

International Agency for Research on Cancer



World Health
Organization

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Auditorium

REQUEST FOR USE OF FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SPECIAL FUND: B. REVENUE FROM PUBLICATIONS

1. According to Resolutions GC/51/R10, GC/52/R10 and GC/54/R13, the IARC Publication Programme is authorized on a biennial basis to use 75% of the proceeds from the sale of publications during the previous biennium in order to finance activities in the next biennium. These resolutions require the Director to continue submitting such requests to the Governing Council, if the need arises, on a biennial basis.

2. In line with the financial policy and the concentrated cost savings measures being taken, this financing stream for the on-going core work of the Agency was reviewed during 2012. This review revealed that:

- Resolution GC/11/R9 first put in place a revolving fund in the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF) to finance the IARC Publication Programme;
- Subsequently the GCSF has regularly funded the programme at increasing financial levels and for increasing durations;
- Since 2009 the Governing Council has authorized the return of 75% of the proceeds from the sale of publications from previous years to the programme, an arrangement that has been renewed in 2010 and 2012 to cover the following biennia;
- These funds currently cover the recurring salaries of six IARC staff members providing core services for the programme;
- The average yearly amounts represented by the 75% of revenue from the sale of publications over the past two approved biennium budgets is €438 674;
- The current prescribed cycle of funding requires the Agency to advance five months of financing to the programme every two years in anticipation of consideration of renewed requests to the Governing Council in May.

3. This last bullet point raises two issues: the first being the uncertainty of continued funding for the programme, and the second that financial policy requires setting aside funds from other sources until such time as the Governing Council meets and decides on the resolution authorizing return of the revenues earned. As a consequence, this raises financial risks to other Agency funds, has a knock-on effect on other activities and causes additional work in returning the advanced funds to the funding sources at mid-year.

4. In recognizing the ongoing nature of the publication programme and the core function it provides to the Agency's programme of permanent activities, the Secretariat is requesting the Governing Council to consider a standing authorization to the Director to recover, on a yearly basis, the lower of either:

- 75% of the previous year's revenues from sales of publications, or
- €525 000

5. In addition, the Governing Council is requested to authorize that any unused balance at the end of the first year of the biennium be carried forward to the following year. Any unused balance at the end of the biennium will return to the GCSF.

6. The acceptance by the Governing Council of this proposal would allow the Agency to avoid financial risk at the start of a biennium and ensure proper yearly planning of amounts available to the publication programme. The cap of a maximum drawdown of €525 000 on a yearly basis ensures that the programme is not allotted disproportionate amounts in high revenue years and that the revolving fund within the GCSF remains at a stable level.