Council in May 2005 (i.e. after its official start date). Also, WHO's Eleventh General Programme of Work (2006–2015) (which serves a similar purpose as IARC's Medium-Term Strategy) was not approved by the World Health Assembly until May 2006. In practice, this did not create a problem. The general approach of the previous respective strategies simply continued to be followed until the new ones were agreed upon.

7. For a new strategy to be adopted for January 2010 there would be a need for an extraordinary meeting of the Governing Council, with attendance of some or all of the Scientific Council, in late 2009. However, given the recent arrival of the new Director and the associated re-organization of the Agency in a year of transition, the development of a strategy for approval within this framework is not optimal. An extraordinary session of the Governing Council with all or some of the Scientific Council members would have significant resource implications. In addition, there is a need for such an important document to be discussed in detail with both the Scientific and the Governing Councils.

8. To provide the best conditions for developing the strategy, the Secretariat therefore proposes to establish a joint Working Group, as described above. The Governing Council, by way of some of its members being included in the process, as well as via the Scientific Council involvement, will be able to decide on a new Medium-Term Strategy which takes into consideration the best scientific advice. The Medium-Term Strategy 2010–2014 would be submitted for consideration by the Governing Council at its 52nd session in May 2010.

9. The Governing Council is requested to:
 1. endorse the proposal;
 2. ask the Director to proceed as suggested; and
 3. nominate five Governing Council members to participate in the Joint Working Group for the development of the Medium-Term Strategy, 2010–2014.