

# International Agency for Research on Cancer

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**Governing Council  
Fifty-eighth Session**

*Lyon, 19–20 May 2016  
Auditorium*

**GC/58/Min.1  
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## **MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING**

IARC, Lyon

Thursday 19 May 2016, at 09:05

Chairperson: Dr Mark Palmer (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Secretary: Dr Christopher P. Wild, Director, IARC

## **CONTENTS**

	Page
1. Opening of the session	4
2. Election of Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur	4
3. Adoption of the agenda	4
4. Presentation and discussion of the Biennial Report 2014–2015	5
5. Director's report	7
6. Address by the Director-General, WHO	11
7. Report of the Fifty-second session of the Scientific Council	12
8. Director's response to recommendations from the Fifty-second session of the Scientific Council	12
9. Statement by the IARC Staff Association	14
10. Update on the "Nouveau Centre" project	15

### Participating State Representatives

Dr Mark PALMER, <b>Chairperson</b>	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Dr Adam BABBS	
Professor Christopher BAGGOLEY, <b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Australia
Dr Diane STEBER-BÜCHLI, <b>Rapporteur</b>	Switzerland
Dr Britta KUNERT	Austria
Mr Lieven DE RAEDT	Belgium
<i>No representative</i>	Brazil
Dr Stephen M. ROBBINS	Canada
Ms Lucero HERNANDEZ	
Professor Mads MELBYE	Denmark
Professor Juhani ESKOLA	Finland
Professor Sakari KARJALAINEN	
Dr Thierry BRETON	France
Dr Chariklia BALAS	Germany
Professor G.K. RATH ( <i>unable to attend</i> )	India
Mr Keith COMISKEY	Ireland
Professor Walter RICCIARDI ( <i>unable to attend</i> )	Italy
Dr Pietro COMBA	
Mr Hiroyuki YAMAYA	Japan
Dr Takuma KATO	
Dr Seiichiro YAMAMOTO	
Dr Rachid BEKKALI ( <i>unable to attend</i> )	Morocco
Dr Latifa BELAKHEL	
Dr Marianne DONKER	Netherlands
Mr Marc FAKKEL ( <i>unable to attend</i> )	
Dr Edgar RIVEDAL	Norway
Dr Karianne SOLAAS	
Dr Al-Hareth M. AL-KHATER	Qatar
Dr Kyungwon HWANG	Republic of Korea
Dr Yoon Jung CHANG	
Dr Svetlana AXELROD	Russian Federation
Ms Lidia GABUNIYA	
Dr Olga GRETSOVA	
Dr Rafael DE ANDRÉS MEDINA	Spain

Professor Jan-Ingvar JÖNSSON ( <i>unable to attend</i> )	Sweden
Dr Karin SCHMEKEL	
Professor Murat GÜLTEKIN	Turkey
Dr Lisa STEVENS	United States of America

### **World Health Organization**

Dr Oleg CHESTNOV, Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health  
Ms Joanne MCKEOUGH, Office of the Legal Counsel  
Ms Françoise MOURAIN-SCHUT, Office of the Legal Counsel  
Dr Andreas ULLRICH, Senior Adviser to ADG/NMH, WHO-IARC Liaison Officer  
Dr Cherian VARGHESE, Coordinator, Department for Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention (NVI)

### **Observers**

Professor James F. BISHOP, Outgoing Chairperson, Scientific Council  
Professor Ellen KAMPMAN, Incoming Chairperson, Scientific Council (*unable to attend*)  
Dr Cary ADAMS, Chief Executive Officer, Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

### **External Audit**

Mr Lito Q. MARTIN, Commission on Audit, Philippines (*unable to attend*)

### **Secretariat**

Dr C.P. WILD, *Secretary*  
Mr T. LANDESZ

Ms A. BERGER  
Dr F. BRAY  
Dr P. BRENNAN  
Ms D. D'AMICO  
Mr P. DAMIECKI  
Dr S. FRANCESCHI

Ms E. FRANÇON  
Dr N. GAUDIN  
Dr M. GUNTER  
Dr Z. HERCEG  
Dr R. HERRERO  
Dr A. KESMINIENE  
Dr D. LOOMIS  
Dr J. MCKAY  
Dr M. MENDY

Dr R. NJIE  
Dr H. OHGAKI  
Dr R. SANKARANARAYANAN  
Ms A. SANTHIPRECHACHIT  
Dr A. SCALBERT  
Dr J. SCHÜZ  
Dr K. STRAIF  
Dr M. TOMMASINO  
Dr J. ZAVADIL

### **1. OPENING OF THE SESSION: Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda**

The CHAIRPERSON welcomed participants, including Professor James Bishop, Outgoing Chairperson of the Scientific Council, Dr Cary Adams of the International Union for Cancer Control (UICC) and Dr Oleg Chestnov, Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO.

The SECRETARY introduced Mr Tamas Landesz, the new Director of Administration and Finance, and drew attention to a side-event on the recently launched Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development, which was being held in parallel with the Governing Council session.

### **2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND RAPPORTEUR: Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda**

The CHAIRPERSON noted that, since the Vice-Chairperson, Professor Buzyn, was no longer a member of the Governing Council, it was necessary to elect a successor for the current session.

On the proposal of Dr BABBS (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Professor Baggoley (Australia) was elected Vice-Chairperson, the proposal being seconded by Dr RIVEDAL (Norway).

On the proposal of Mr DE RAEDT (Belgium), Dr Steber-Büchli (Switzerland) was elected Rapporteur, the proposal being seconded by Professor BAGGOLEY (Australia), Vice-Chairperson.

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda** (Documents GC/58/1 (Prov.) and GC/58/1 (Prov.) Add.1)

The CHAIRPERSON noted that a supplementary agenda item had been submitted in document GC/58/1 (Prov.) Add.1, under the title "Proposal from Spain for the repayment of its outstanding contributions". If he saw no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to include the item on the agenda<sup>1</sup>.

**It was so agreed.**

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

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<sup>1</sup> Taken as supplementary agenda item 1 (Supp.1 in document GC/58/1).

#### **4. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE BIENNIAL REPORT 2014–2015: Item 4 of the Agenda** (Document GC/58/2)

The SECRETARY, illustrating his remarks with slides, introduced the Biennial report 2014–2015 (document GC/58/2), focusing on the scientific work of the Agency. A major project over that biennium, the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development, was intended to bring a large number of partners together in six regional hubs to improve data collection and quality and train professionals in relevant skills. The next steps for the Initiative were clear, but it was not obvious how the necessary resources were to be obtained. One of the cancer surveillance projects conducted over the biennium was a study of cancer prevalence in indigenous and non-indigenous populations in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States of America, which he had discussed at the recent World Indigenous Cancer Conference in Brisbane, Australia.

The Agency now employed a health economist to study the costs associated with cancer. For example, a recent study conducted in collaboration with researchers in Ireland had investigated the loss of productivity associated with cancer-related mortality in 2008 in 30 European countries. Some less frequent cancers, for instance testicular cancer, were significant in that context because they primarily affected younger people of working age. Other studies dealt with cancer trends over time: for instance, the incidence of thyroid cancer had increased considerably, but it had been possible to show that much of the change was due to overdiagnosis and overtreatment as opposed to higher incidence rates.

Turning to publications, he noted the results of a recent survey among users of the WHO Classification of Tumours series ("Blue Books"), which showed their interest in publications in electronic format as well as the continued requirement for the traditional print format. The most recent volume, on cancers of the lung, pleura, thymus and heart, had already sold around 10 000 copies. Volume 114 of the IARC Monograph series on the consumption of red meat and processed meats had, as anticipated, attracted considerable media interest: the Agency had worked with WHO on communications issues both before and after the Monograph meeting, and had identified areas where procedures could be strengthened, including the preparation of standard operating procedures and the coordination of information on identified hazards with public health advice.

In the area of prevention, the Agency was now correlating patterns of cancer occurrence in various countries with the prevailing risk factors, which made it possible, for instance, to estimate the proportion of cancers attributable to infections or to overweight and obesity. Current studies concerned the role of ultraviolet light and that of tobacco. A study of low-dose, chronic exposure to radiation, comparing participants in the INWORKS study of over 300 000 nuclear-industry workers in the United Kingdom, France and the United States of America and those in the Life Span Study of acute radiation exposure in survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs in 1945, had shown consistent results on the increased risk of death from leukaemia and solid cancers – a result which has implications for the use of radiation in medical procedures. Other notable studies dealt with the link between oesophageal cancer and the drinking of very hot tea in the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya, the effect of fibre intake on the association between alcohol intake and breast cancer, development of biomarkers of meat and fish intake and the

cancer burden associated with infections among people with HIV, which was becoming greater now that individuals on long-term antiretroviral treatment were living longer.

He gave details of a number of the Agency's projects in laboratory science, including evidence of an association between exposure to aristolochic acid and the occurrence of clear cell renal cell carcinoma; antibodies to human papillomavirus (HPV) as a predictor of oropharyngeal cancer; and the biological consequences of early-life exposure to various environmental factors, including maternal smoking in pregnancy, using mother-child pairs from existing birth cohort studies.

The results of the Agency's research continued to influence clinical practice and public health information. Volume 15 in the IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention series, on breast cancer screening, was currently in preparation, and dealt with the effectiveness of mammography, clinical breast examination and other imaging techniques. Summaries of the Handbooks were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The Agency's evaluation of three versus two or one doses of HPV vaccine in India had led the United States National Cancer Institute to begin a trial of a one-dose regime in Costa Rica, in collaboration with the Agency. A cluster-randomized trial of self-collection of cervical specimens for HPV testing in Jujuy, Argentina had yielded a sample collection rate of 86%, compared with 20% for women invited to have the sample taken in health clinics, with particularly good results for women who had not previously undergone a PAP smear.

The Agency had helped to develop guidelines for cancer screening in the European Union, and was now involved in evaluating the implementation of the guidelines, including compliance at population level. Two working group reports had been published, the first on primary endpoints for prophylactic HPV vaccine trials and the second on the eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* as a strategy for preventing gastric cancer. The biobanking network BCNet, which involved 29 organizations from 18 low- and middle-income countries, had continued its work, with the collaboration of biobanking groups throughout Europe and elsewhere.

Finally, in the area of education and training, he drew attention to the joint online course in Cancer epidemiology developed in English and Spanish by the Agency and the Institut Català de Oncologia in Barcelona, Spain. The course had been widely used in Latin America.

Professor GÜLTEKIN (Turkey) congratulated IARC on its work on cancer prevention and cancer registries. Regional hubs should be set up for cancer screening on the same lines as those established under the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development. He noted that the IARC website included images of mammography but not of clinical breast examination, which might give the mistaken impression that the Agency disapproved of the latter.

Professor BAGGOLEY (Australia), Vice-Chairperson, welcomed the Agency's work in cancer prevention, particularly HPV vaccination. His country was due to introduce five-yearly cervical cancer screening from 2017, but it was difficult to reach women who had never undergone screening before. Self-collection of cervical specimens might prove a useful technique.

Dr ROBBINS (Canada) encouraged the Agency to collaborate closely with WHO to keep Participating States informed about forthcoming Monograph meetings and to continue and expand its work on cancer among indigenous populations.

The SECRETARY said that self-collection of cervical cell samples was a promising technique, although it required further validation. In a study in Bhutan, where there was no other cervical cancer screening programme, it had been well accepted by the women involved. Replying to the representative of Canada, he said that Monograph meetings were announced on national distribution lists one month before the meeting. Studies among indigenous populations were important but still rare as it was often difficult to obtain the necessary authorization.

Dr ADAMS (Union for International Cancer Control – UICC) welcomed the importance which the Agency accorded to the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development, which would contribute to the work of WHO and the United Nations on noncommunicable diseases in general.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “IARC Biennial Report 2014–2015” (GC/58/R1):

The Governing Council,  
Having reviewed the IARC Biennial Report for 2014–2015 (Document GC/58/2),

1. EXPRESSES its satisfaction with the work accomplished; and
2. COMMENDS the Director and his staff on the Biennial Report.

The resolution was **adopted**.

##### **5. DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Item 5 of the Agenda** (Document GC/58/3)

The SECRETARY, illustrating his remarks with slides, introduced his Director’s Report (document GC/58/3), dealing with management issues. He drew attention to a number of new communications initiatives, including recently updated online resources on cancer prevention and the website of the Global Cancer Observatory.<sup>2</sup> Over 900 participants from around 90 countries had registered to date for the IARC @ 50 Scientific Conference (Lyon, 7–10 June 2016), and 50 researchers from 40 low- and middle-income countries had been sponsored to attend in the IARC “50 for 50” initiative.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://gco.iarc.fr>.

Within the Agency, four Junior Investigator Awards had been established to provide funding for innovative, high-risk projects and provide experience of the grant application and peer-review process for early-career scientists.

The meeting of experts to prepare Volume 16 of the IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention on weight control had taken place in April 2016, identifying eight new cancer sites which had not previously been evaluated as being linked to excess body fatness. He thanked the United States Centers for Disease Prevention and Control and the American Cancer Society for funding recent volumes in the series, but noted that no further volumes would be prepared until more funding became available.

Other scientific meetings included the IARC Working Group of experts on the health effects of mycotoxins, with the publication of an accompanying brochure in English, French and Spanish, and the Cancer Prevention Europe workshop.

Turning to the Agency's publications record, he noted that, in the Mapping Scientific Excellence rankings, IARC had been ranked 27<sup>th</sup> out of 1593 institutions in the "Medicine" category for the indicator "best paper rate" and 30<sup>th</sup> for the indicator "best journal rate". Approximately 70% of articles published by IARC staff had appeared in the top 20% of journals in the oncology category. Publication sales were slightly down, mainly owing to the timing of publication of volumes in the Blue Books series, which continued to be the major seller. Revenue was therefore also slightly lower. All print books were distributed through WHO Press, but the Agency was now negotiating the arrangements for future sales of e-books and PDF publications on its own account. The number of visitors to the IARC website had totalled almost 600 000 in 2015, with particular interest being shown in the Monographs and the GLOBOCAN project. The press release on the IARC Monograph on consumption of red meat and processed meats (Vol. 114) had been downloaded 300 000 times in two days.

Extrabudgetary funding for IARC research projects, which had dropped in the previous year, had risen to €14 million in 2015, with some very large grants and a greater number of medium-size contracts of €300 000–€500 000 apiece. Approximately 60% of the total value of the signed contracts had been attributed to the Agency itself, with the rest to its partners in the respective research consortia. Extrabudgetary contributions accounted for approximately 34% of expenditure in the Agency's scientific programme.

Turning to education and training, he noted that the Agency had obtained two successive competitive funding awards from the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action COFUND programme to finance the IARC Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, which had been attended by a total of 22 Fellows in 2015. Unfortunately, however, the Agency had been judged ineligible to reapply for the programme because of the expansion of its membership and activities to countries beyond Europe. He was negotiating with the Commission in the hope that the Agency might be deemed eligible for funding again in the future, and called upon members of the Governing Council to support the Agency's case. A total of 647 participants had taken part in courses organized by the Agency in 2015.

On staffing matters, he noted that, in addition to the appointment of Mr Tamas Landeszl as Director of Administration and Finance, Dr Marc Gunter had been appointed as Head of the Section of Nutrition and Metabolism. The Senior Visiting Scientist award was currently held by Professor Fanghui Zhao of the People's Republic of China, who had joined the Screening Group. A total of 156 trainees, students, postdoctoral scientists and Fellows had been hosted at the Agency during 2015, complementing a permanent staff of just over 200. The Agency had organized nine courses of generic training and continued to support the Early Career Scientists Association. The 2015 IARC Summer School had been attended by 64 participants from 45 countries: unfortunately, no summer school had taken place in 2016 owing to budgetary constraints, although participants from low- and middle-income countries would be attending the IARC @ 50 Conference in June under the "50 for 50" scheme. The IARC Learning and Development Framework, with a dedicated web portal, had been launched to support the learning needs of staff and enhance their career development.

The state of the Agency's buildings was a continuing cause for concern. Constant failures of air conditioning, plumbing and other infrastructure had disrupted the scientists' work, despite the prompt response by the City of Lyon. The technical assessment and budget for the "Nouveau Centre" site had been agreed. The physical security of the buildings had been upgraded following recent terrorist attacks in major European cities.

He briefly described the Agency's collaboration with regional networks, including the South-American Network of National Cancer Institutes (RINC); strategic partnerships, particularly the proposed joint global programme on cervical cancer prevention and control as part of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on NCDs, a joint project on cancer prevention and control in low- and middle-income countries with the International Atomic Energy Agency and a project on cancer pathology reporting with the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting. Collaboration with WHO included work on the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013–2020 and technical contributions to programmes on cancer prevention and early detection with the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research.

In closing, he said that the increasing impact of the Agency's work had brought many more requests for research collaboration, from low- and middle-income countries and others, which the Agency was unable to fulfil because of lack of resources. He was not asking Participating States for an increase in assessed contributions, but for their support and advocacy in exploring other avenues for resource mobilization. The Agency had employed a short-term resource mobilization expert, Randy Grodman, to investigate potential sources of income, match them up with projects from the Medium-Term Strategy and help to prepare funding applications.

Dr COMBA (Italy) said that his Government had written to the European Commission asking it to reconsider the Agency's exclusion from funding under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action programme because of its record of contributions to European cancer research and the fact that its budget was not fully funded by the Participating States.

Dr BALAS (Germany) welcomed the creation of the IARC Global Cancer Observatory and pledged her country's support for the Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme. She asked for more information about collaboration with WHO in the area of communications, particularly on subjects of considerable public interest such as the recent Monographs on consumption of red meat and processed meats and exposure to glyphosates.

Dr AXELROD (Russian Federation) commended the Agency's collaboration with her country and called for more of its publications to be issued in Russian.

The SECRETARY, responding to points raised, said that the topics of meetings in the Monographs and Handbooks of Cancer Prevention programmes were announced approximately one year in advance. A detailed briefing was issued one month before each meeting. The Agency was working with WHO to identify topics of broad public health interest where the meeting results might mean that WHO needed to change its official position. Standard operating procedures were in preparation. The possibility of translating summaries of IARC publications more systematically into Russian was under consideration.

Dr ROBBINS (Canada) asked for the technical assessment of the proposed "Nouveau Centre" site to be distributed to the Governing Council.

Dr DONKER (Netherlands) noted that, in her own country's attempts to mobilize funds for research, it had proved valuable to be very specific about the topics of the proposed research, rather than merely issuing a general call for more funding. She asked how much funding the Agency might obtain from the European Commission as a member of a larger research consortium, rather than as the lead researcher.

Dr STEVENS (United States of America) commended the Agency's strategic partnerships, the Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, efforts to improve communications and the new Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development. Her Government had experienced some problems with the European Commission's Framework Programme 8 (Horizon 2020), and considered it might be more useful to revert to the guidance laid out in Framework 6.

Professor GÜLTEKIN (Turkey) undertook to discuss the possible provision of extra resources by his country's cancer institute. Moreover, all Member States of WHO were pledged to combating cancer under the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013–2020: a call for small extrabudgetary contributions to the fight against cancer might be launched at major meetings such as the following week's session of the World Health Assembly.

The SECRETARY said that all scientific research was subject to budgetary constraints in the present climate. However, the Agency acted as a catalyst for the efforts of multiple national partners, so a small amount of funding had a huge impact. Moreover, its mandate was to assist the poorest countries, which did not have their own national cancer research budget. It had engaged in joint resource mobilization with WHO in the area of cervical cancer activities, but not otherwise.

Replying to the member for the Netherlands, he said that the IARC Fellowships for which European Commission funding had recently been lost were offered by the Agency itself. The Agency was indeed able to benefit from European Commission funding as part of a European consortium.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Director's Report" (GC/58/R2):

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed the Director's Report (Document GC/58/3),

1. THANKS the Director for the Report and for the Key Performance Indicators provided therein;
2. REQUESTS the Director to continue this standard reporting on an annual basis; and
3. EXPRESSES its satisfaction with the Director's written and oral Reports.

The resolution was **adopted**.

## **6. ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WHO: Item 6 of the Agenda**

Dr GAUDIN (Head, Communications Group) read out a message from Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO, who was unable to attend the meeting in person. Dr Chan commended IARC for its contribution to understanding of the worldwide burden of cancer and the causes, prevention and early detection of the disease. IARC and WHO had complementary roles and functions, as shown by the scientific evidence on cervical cancer screening methods established by IARC, which had now been translated into guidelines by WHO which would help governments to draw up their national programmes for cancer prevention and control. In the new, comprehensive vision of the Sustainable Development Goals, noncommunicable diseases, including cancer, had become part of the global health agenda. IARC's unique research was fundamental to the evidence-based guidance drawn up by WHO to serve the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013–2020, and to helping countries to implement their national commitments under the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases of 2011 and the Outcome Document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases.

The CHAIRPERSON thanked Dr Chestnov for attending the meeting and asked him to convey the Governing Council's greetings to the Director-General.

**7. REPORT OF THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL: Item 7 of the Agenda** (Document GC/58/4)

**8. DIRECTOR'S RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL: Item 8 of the Agenda** (Document GC/58/5)

Professor BISHOP, Outgoing Chairperson, Scientific Council, introduced the report of the Fifty-second session of the Scientific Council (document GC/58/4), illustrating his remarks with slides. Members of the Scientific Council had discussed the scientific strategy of the Agency with the Director and the Director of Administration and Finance; had discussed three cross-cutting themes, namely mobile health technology, the linking of surveillance, prevention, screening and implementation science, and the evaluation of biomarkers; and had attended a poster exhibition of the staff's current research projects, particularly appreciating the opportunity to talk to individual scientists about their work.

The Scientific Council had welcomed the comprehensive and highly appropriate response of the Director and Section and Group Heads to its recommendations following the reviews of the Section of Infections and the Section of Mechanisms of Carcinogenesis at the Fifty-first session. It had undertaken a review of the Section of Genetics and concluded that overall the scientific quality of the Section's work was outstanding and that its work was a perfect fit with the mission of IARC. It had paid particular attention to the potential for extending the biostatistics capacity of the Section to other sections within the Agency.

The Scientific Council had endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group established to review the list of current standard reports submitted to the Scientific and Governing Councils and had supported the proposed purchases of scientific equipment. It had further recommended that a joint Working Group of the Scientific Council and Governing Council should be established to develop an evaluation framework for the IARC Medium-Term Strategy; that future section reviews should assess the section's contribution to the Medium-Term Strategy; and that outgoing members of the Scientific Council should advise the Governing Council and Participating States on the scientific expertise which should be sought in potential new members.

The SECRETARY thanked the Scientific Council for its recommendations. The Biostatistics Group was intended both to contribute to the research of the Section of Genetics and to enhance the professional identity of statisticians throughout the Agency. In pursuit of the latter aim, a cross-cutting professional steering group was to be appointed, as had been done very successfully for bioinformatics. In further reference to bioinformatics, he drew attention to the work already done, including a 30-fold increase in capacity for the storage of sequencing data and greatly increased computing capacity, in addition to that available through local research partners such as the Centre Léon Bérard. A senior bioinformatics specialist had been recruited, however, there was still a lack

of capacity for the maintenance of software and system tools and in terms of end-users needed to analyse the data. A report on bioinformatics activities would be submitted to the next session of the Scientific Council in January 2017. It was necessary to find a balance between investing in new technology within the Agency and taking advantage of the expertise and facilities of local partners.

Recent innovations in the format of the Scientific Council meetings appeared to have met with members' approval; in particular, the poster sessions with scientific staff had been well received, and he planned to introduce a feedback session where members could share their impressions. In closing, he noted that the increasing number of Participating States and the corresponding increase in the membership of the Scientific Council would soon make it necessary to introduce further innovations in procedures, in the interests of efficient conduct of the meetings of both the Scientific and the Governing Councils.

Dr STEVENS (United States of America) welcomed the appointment of a resource mobilization consultant and the proposal to establish a Working Group to develop an evaluation framework for the IARC Medium-Term Strategy. She asked for more information about the level of bioinformatics support which the Agency required, both currently and after the proposed move to the "Nouveau Centre" site.

Replying to a point raised by the CHAIRPERSON, the SECRETARY said that he constantly planned ahead to recruit replacements in good time for key staff who were due to retire shortly. He hoped that the stability created by the adoption of the Medium-Term Strategy and the move to more suitable premises at the "Nouveau Centre" site would offset any uncertainty due to the need to recruit a new Director at the end of his own current term of office.

Professor BAGGOLEY (Australia), Vice-Chairperson, noted that his fellow-countryman Professor Bishop had already discussed with him the expertise required on the Scientific Council.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Report of the Scientific Council" (GC/58/R3):

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed the Report presented by the Fifty-second Scientific Council (Document GC/58/4) and the Director's response (Document GC/58/5),

1. NOTES the Report (Document GC/58/4) with great interest;
2. CONGRATULATES the members of the Scientific Council for their supportive and excellent work; and
3. COMMENDS the Director for his constructive responses to the recommendations of the Fifty-second Session of the Scientific Council.

In response to a point raised by Dr STEVENS (United States of America), Ms MCKEOUGH (Office of the WHO Legal Counsel) suggested the following addition at the end of paragraph 3: "... and welcomes the Director's decision to present a document to the full Scientific Council in January 2017, covering plans for bioinformatics".

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

**9. STATEMENT BY THE IARC STAFF ASSOCIATION: Item 9 of the Agenda** (Document GC/58/6)

Ms LIGNINI (IARC Staff Association) said that the Staff Association Committee, currently comprising nine members, met every two weeks to discuss any new developments affecting the staff, issues raised by staff members and social and recreational activities. The latter had been disrupted for several months by the introduction of heightened security measures: she hoped that the situation would not reoccur when the Agency moved to its new site.

The main issues of concern discussed by the Staff Association at the WHO Global Staff Management Council meeting had been the recommendations that the age of retirement for United Nations staff should be raised to 65 and that maternity leave should be increased to 24 weeks. Staff had reported feelings of insecurity and worry resulting from restructuring of some research sections and the abolition or redefinition of posts within them. She hoped that the experience gained in the past year and feedback from the staff would contribute to a better handling of future restructuring, with earlier and more complete communication.

The Staff Association had reviewed the new IARC policy on position classification review, and awaited with interest the publication of the new teleworking policy. Working relations with the Administration continued to be constructive and smooth.

The SECRETARY said that the increase in retirement age to 65, due to take effect soon, was an advantage from the point of view of recruitment, since scientists in national research institutions and academia were used to continuing their careers well beyond the Agency's current retirement age of 62. He acknowledged the stress and uncertainty which the restructuring of recent years had brought for the staff, and pledged to communicate new developments as promptly as possible.

Dr RIVEDAL (Norway) commended the Staff Association, which would have an important role to play in the move to the Agency's new premises.

The Governing Council **took note** of the report of the Staff Association.

**10. UPDATE ON THE "NOUVEAU CENTRE" PROJECT: Item 11 of the Agenda** (Document GC/58/8)

Mr LANDESZ (Director of Administration and Finance) briefly reviewed the history of the current IARC site. The Agency and the host Government, France, had now agreed on the specifications and funding arrangements for the new IARC site, the "Nouveau Centre", and a public bid for its design and construction had just been launched. The project was thus on track for completion by 2020, as scheduled. Disruption to the scientific work of the Agency would be avoided as far as possible.

Ms FRANÇON (Head, Administrative Services Office) said that the financial agreement reached in 2015 divided the costs of the project between four partners: the metropolitan authority Métropole de Lyon (previously named Grand Lyon), which would pay €18 million of the original budget of €48 million; the French Government, which would pay €17 million; the *département* of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, which would pay €13 million; and the City of Lyon, which would provide the land for the new site and, in a subsequent agreement linked to the transfer of the Latarjet and Biological Resource Centre (BRC) buildings to its ownership, would pay €1.26 million, making a total budget of €49.26 million. The Agency would set aside €1.5 million from Programme Support Cost (PSC) in the period 2015–2019 to cover the costs of the move to the new site and purchases of some furniture and equipment. The project would be overseen by a steering committee, a number of technical committees and a monitoring committee (*comité politique de suivi*). The Working Group on Infrastructure of the Governing Council would be kept apprised of all developments.

Replying to a point raised by Ms HERNANDEZ (Canada), she said that the original estimate of the value of the Latarjet and BRC buildings had been €4.5 million. Of that sum, €2.7 million was the value of the buildings and the remainder was the value of the land on which they stood, which already belonged to the City of Lyon. The City of Lyon had agreed to put €1.26 million towards the cost of the "Nouveau Centre" and to fund emergency repairs to the existing IARC site, but not to invest in further capital repairs.

Replying to points raised by Dr DONKER (Netherlands), she said that, in the event of a budget shortfall on the project, the partners would meet to discuss the action to be taken. Participating States would not be liable for any additional mandatory contributions. The Agency would not pay rent on the new building, but would be responsible for maintenance and operational costs, although those should be considerably lower than at the current site.

The SECRETARY said that the sum of €1.5 million for new furniture and equipment would be taken from the overheads charged on extra-budgetary resources.

Mr YAMAYA (Japan) expressed the hope that the names of the Princess Takamatsu and Sasakawa meeting rooms would be retained in the new building. The Sasakawa Foundation was considering making a donation to the relocation project, and he asked the Secretariat to provide all relevant information.

The SECRETARY expressed his appreciation of the support provided by the Sasakawa and Nippon Foundations. He had recently met Mr Sasakawa in Japan.

Dr BRETON (France) welcomed the achievement of a financial agreement governing the construction of a new IARC site appropriate for the Agency's important mission.

The CHAIRPERSON thanked all those responsible for the successful conclusion of the agreement.

Replying to a point raised by Dr STEVENS (United States of America), the SECRETARY said that a move from the current site to temporary premises before the completion of the "Nouveau Centre" project would be very expensive and must be avoided if possible. The ongoing technical assessment of the status of the building would provide more guidance. Some activities could be moved to an alternative location if necessary.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Update on the "Nouveau Centre" project" (GC/58/R5):

The Governing Council,

Having considered Document GC/58/8 "Update on the 'Nouveau Centre' project",

1. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the Métropole de Lyon and the City of Lyon for their continued efforts in support of the "Nouveau Centre" project;
2. WELCOMES the Secretariat's continued cooperation with France as the host country, and local authorities, resulting in the progress of the "Nouveau Centre" project; and
3. REQUESTS the Director to keep the Working Group on Infrastructure apprised of major future developments in relation to the "Nouveau Centre" project.

Following suggestions by Dr BRETON (France) and Ms HERNANDEZ (Canada), the CHAIRPERSON proposed that paragraph 1 should be amended to read: "EXPRESSES its appreciation to the French national authorities, the Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the Métropole de Lyon and the City of Lyon ...". At the suggestion of Dr BALAS (Germany), he proposed that paragraph 3 should be amended to read: "keep the Governing Council and the Working Group on Infrastructure apprised ...".

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

**The meeting rose at 12:55.**