

# International Agency for Research on Cancer



Governing Council  
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## MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING

IARC, Lyon

Friday, 14 May 2010, at 08:40

Chairperson: Professor Lars E. Hanssen (Norway)

Secretary: Dr Christopher P. Wild, Director, IARC

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Ms Simone MESNER	Austria
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Professor Pekka PUSKA	Finland
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Dr Harry COMBER, Outgoing Chairperson, Scientific Council  
Dr Edgar RIVEDAL, Incoming Chairperson, Scientific Council

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**1. REPORT ON PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES: Item 15 of the Agenda**  
(Document GC/52/12)

Dr GAUDIN (Head, IARC Communications) explained that the purpose of reorganizing the publications programme had been two-fold. Firstly, staff and resources had been strengthened within the framework of an explicit communications strategy in order to develop new and ongoing series of publications. In that context, it was planned to re-establish an advisory committee on publications in 2010. Secondly, the distribution agreement with WHO Press had been renegotiated with a view to adding more revenue and providing incentives for more aggressive marketing of publications.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution on the report on publication activities (Resolution GC/52/R9):

The Governing Council,  
Recalling its Resolution GC/51/R10, in which it requested the Director to report on an annual basis on publication activities,  
Having reviewed Document GC/52/12 "Report on publication activities",

1. NOTES the Report with great interest; and
2. REQUESTS the Director to continue reporting annually on publication activities at IARC.

The draft resolution was **adopted**.

**2. REQUESTS FOR FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SPECIAL FUND:**  
**Item 16 of the Agenda**

**A. Publications** (Document GC/52/13A)

Dr GAUDIN (Head, IARC Communications), illustrating his remarks with slides and referring to the figures shown on page 3 of document GC/52/13A, said that there had been a steady increase in the sale of publications through WHO Press in recent years. The majority of publications revenue was derived from the sale of Blue Books and the 40% increase in 2009 had been due in large part to the success of the Lymphoma Blue Book. The publications programme was funded through the sales made by WHO Press. Resolution GC/52/R10 requested authorization to draw supplementary funding from the proceeds of sales, as had been agreed in the previous year, primarily so that the publications programme could produce more Blue Books at a faster pace.

The agreement with WHO Press had been renegotiated to yield a higher share of revenue for IARC; there was also an incentive to proactively market publications and hence increase sales through an incremental scheme. If the new agreement had been applied in 2009, income to the Governing Council Special Fund would have increased by 12% or some €244 700.

The CHAIRPERSON, responding to a request by Mr KULIKOWSKI (United States of America), confirmed that copies of the slide showing updated information on the "income from sales of IARC publications and planned expenditure for 2010–2011" would be distributed in the meeting room.

Dr KEINHORST (Germany), referring to sub-items 16.A and 16.B, said that in general she supported IARC in fulfilling its mandate in the field of cancer research. Nevertheless, governments faced financial constraints and therefore it was all the more important that they should receive detailed and transparent financial information in advance of meetings in order to enable them to take the necessary decisions. It was also essential that a complete financial picture should be provided, setting out the total expected revenue and the total of the expenditure requested: it was unclear whether the Governing Council Special Fund would be able to support the expenditure for the air-conditioning system, the publications programme and the scientific equipment within the same year. She wished to learn whether there would be sufficient funds for the Agency's activities in the following year and what impact the proposed expenditure would have. Furthermore, no information had been provided on the type of contracts that would be offered to the additional staff to be hired and on the financing involved.

The SECRETARY said he accepted that there was a need to provide more detailed information regarding the costs related to specific requests in advance of meetings and to present a more integrated picture on the requests to use a particular fund. As with all initial contracts, it was proposed to offer the additional staff two-year, fixed-term posts. The posts would be financed from the Governing Council Special Fund.

Mr KNOCHE (Administration and Finance Officer) explained that document GC/52/Inf.Doc. No.2 showed the status of the Governing Council Special Fund as at 26 April 2010. An additional paper currently before the Council showed the projected balance of the Fund as at 31 December 2011, the end of the financial period. Including a conservative estimate of the income to be derived from publications, total income was expected to be €2 861 980. Taking into account the proposal concerning the air-conditioning, which had already been approved, and the proposed expenditure in respect of the publications programme and scientific equipment, there would still be an uncommitted balance of €2 752 311 at the end of 2011. The balance could be slightly higher if any interest on investments were included.

Professor BISHOP (Australia) said that the additional information had been helpful. The Governing Council could decide to approve the expenditure from a governance perspective on the understanding that the Agency's management would oversee the critical matter of timing. Turning to the question of on-line publications, he wondered whether there was any indication that they would impact, either positively or negatively, on the projected sale of Blue Books.

Mr KNOCHE (Administration and Finance Officer) said that most of the third edition of the Blue Books was available on IARC's website. Experience had shown that, once the shelf life of one of the books had reached its peak and sales had begun to decline, publishing it on the Internet had no impact on sales.

Mr KULIKOWSKI (United States of America), referring to the remarks of the representative of Germany, said that he, too, had found the information difficult to interpret given the lack of financial detail originally provided. He asked whether publication sales were projected over a two-year period.

Mr KNOCHE (Administration and Finance Officer) said that requests for funding of the publications programme through the Special Fund were made on an annual basis but that, for budgeting purposes, it would be helpful if funds were approved every two years so that there was assurance that the whole programme would be funded.

Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Vice-Chairperson, said that the Governing Council should not seek to micromanage the way in which the Agency allocated its funds and used its resources. The request to use funds for publication was consistent with the Agency's Medium-term strategy and, while the additional clarifications provided had been very helpful in ensuring that the Governing Council did not make inappropriate decisions, the Council's responsibility in the present case was to determine the principle of whether funds should be used for publications. He supported that principle.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution on the requests for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund; A. Publications (Resolution GC/52/R10):

The Governing Council,  
Having reviewed the proposals contained in Document GC/52/13A "Request for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund: A. IARC Publications Programme",  
Recalling its Resolutions GC/50/R5 and GC/51/R10,

1. NOTES the renegotiated agreement with WHO Press, including the improved terms for the Agency;
2. AUTHORIZES the Director to draw supplementary funding for the Publications programme by returning up to 75% of the proceeds from the sale of publications from the Governing Council Special Fund to the Publications programme, subject to there being sufficient cash balances available in the Fund;
3. NOTES that as the proceeds from the sale of publications for 2008–2009 was 1 767 416 Swiss francs, this approval is for the use of 884 192 euros (the equivalent of 1 325 562 Swiss francs) from the Governing Council Special Fund;
4. FURTHER AUTHORIZES that this sum of 884 192 euros be used during the biennium 2010–2011 and that any unused balance in 2010 be carried forward to 2011; and
5. REQUESTS the Director to submit such requests to the Governing Council, if the need arises, on a biennial basis.

Mr KNOCHE (Administration and Finance Officer), in response to a question from Mr KULIKOWSKI (United States of America), confirmed that the decision to authorize supplementary funding for the publications programme by returning up to 75% of the proceeds from the sales of publications from the Governing Council Special Fund had been taken in the previous year.

The draft resolution was **adopted**.

**B. Scientific equipment** (Document GC/52/13B)

The SECRETARY, illustrating his remarks with slides, said that the information sheet provided by the Administration and Finance Officer concerning the projected income of the Governing Council Special Fund would also be relevant to the present discussion.

High quality laboratory facilities were a key element in fulfilling the Medium-term strategy priority to develop interdisciplinary research including exploring links to epidemiology, as well as in attracting top scientists. The purchase of the equipment requested in document GC/52/13B would represent a significant step change in technology for the Agency. On his arrival in 2009 he had found that major equipment was either lacking or needed replacing across the Agency; a Laboratory Equipment Working Group, with a broad representation that included senior laboratory staff, had identified the urgent need for some equipment which had been financed from the 2009 regular budget. Maintenance contracts for equipment had been set up from the regular budget for the first time in many years.

The three major pieces of equipment requested under the present sub-item were: a gas chromatograph; an HPLC mass spectrometry system and a next-generation DNA sequencer. The relevance of the equipment was illustrated in two articles in the January 2010 edition of *Nature* magazine, which described the sequencing of every base in a lung tumour and a melanoma tumour showing, in comparison with the normal DNA of the same individual, every single genetic alteration present in the tumours. The information highlighted the etiology of the cancer in a striking manner.

The Scientific Council had endorsed the purchase of the equipment, although it had advised that the full running costs associated with the next-generation DNA sequencing equipment in particular should be established. The Agency had also been invited to join a next-generation sequencing platform being set up in Lyon and therefore a decision on whether to purchase the equipment in-house or participate in the shared facility would need to be taken.

Concerning the HPLC mass spectrometry system, ideally, two pieces of equipment would be needed to fulfil the Medium-term strategy, one of which would carry out quantitative analysis of small molecules while the other would perform metabolomics analysis. The choice between the two would be made after the recruitment of the new Head of the Biomarkers Group. The staff needed to operate the equipment, including laboratory technicians, were already available in-house and supported on the regular budget. The projects using the equipment would be funded predominantly from extra-budgetary sources: the running costs associated with research projects were usually associated with specific grants. The service contract for the equipment

would be included in the purchase price for the first one or two years, and funded from research grants thereafter.

Laboratory technicians in the Genetic Services Platform could be trained to use the next-generation DNA sequencing equipment and scientists within those services could take a supervisory role for the analyses. Further investment would be needed in connection with downstream analysis of the data although the bioinformatics requirements could probably be best met by participating in the shared facility in Lyon, which benefited from a bioinformatics group funded by the National Cancer Institute of France (INCa). In the present biennium, bioinformatics could be initiated with the funding of an additional post in the Agency from the Director's Development Provision (DDP). If the Agency were to purchase the next-generation machine, there could be a need for an air-conditioning unit, depending on the size of the room in which it was installed. An enhancement of the information technology provision at the Agency would also be required in order to transfer data to the shared facility. The equipment was extremely expensive to service, but contracts could be negotiated. The Governing Council was requested to approve the use of €1 185 000 to purchase the equipment as outlined and to allow the Director the flexibility of exploring the option of the shared facility or purchasing the next-generation DNA sequencing equipment. Before committing to either option, a fully costed proposal would be submitted to a sub-group of the Scientific Council and to the Chair of the Governing Council for final approval.

Dr RIVEDAL, Chairperson of the Scientific Council, said that the Director's presentation had been very good. There were costs involved in analysing the data, but experience in other laboratories had shown that the technology for handling data was improving. The Scientific Council would be happy to assist in any way appropriate with the installing of the equipment.

Ms FLAMANT (France) said that she supported the Agency's wish to obtain the most up-to-date equipment possible and to adhere to the highest quality standards; in particular since they were a requirement of the Medium-term strategy, which the Council had just approved. She was not sure what stage the negotiations concerning the shared facility in Lyon had reached and whether the equipment would be purchased only in the event that IARC did not conclude an agreement with the Centre Léon Bérard.

The SECRETARY said that there were two areas of discussion currently under way with the Centre Léon Bérard. The first area concerned the sharing of a next-generation sequencing machine, which could possibly be purchased by the Centre Léon Bérard by the end of the year (the alternative being that the Agency would purchase a machine by itself); the second area concerned a bioinformatics unit to handle the data coming out of the machine, where it was envisaged that there would be collaboration.

Dr BRENNAN (Head, Section of Genetics) said that INCa had invested a substantial amount of money in the Centre Léon Bérard in order to develop a core bioinformatics facility that would

analyse data and benefit from the genome studies under way in Paris and elsewhere. The whole genome sequencing project on kidney cancers would be the main focus of collaboration, and a substantial amount of the sequencing for that project had been done in Paris and Moscow; it might be possible to transfer some of the funds within the European Commission grant for the sequencing to be carried out in Lyon.

Dr PARK (Canada) said that she supported the recommendation of the Scientific Council concerning the purchase of the equipment although she would be interested to learn whether a comparison had been carried out on the long-term costs involved in buying the next-generation sequencing machine and running it in Lyon and the costs of using one of the high-throughput environments including those in Singapore and the United States where prices were coming down.

The SECRETARY said that he awaited the comparison between the costs of installing the next-generation sequencing machine at the Agency and the costs of using a shared facility in Lyon or Paris. In his view, the tumours studied by IARC, which came from different parts of the world, might not be accorded the same priority by other centres and therefore the Agency would have to enter a shared facility as a full partner and with priority for access. However, he would consider the suggestion concerning high-throughput facilities.

Professor BISHOP (Australia) said that he supported the proposal to use the money to purchase equipment. He also supported the proposal to adopt a flexible approach that would allow management to make the right decision based on the evidence that was being accumulated. He agreed with the views of the representative of the United Kingdom that it was difficult for the Council, which met only once a year, to become involved in specific management decisions: its purpose was to provide guidance and a broad direction. The case to purchase the HPLC mass spectrometry system had been well made. Although it was a management decision, he generally preferred to purchase equipment because it placed the purchasing laboratory in a leading position for collaboration; furthermore, equipment that had once been deemed expensive quickly became accepted as essential. Australia had made a significant financial contribution to the International Cancer Genome Consortium and he would be in favour of collaboration with that institution.

The SECRETARY said that he agreed with the analysis of the representative of Australia that it was preferable to be in the lead position in order to drive scientific collaborations. Another benefit of having a machine on-site, which was difficult to quantify, was that it provided staff with opportunities and ideas for research; the next-generation sequencing machine not only sequenced, but also provided the possibility to look at protein-gene interactions and methylation in relation to environmental exposures.

Dr BRENNAN (Head, Section of Genetics) said that the International Cancer Genome Consortium had estimated that evaluation of any tumour would cost in the region of €10–12 million. The European Commission had decided to initiate the study of one tumour and the Agency, together with partners in Paris and Moscow, had successfully bid for an application for kidney cancer. Perhaps in the future, the Agency would be interested in pushing for other cancer types in other parts of the world to be included in the International Cancer Genome Consortium.

Dr KEINHORST (Germany) said that the additional information had been appreciated although in future it would be helpful if it could be provided in the meeting documents. She asked whether the figures given represented only the acquisition costs and whether the running costs would be taken from the Governing Council Special Fund. It seemed that the additional staff costs were also to be taken from the Governing Council Special Fund for the following two years, but she wished to learn what would happen to the continuing staff costs beyond that period.

The SECRETARY said that the figure requested, which fluctuated constantly and currently stood at approximately €525 000, covered the purchase of the equipment only. Some of the staff required, laboratory technicians, for example, were already financed from the regular budget. Other posts would be funded from the Governing Council Special Fund if the Agency participated in a shared facility, or from unbudgeted assessments or the Director's Development Provision if an in-house sequencer was purchased. The figure for IT provision would be lower than the one he had given, since part of the provision required was included in the purchase price of the equipment. He was confident that the necessary support costs could be covered from the available funds.

Professor PUSKA (Finland), referring back to the publications programme, expressed his satisfaction at the increase in sales of IARC publications, which would contribute to the desired improvements in communications generally. Communications would be particularly important in the run-up to the proposed United Nations General Assembly special session on noncommunicable diseases.

He supported the proposed investment in scientific equipment; indeed, the sum involved seemed relatively low, although it was nevertheless important for the Governing Council to monitor expenditure in that area. How much was allocated for the purchase of laboratory equipment from the regular budget?

The SECRETARY said that some items of laboratory equipment, such as the benches and flooring, had not been replaced for many years, and an allocation for refurbishment would be included in the capital master plan. Most investments in equipment were funded from the Governing Council Special Fund, as they typically involved relatively large, one-off amounts which it was difficult to fund from extrabudgetary income. Surpluses which had accumulated in the Director's budget the previous year had been spent on equipment requested by senior Agency scientists.

Mr KULIKOWSKI (United States of America) said that the Director would, no doubt, consult senior scientists before making the decision to purchase an in-house sequencer or participate in a shared facility. The sum requested for the purchase of the equipment, plus that requested for the publications programme under the previous item, would amount to approximately €2.7 million: was that level of expenditure consistent with the way the Fund had been used in the past?

The SECRETARY said that the decision whether to purchase a sequencer or participate in a shared facility had been widely discussed among the staff. The prospect of gaining access to the new equipment had generated great enthusiasm and many ideas for new research. The total sum requested included an allocation for air conditioning, which might not actually be required.

Mr KNOCHE (Administration and Finance Officer) said that the Governing Council Special Fund was intended for the financing of specific projects. The level of the Fund fluctuated considerably as resources were accumulated and disbursement requests were made; the requests currently under consideration would not deplete it excessively.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution on the request for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund; B. Scientific equipment (Resolution GC/52/R11):

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed the proposals contained in Document GC/52/13B "Request for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund: B. Scientific Equipment",

Noting the importance of interdisciplinary research at the Agency, requiring a strong contribution from laboratory sciences to the Medium-Term Strategy (2010–2014),

1. AGREES with the proposal to use up to 1 185 000 euros from the Governing Council Special Fund to equip the Agency in the areas of chromatography and next-generation DNA sequencing, including adequate bioinformatics support;
2. NOTES that with respect to the next-generation DNA sequencing the investment of 525 000 euros either in a facility at the Agency or through a shared facility in Lyon will depend on further discussions with the local scientific community and better definition of the plans for the development of the local platform;
3. REQUESTS the Director, prior to any investment being made, to submit in writing the selected option for the next-generation DNA sequencing for evaluation by two members of the Scientific Council (Chair, plus one other member), with an associated detailed budget, and to the Chair of the Governing Council for approval; and
4. Further REQUESTS the Director to report on this at the next session of the Governing Council.

Dr KEINHORST (Germany) proposed the insertion of a new paragraph 4, reading: "The purchase of scientific equipment does not lead to an increase in the regular budget for the next biennium 2012–2013". The long-term implications of acquiring, or purchasing access to, the new equipment – particularly staff costs – must be taken into consideration. Her country could not accept any increase in the regular budget arising from the acquisition of the new equipment.

The SECRETARY said that, while he understood the concerns of the representative of Germany, it would be difficult for him to prove that a particular item of equipment had not incurred any additional costs. Current staff members would be reallocated to work on the new equipment; no new posts would be created. In any case, he intended to allocate more staff to bioinformatics in future.

The CHAIRPERSON said that the Governing Council should refrain from micromanaging matters which were properly the responsibility of the Director. He, too, could not see how the Director could prove that the equipment had not incurred additional costs. If the next regular budget was not sufficient to fund all the desired activities, the Director would have to decide which ones were most important and set priorities as he saw fit.

The RAPPORTEUR suggested that the resolution should make it clear that Participating States' regular budget contributions would not increase; there would be no problem if any additional funds required could be provided from some other source.

Dr PARK (Canada) suggested the addition at the end of paragraph 2 of the phrase "subject to availability of resources in the Governing Council Special Fund". The new paragraph suggested by the representative of Germany would then not be required.

Professor PUSKA (Finland) said that the resolution should make it clear that the new equipment should not be cited as a justification for any increase in the regular budget in the next biennium.

Dr KEINHORST (Germany) said that she had been instructed by her Government to oppose the draft resolution. It did not dispute the usefulness of the equipment in question: however, the information provided before the session had not been sufficient to justify the proposed expenditure. If she had had at her disposal the information which had been provided at the current meeting, she might have succeeded in securing support from her Ministry of Finance. She called upon the Secretariat to ensure that future proposals were accompanied by more detailed documentation.

Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Vice-Chairperson, said that the Governing Council appeared to agree on the principle that the new equipment should be financed from the Special Fund. He suggested that a new paragraph should be added at the end of the draft resolution, replacing that proposed by the representative of Germany and requesting that more detailed information about the income and expenditure of the Special Fund should be circulated before each session of the Governing Council.

Professor BISHOP (Australia) suggested wording along the following lines: "Agrees that the purchase of scientific equipment will not lead to an increase in the overall agreed budget".

Dr LAFIF (Director of Administration and Finance) said that it was advisable for the Governing Council to leave any decision to increase or freeze its budget until the budget negotiations for the next biennium, when its priorities would be clearer.

Following a further amendment to paragraph 1 proposed by Dr PARK (Canada), the RAPPORTEUR read out the following proposed amendments to the draft resolution. Paragraph 1 would now read: "...including adequate bioinformatics support and based on the availability of resources in the Governing Council Special Fund". Paragraph 2 would read: "... development of the local platform and will be based on the availability of resources in the Governing Council Special Fund". A new paragraph 4 would be inserted, reading: "Agrees that the purchase will not lead to an increase in the overall agreed present biennium regular budget".

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

Dr KEINHORST (Germany) formally requested that the Director should, in future, improve the financial transparency of the documents submitted to the Governing Council.

The SECRETARY said that he fully accepted the need to provide more detailed financial information. He would consult the representative of Germany informally after the current session in order to determine the best way to provide the information members required.

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS: Item 17 of the Agenda**  
(Document GC/52/14)

Dr LAFIF (Director of Administration and Finance), illustrating his remarks with slides, invited the Governing Council to consider document GC/52/14 on the acceptance of grants and contracts. Section 1 of the document listed the grants to a value of more than US\$ 100 000 per annum, including sums passed to third parties, which had been obtained by the Agency in 2009, of which the Governing Council was invited to take note. He corrected two figures in Section 1.3: the figure for "Funds for partners" should be US\$ 16 412 760, and the total US\$ 17 176 950. Section 2 listed, for prior approval by the Governing Council, projects to a value exceeding US\$ 500 000 per annum, excluding sums passed to third parties. Section 3 described the proposed five-year extension to the project for preparation of IARC Monographs on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans, submitted to the National Cancer Institute, USA. The value of the project exceeded US\$ 850 000 per annum, excluding sums passed to third parties. The Governing Council was invited to confirm its Chairperson's provisional approval of the extension, as provided for in Resolution GC/19/R8.

Section 4 described proposed changes in the thresholds for the value of grants and contracts requiring the approval of the Governing Council. The current thresholds had not been changed since 1996 (see Resolution GC/37/R5), although the regular budget had increased by 54% in the same period. The currency in which the Agency operated was now the euro rather than the US dollar. The proposed amendment would change the current thresholds of US\$ 500 000 (requiring prior approval by the Governing Council) and US\$ 100 000 (requiring post facto approval) to the same figures in euros, amounting to an increase of approximately 27% at current exchange rates. It was further proposed that the current practice, by which the Chairperson of the Governing Council approved urgent projects during his regular teleconferences with the Director, should be formally acknowledged as the standard practice.

The SECRETARY, replying to a question from Dr PARK (Canada), confirmed that the new arrangements would apply to both grants and contracts.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution on acceptance of grants and contracts (Resolution GC/52/R12):

The Governing Council,

Having considered Document GC/52/14 "Acceptance of grants and contracts",

In accordance with IARC Financial Regulations,

1. AUTHORIZES the Director to seek funding for the following:

(a) Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) cooperation action on policy and epidemiological support II [European Commission in an amount of 1 268 948 euros for 12 months];

(b) One-carbon metabolism biomarkers and lung cancer risk [National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI), USA in an amount of 2 866 151 euros for 48 months];

(c) Pooled genome-wide analysis of kidney cancer risk [National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI), USA in an amount of 1 631 222 euros for 48 months];

(d) B-vitamins, one-carbon biomarkers, vitamin D and cancer risk [European Commission in an amount of 1 957 872 euros for 60 months];

2. CONFIRMS the provisional approval, given by the Governing Council Chairperson during one of the regular teleconferences between the Director and the Scientific and Governing Council Chairs and Vice-Chairs, for the following:

Extension of the grant to support the IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans [National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI), USA in an amount of 3 514 231 euros for 60 months];

3. NOTES the post facto reporting of grants and contracts accepted by the Director as detailed in Document GC/52/14; and

4. COMMENDS the staff on its success in winning competitive research grants.

The draft resolution was **adopted**.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution on acceptance of grants and contracts (thresholds) (Resolution GC/52/R13):

The Governing Council,

Having considered Document GC/52/14 "Acceptance of grants and contracts" and the request from the Secretariat to revise the established thresholds for acceptance of grants and contracts, Noting the authorization given to the Director under Resolutions GC/4/R4, GC/12/R13, GC/18/R9, and GC/37/R5,

Reaffirming that donations, grants or contracts for specific projects should be accepted only if:

(1) the project falls within the terms of reference of the Agency's work as approved by the Governing Council;

(2) there is no financial commitment remaining with the Agency after the termination of the grant or contract;

1. AUTHORIZES the Director to accept grants or contracts from outside sources for projects, subject to the conditions detailed in (1) and (2) above, when the amount does not exceed €500 000 per annum (excluding sums passed on to collaborating institutions) and when a project does not require more than €100 000 per annum, excluding the principal investigator's staff costs, from the IARC regular budget unless this project has already been approved via the programme budget document. All other grants or contracts must receive the specific approval of the Governing Council. Decisions of the Governing Council under this paragraph may be taken between sessions in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3, below, if the Chairperson of the Governing Council decides that the urgency of the request warrants;

2. DECIDES that for grants or contracts which require the specific approval of the Governing Council, the Director may seek provisional approval via consultation with the Chairperson of the Governing Council within the framework of their regular discussions (meetings and/or teleconferences);

3. Further DECIDES that requests for the acceptance of grants or contracts that have been provisionally approved in accordance with paragraph 2, above, shall be formally presented to the full Governing Council at its next session; and

4. REQUESTS the Director to make a post facto reporting of all grants and contracts he has accepted with a value of more than €100 000 per project per annum, this amount to include any sums passed on to third parties.

Mr KULIKOWSKI (United States of America) suggested the addition of the phrase "with subsequent notification of the Governing Council Members" at the end of paragraphs 1 and 2.

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

#### **4. BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (OHSC), 2008–2009: Item 18 of the Agenda (Document GC/52/15)**

Dr HAINAUT (Outgoing Chairperson, Occupational Health and Safety Committee) presented the biennial report on occupational health and safety within the Agency (Document GC/52/15) and thanked the Governing Council for its continuing concern for the welfare of the staff. Occupational health and safety were accorded the highest priority at the Agency at all levels.

The Staff Physician, Dr Annie Robert, had retired at the end of 2008. Her replacement, Dr Dorothee Cuhe, had established close links with the Medical Service at WHO Headquarters, and was increasingly involved in day-to-day decisions within the Agency which had implications for health and safety. The Laboratory Safety Officer, Brigitte Chapot, was now employed almost full-time on occupational health and safety activities because of the increased monitoring and oversight requirements for the implementation of health and safety regulations and the accreditation documentation required for the use of radioisotopes and genetically modified organisms. The Occupational Health and Safety Committee continued to oversee all aspects of occupational health and safety within the Agency: he himself had been Chairperson of the Committee for the previous 10 years, but had now handed the chairmanship over to Dr Robert Baan, who would bring to the role the wide-ranging knowledge of carcinogens he had gained from his work with the Monographs programme.

All new staff, including fully trained scientists, were required to follow the Agency's own health and safety training programme and pass an examination. Even minor accidents were analyzed and appropriate guidance issued to staff to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents in future. A new version of the Safety Manual had been issued in 2009. The laboratory infrastructure had been upgraded in order to obtain the required accreditations: in particular, the safety procedures for the use of liquid nitrogen had been updated and subsequently approved by external inspectors. Every staff member who came into contact with potentially hazardous substances was required to fill in a questionnaire every three months: the information thus obtained not only allowed the predicted usage of such substances to be compared with the actual usage, but had also provided the material for a paper on exposure to toxic substances in the laboratory, which had been published in the *Annals of Occupational Hygiene*.

Agency staff, their dependants and retired staff members still living in the Lyon area had been offered the possibility to be immunized against the H1N1 influenza virus. The immunization campaign had provided an opportunity to identify the entire "extended family" of Agency staff and update the contingency plans to be applied in the event of an epidemic or other emergency which threatened to disrupt the Agency's work.

In reply to a query from Professor PUSKA (Finland), he acknowledged that the Agency could be more proactive in general health promotion, in addition to occupational health proper. Advice on giving up smoking was available from the Staff Physician, and the Staff Association encouraged staff to take part in informal sports activities, but it would certainly be beneficial to organize health promotion activities on a more formal basis.

The SECRETARY expressed his appreciation of the valuable work done by Dr Hainaut, by the Laboratory Safety Officer and by the other members of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution on the biennial report of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee (OHSC), 2008–2009 (Resolution GC/52/R14):

The Governing Council,

Having examined the Agency's Biennial Report on Occupational Health and Safety 2008–2009, as contained in Document GC/52/15,

1. THANKS the Scientific Council for reviewing the Biennial Report of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, 2008–2009;
2. THANKS the outgoing Chairperson, Dr Pierre Hainaut, for his work on this Committee;
3. EXPRESSES satisfaction with the arrangements which are in place to ensure the health and safety of the Agency's staff; and
4. REQUESTS the Director to continue reporting biennially on occupational health and safety issues at the Agency.

The draft resolution was **adopted**.

#### **5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ADMISSION OF NEW PARTICIPATING STATES: Item 19 of the Agenda**

The CHAIRPERSON noted that, in the past, some Participating States had been unwilling to encourage further States to join the Agency because the resulting adjustments in assessed contributions might have led to an increase in their own contribution. Following the adoption of Resolution GC/51/R7, which expressly precluded that possibility, he hoped that more members, particularly those from regions outside Europe, would be willing to join the Subcommittee and promote the admission of new Participating States, for instance by exploiting their personal contacts or advising the Director about the best way to approach a particular State.

The SECRETARY, replying to a query from Ms HERNANDEZ (alternate to Dr Park, Canada), said that he hoped to discuss with the Subcommittee the interest expressed by various potential Participating States and the general strategy to be adopted – for instance, whether the Agency should seek to recruit more Participating States from regions outside Europe.

Professor PUSKA (Finland) said that any new Participating States must understand that the Agency existed for the benefit of all its members; no State should expect to receive special treatment, as had sometimes been the case in the past.

The SECRETARY, replying to a point raised by Professor BISHOP (Australia), suggested any member with ideas or suggestions to offer should contact him informally. It might be advisable to allocate more time to the agenda item at the next session for a review of the situation at that point.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution on membership of the Subcommittee on the Admission of new Participating States (Resolution GC/52/R15):

The Governing Council,  
Recalling its Resolution GC/18/R14 nominating members of the Subcommittee on the Admission of new Participating States and the requirement to nominate new members at the end of each session of the Council,  
DECIDES that this Subcommittee shall be composed of, in addition to the Chairperson of the Governing Council (member ex officio), the representatives of Canada, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council.

The draft resolution was **adopted**.

**6. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS: Item 20 of the Agenda** (Document GC/52/16)

Dr LAFIF (Director of Administration and Finance) drew the Governing Council's attention to the monetary donations listed in document GC/52/16.

Replying to a question from Dr PARK (Canada), he said the donations in question went into the Voluntary Undesignated Contributions Account.

The SECRETARY said that, for instance, in 2009 undesignated contributions had been used to fund activities in low-resource countries in the areas of cancer registration, behavioural and sociological research and the Gambia Hepatitis Intervention Study (GHIS) (see Resolution GC/51/R9).

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution on acceptance of donations (GC/52/R16):

The Governing Council,  
Having been informed by Document GC/52/16 of the unconditional donations accepted by the Director under the authority vested in him by Resolution GC/4/R3,  
EXPRESSES its deep appreciation to the donors for their generous contribution to the research activities of the Agency.

The draft resolution was **adopted**.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL (CLOSED SESSION): Item 21 of the Agenda** (Document GC/52/17)

The Governing Council met in closed session from 11:55 to 12:20.

On the resumption of the plenary session, the RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution concerning the appointment of new members of the Scientific Council (Resolution GC/52/R17):

The Governing Council,

In accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Statute of the Agency,

1. APPOINTS

Dr Mads Melbye, Denmark )

Dr Ahti Antilla, Finland )

Dr Piet A. van den Brandt, Netherlands ) to serve for four years on the

Dr Bettina Borisch, Switzerland ) Scientific Council

Dr Martyn Smith, United States of America )

2. THANKS the outgoing members of the Scientific Council, Professor R. Herrmann, Dr K. Husgafvel-Pursiainen, Professor B. Kiemenev, Professor T. Ørntoft and Dr E. Ron, for their valuable work in the Scientific Council and for the contribution which they have made to the research activities of the Agency.

The draft resolution was **adopted**.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Item 22 of the Agenda**

Mr KULIKOWSKI (United States of America), recalling the recent incident of flooding for which the Agency had apparently not been adequately insured, asked for the issue of insurance coverage to be discussed at the next session of the Governing Council.

Dr LAFIF (Director of Administration and Finance) confirmed that the Agency's premises were indeed adequately insured. The sum insured in respect of accidental damage, and thus the sum claimable in respect of the flooding, was relatively low because the building in question had not been refurbished since the 1990s.

Dr CHESTNOV (Russian Federation) noted that the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly special session on noncommunicable diseases would furnish the Agency with a unique opportunity to bring issues of particular concern before a high-level political audience. A conference on noncommunicable diseases was to be held in Moscow in March 2011.

#### **9. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON FOR NEXT SESSION: Item 23 of the Agenda**

Dr MUGITANI (Japan) proposed Professor Puska (Finland) as the Chairperson of the next session of the Governing Council, the proposal being seconded by Professor ULFENDAHL (Sweden), Mr HULLEMAN (Netherlands), Dr CHESTNOV (Russian Federation), Dr STEBER BÜCHLI (Switzerland), Rapporteur, Dr HAELTERMAN (Belgium) and Ms JACKSON (Ireland).

**Professor Puska was unanimously elected Chairperson for the next session.**

Professor PUSKA (Finland, Chairperson-Elect) thanked the Governing Council for the confidence it had shown in him. He had been somewhat daunted at the prospect of assuming the post, but the Agency was a very important institution and it now appeared to be on a sound footing, with no major problems on the horizon. He called upon members to work actively with him and share any concerns they might have.

Dr LEE Duk-Hyoung (Republic of Korea) expressed his appreciation for the contribution to the Governing Council made by the outgoing Chairperson, Professor Hanssen.

#### **10. DATE OF NEXT SESSION: Item 24 of the Agenda**

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution on the date of the fifty-third session of the Governing Council (Resolution GC/52/R18):

The Governing Council,

1. DECIDES to hold its next regular session in Lyon, France, on the Thursday and Friday preceding the opening of the World Health Assembly in the year 2011; and
2. REQUESTS the Director to inform members of the Council as soon as these dates are known.

The draft resolution was **adopted**.

#### **11. CLOSURE OF SESSION: Item 25 of the Agenda**

The CHAIRPERSON expressed his thanks to the outgoing members of the Scientific Council and to his Vice-Chairperson. He congratulated the Director on the pleasant and constructive atmosphere which had prevailed during the session, and the administrative staff involved in the session for their hard work. It had been a pleasure for him to serve the Governing Council.

Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Vice-Chairperson, said that the Governing Council owed a great debt of gratitude to the Chairperson, who had been a member for 15 years.

The SECRETARY thanked all members for their guidance during the session. The representative of Germany, in particular, had articulated a desire for greater transparency in the Agency's activities which, he was sure, was shared by other representatives. He had been pleased to note the attendance of the observer for Brazil, since the Agency was anxious to re-establish its links with that State. He thanked Mr Jean-Paul Bonnefond, the technician responsible for audiovisual communications during the Governing Council's sessions, who was shortly to retire after over 30 years with the Agency. Finally, he thanked the Chairperson, who had made a great contribution to the Agency over many years.

**The Secretary presented a glass ornament representing the IARC tower to the Chairperson.**

The CHAIRPERSON declared closed the Fifty-second Session of the Governing Council.

**The meeting rose at 12:35.**