

# International Agency for Research on Cancer

---



**Governing Council  
Fifty-eighth Session**

**GC/58/Min.3  
Original: ENGLISH**

*Lyon, 19–20 May 2016  
Auditorium*

## **MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING**

IARC, Lyon

Friday 20 May 2016, at 09:30

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

Secretary: Dr Christopher P. Wild, Director, IARC

## **CONTENTS**

	Page
1. Options and proposals regarding the procedure for the election of the Director	4
2. Requests for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund	8
3. Guidance on nominations for the replacement of Scientific Council members	11
4. Appointment of new members of the Scientific Council ( <i>closed session</i> )	12
5. Membership of the Subcommittee on the admission of new Participating States	13
6. Any other business	13
7. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the next session	13
8. Date of next session	14
9. Closure of the session	14

### 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, <i>Secretary</i>	Ms E. FRANÇON	Dr R. NJIE
Mr T. LANDESZ	Dr N. GAUDIN	Dr H. OHGAKI
	Dr M. GUNTER	Dr R. SANKARANARAYANAN
Ms A. BERGER	Dr Z. HERCEG	Ms A. SANTHIPRECHACHIT
Dr F. BRAY	Dr R. HERRERO	Dr A. SCALBERT
Dr P. BRENNAN	Dr A. KESMINIENE	Dr J. SCHÜZ
Ms D. D'AMICO	Dr D. LOOMIS	Dr K. STRAIF
Mr P. DAMIECKI	Dr J. MCKAY	Dr M. TOMMASINO
Dr S. FRANCESCHI	Dr M. MENDY	Dr J. ZAVADIL

**1. OPTIONS AND PROPOSALS REGARDING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR: Item 17 of the Agenda** (Document GC/58/14)

The CHAIRPERSON said that the term of the present Director would end in 2018 and that a new procedure for the election of the incoming Director would need to be agreed by 2017.

Ms MCKEOUGH (Office of the WHO Legal Counsel) recalled that, in May 2013, concerns had been raised by members of the Governing Council regarding the clarity of the rules relating to the election of the Director; a report had been commissioned and discussed in 2014. Based on those discussions, a further report had been prepared, which set out options and proposals concerning a new procedure (Document GC/58/14). The Governing Council would need to consider a number of points, including whether to confirm the two-term limit put in place since 1997. The report covered the submission of candidatures, the method of short-listing and interviews. Issues raised included the criteria used for the appointment, the format of the curriculum vitae, and whether the names and curriculum vitae of candidates should be published on the IARC website as a matter of rule or by choice. The search criteria used in 1993 and 2003 were set out in Annex 3 of the document and two options for identification of candidates were set out in paragraph 10. The Secretariat believed that Option B, which would require the Governing Council to agree on selection criteria, would provide the most transparent process. The document also proposed the adoption of a standard form of curriculum vitae for all candidates, including the sitting Director if she or he were to run for a second term. The pros and cons of whether to publish the names of candidates were set out in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report.

Models for short-listing of candidates were outlined in paragraphs 18 to 31. The modalities of interviewing, including the questions to be asked and which candidate would be interviewed first, were dealt with in paragraphs 33 to 36. The proposal to interview short-listed candidates by all Participating States using the procedures and format for the 2008 and 2013 selections provides an equal opportunity to assess the relative merits of the candidates.

The CHAIRPERSON said that the Governing Council could decide to form a working group in order to study the matter further or it could agree by consensus on the options proposed.

Professor BAGGOLEY (Australia), supported by Dr BALAS (Germany), said that he did not believe that it would be necessary to form a working group in order to determine the election procedure. The document had been well researched and he supported the recommendations that had been put forward, including Option B with regard to the criteria for appointment, Option B with respect to the curriculum vitae and Option B with respect to the formalized interview process.

Dr DONKER (Netherlands) asked whether the Director would be appointed after one interview only since, in the European Union, the Directors of agencies were also subject to background checks and assessments.

Ms HERNANDEZ (Canada) underlined the need for transparency and efficiency and supported the proposals recommended in the document. She did not believe that it would be necessary to establish a working group.

Dr SOLAAS (Norway) said that, in general, she supported the options proposed in the document, as well as the focus on an open and transparent election procedure. She was concerned that failure to maintain anonymity during the selection process might discourage some of the best candidates from applying. She did not think that it would be necessary to form a working group.

Dr STEVENS (United States of America) said that she broadly supported the proposals contained in the document but agreed with the representative of Norway that publication of the names of candidates on the Agency's website might discourage some of the best candidates from applying. She agreed that there would be no need for a working group.

The CHAIRPERSON said that, unless candidates had indicated their wishes to the contrary, it was current practice to publish their names. In his experience, most candidates would wish to remain anonymous until a decision had been made.

Dr BELAKHEL (Morocco) said that she supported all of the proposals by the Secretariat. With respect to the curriculum vitae, she would prefer to see a requirement for a minimum number of years of experience in scientific research. If a Director of the Agency was to seek a second term, an evaluation of his or her first term should be made.

The CHAIRPERSON said that all candidates would have the opportunity to present their vision for the future of the Agency. He sought further comments on the short-listing process.

Dr BABBS (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that in a scenario in which the incumbent Director was seeking a second term, it would probably be sufficient to have three candidates. In the event that a new candidate was to be chosen, a choice of five candidates would be more appropriate.

The CHAIRPERSON said that a long list of candidates could be sent to Participating States and a short list, of perhaps five candidates, could be drawn up based on their preferences.

Dr STEVENS (United States of America) said that the guideline adopted in the past had been that interest in short-listing a candidate must be expressed by at least four Participating States. She wished to know whether background and reference checks had been part of the process in the past.

Ms MCKEOUGH (Office of the WHO Legal Counsel) said that no formal reference checks were conducted: each Participating State could conduct its own background checks but, since candidates were usually put forward by Member States, it was assumed that background checks had already been conducted by the proposing States.

Dr DONKER (Netherlands) asked whether a Participating State could share information if it had reason to question the veracity of a curriculum vitae.

Mr COMISKEY (Ireland) said that the selection process appeared to favour candidates from Participating States: he wished to know how the selection process would deal with a candidate who was not from a Participating State.

Ms MCKEOUGH (Office of the WHO Legal Counsel) said that candidates could come from any Member State of WHO or from a non-Member State and they could apply individually for the post. If the option of forming a search committee were chosen then it was true that it would be composed of representatives of Participating States although it did not necessarily follow that they would favour a candidate from a Participating State. There was no reason why Participating States should not share information concerning the curriculum vitae.

Dr BABBS (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that it would be problematic to conduct a reference check in advance of the interview since it would make a candidate's position known to his or her current employer, thereby potentially breaking the bond of trust with the employer as well as the right to anonymity.

The CHAIRPERSON said that he did not recall that reference checks had been conducted in the past since appointments had been made based on the curriculum vitae and on the candidate's status in the field.

Professor MELBYE (Denmark) said that it might be useful to seek the opinion of the Chairperson or of other members of the Scientific Council concerning the scientific status of the final candidates.

Ms MCKEOUGH (Office of the WHO Legal Counsel) said that there would be a practical problem in relation to the timing of the process since there was only a 12-week period between the announcement of the candidatures and the election. There was also a division in the Statute between the roles of the Governing Council and the Scientific Council; the Scientific Council did not have a mandate with respect to the election of the Director.

The CHAIRPERSON wondered whether the Chairperson of the Scientific Council could attend the interviews in an advisory capacity, as an observer.

Ms HERNANDEZ (Canada) said that it would be reasonable to expect references to be provided as part of any job application process.

Dr SCHMEKEL (Sweden) said that she supported Option B with respect to the criteria for appointment. While her Government was a firm supporter of transparency, she favoured the proposal to maintain an anonymous application process since, in her experience of recruiting for senior positions in Sweden, the absence of anonymity discouraged candidates from coming forward. However, she believed that it would be important to obtain references.

The CHAIRPERSON said that, in the United Kingdom, references were customarily sought after the selection process had been concluded: they did not necessarily add value to the selection process since the legal obligations surrounding references meant that they tended to be of a positive nature. Furthermore, referees might not be known to the Governing Council, but they might be close friends of the applicants.

Ms MCKEOUGH (Office of the WHO Legal Counsel) said that since it appeared that there would not be a working group, it would be for the Governing Council to determine how and when references were checked and how the general wish for anonymity would be retained. She expected that members of the Governing Council would refer to the opinions of members of the Scientific Council.

Professor BAGGOLEY (Australia) said that it would not be possible for a candidate to retain anonymity at the point at which employment would be offered since, at that stage, reference and background checks would be required.

Dr DONKER (Netherlands) said that the names of candidates could be published at the short list stage at which point references could be sought.

Mr COMISKEY (Ireland) said that the question of references was problematic given that some candidates could have applied spontaneously, whereas others might have been put forward by Member States. He agreed that it might be beneficial to involve the Chairperson of the Scientific Council in the selection process.

THE RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution on options and proposals regarding the procedure for the election of the Director (GC/58/R11):

The Governing Council,  
Having reviewed Document GC/58/14 "Options and proposals regarding the procedure for the election of the Director",  
Noting that a consistent set of procedures would benefit the process for selection of the Director of the Agency,

1. THANKS the Office of the Legal Counsel, WHO and the IARC Secretariat for their report;
2. REQUESTS the Secretariat to report back to the Governing Council at its Fifty-ninth session in May 2017 with specific proposals, reflecting the views expressed by the Governing Council during its Fifty-eighth session, for decision by the Governing Council at its Fifty-ninth session; and
3. NOTES that, depending on the decisions of the Governing Council concerning the selection of the Director at its Fifty-ninth session, amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council may be required.

The resolution was **adopted**.

**2. REQUESTS FOR USE OF FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SPECIAL FUND:  
Item 21 of the Agenda**

**A. SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT – MEDIUM-TERM SUPPORT TO THE BIOBANK**  
(Document GC/58/18A)

Dr MENDY (Head, Laboratory Services and Biobank Group), illustrating her remarks with slides, said that the granting of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund would enable the Agency to replace ageing equipment, especially with respect to the liquid nitrogen tanks and freezers used in the Biobank. The investment would enable the Agency to accommodate new samples.

Professor MELBY (Denmark) said that the equipment proposed was fairly old-fashioned and that modern laboratories would tend to purchase automated equipment.

Dr MENDY (Head, Laboratory Services and Biobank Group) said that the equipment proposed would enable the Agency to wait until the new building was ready: automated equipment could be purchased after the move.

Dr STEVENS (United States of America) asked how much money would remain in the Fund after the purchases had been approved. She wished to know whether there was a cost recovery plan with respect to the storage of samples from European countries or for States that were not members of IARC.

Dr MENDY (Head, Laboratory Services and Biobank Group) said that some cost recovery arrangements were in place but not with respect to the storage of samples.

Ms SANTHIPRECHACHIT (Administration and Finance Officer), speaking at the invitation of the CHAIRPERSON, said that an information document (GC/58/Inf.Doc. No.2) had been circulated showing the balance of funds in the Governing Council Special Fund. Projections had been shown from 2016 to 2019. The closing balance in the fund, before deduction of the current request, was €9.7 million; the present request was to spend €492 500 over a period of three years.

Dr SOLAAS (Norway) agreed that the Biobank was critical and agreed to the request to spend €492 500 over the coming three years. She shared the views expressed by the representative of Denmark and was pleased to learn that automated equipment would be purchased for the new building.

THE RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution on the request for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund: A. Scientific equipment – medium-term support to the Biobank (GC/58/R15):

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed Document GC/58/18A "Request for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund: A. Scientific Equipment – Medium-term support to the Biobank",

Noting that the Scientific Council supported the request for purchase of scientific equipment (Document GC/58/4),

AUTHORIZES the Director to use up to a maximum of €492 500 from the Governing Council Special Fund over a period of three years (2016–2018), subject to there being sufficient cash balances available in the Fund, for the acquisition of the following scientific equipment:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Quantity</b>	<b>2016 Budget</b>	<b>2017 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Budget</b>
Automatic LN2 tank	1	112 000		
Liquid nitrogen tank	5	90 000	60 000	
Liquid nitrogen piping	1	40 000		
-80°C freezers	12	44 000	44 000	44 000
-40°C freezers	3	2 200	2 200	2 200
Racks	216	10 800	10 800	10 800
Monitoring system for freezers	15	1 500	1 500	1 500
Monitoring system for LN2 tanks	50	7 500	7 500	
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>308 000</b>	<b>126 000</b>	<b>58 500</b>
<b>Total 2016–2018</b>		<b>492 500</b>		

The resolution was **adopted**.

#### **B. UPGRADES TO IARC PREMISES SECURITY SYSTEMS** (Document GC/58/18B)

Ms FRANÇON (Administrative Services Officer) said that following the terrorist attacks in France in 2015, the United Nations Security Management Team for France had identified four priorities: the review and strengthening of access controls; a robust system for contacting personnel during an emergency; the identification of focal points for security information; and the personal security of all personnel and their families. IARC had followed the recommendations and worked closely with the authorities in Lyon in order to ensure that appropriate action was taken. The Governing Council was requested to approve the use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund in order to carry out the improvement plan detailed in Document GC/58/18B which had been established following security reviews.

Dr STEVENS (United States of America) commended IARC on conducting the security reviews and its development of a physical security improvement plan. The United States Government did not object to the use of the funds as requested.

THE RAPPOREUR read out the following draft resolution on the request for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund: B. Upgrades to IARC premises security systems (GC/58/R16):

The Governing Council,

Having considered Document GC/58/18B "Request for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund: B. Upgrades to IARC premises security systems – Physical security improvement plan",

Noting the vulnerabilities of IARC security systems, the recommendations from the external global security review led by the French Police on IARC premises, the minimum security measures of European UN premises established by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), and IARC's consolidated physical security improvement plan,

1. AUTHORIZES the Director to use up to a maximum of €120 000 from the Governing Council Special Fund, subject to there being sufficient cash balances available in the Fund, to fund additional and necessary security measures, as summarized in the table in Document GC/58/18B; and
2. REQUESTS the Director to report on the use of these funds at the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council.

The resolution was **adopted**.

### **3. GUIDANCE ON NOMINATIONS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEMBERS: Item 22 of the Agenda** (Document GC/58/19)

The SECRETARY said that, when the Governing Council appointed new members of the Scientific Council, it did not always have a complete picture of the skills which the new members needed in order to complement the existing members. In the past, the Secretariat had consulted Participating States in an effort to identify candidates with the necessary skills. It now asked outgoing Scientific Council members to suggest suitable replacements: it would be possible to begin the process even before the member's final Scientific Council session, so that the Governing Council could be informed about potential new members well in advance. The Secretariat had further encouraged Participating States to nominate two candidates rather than one, and to submit information about the candidates in good time for consideration by the Governing Council. Document GC/58/19 showed the fields of expertise of the current and outgoing members, and their terms of office.

The CHAIRPERSON, supported by the RAPPOREUR, speaking in her capacity as Representative of Switzerland, and by the SECRETARY, noted that, since the document showed which members were due to leave the Scientific Council soon, it would be possible to take preliminary steps, such

as identifying potential new members and ascertaining their willingness to serve, even before the Scientific Council session each January.

Dr SCHMEKEL (Sweden) emphasized the importance of ensuring an appropriate gender balance on the Scientific Council, perhaps by encouraging Participating States to nominate one woman and one man.

Dr BABBS (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) noted that it was not always a question of appointing members with exactly the same skills as their predecessors: changes in the Agency's mandate and the requirements of the Medium-Term Strategy might create a need for different skills.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL (*closed session*): Item 23 of the Agenda** (Document GC/58/20)

The Governing Council met in closed session from 11:35 to 12:50. On resumption of the public session, the RAPPORTEUR read out the following resolution, **adopted** by the Governing Council in the closed session, on the appointment of new members of the Scientific Council (GC/58/R17):

The Governing Council,

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

1. APPOINTS

Dr Adèle Green, Australia )

Dr Roberto Salgado, Belgium )

Dr Atsushi Ochiai, Japan ) to serve for four years on the Scientific Council

Dr Pilar Sánchez Gómez, Spain )

Dr Simon Tavaré, UK )

2. THANKS the outgoing members of the Scientific Council, Drs Nuria Aragonés, James Bishop, Nicholas Jones, Christos Sotiriou and Teruhiko Yoshida, for their valuable work in the Scientific Council and for the contribution which they have made to the research activities of the Agency.

**5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ADMISSION OF NEW PARTICIPATING STATES: Item 24 of the Agenda**

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Membership of the Subcommittee on the admission of new Participating States" (GC/58/R18):

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,

Recalling its Resolution GC/53/R20 deciding that the number of members and composition of the Subcommittee shall be agreed upon at each regular session of the Governing 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, Italy, Spain and Sweden who shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council.

The resolution was **adopted**.

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Item 25 of the Agenda**

There was no other business.

**7. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR NEXT SESSION: Item 26 of the Agenda**

**Professor BAGGOLEY (Australia), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.**

On the proposal of Dr ROBBINS (Canada), Dr Palmer (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) was unanimously re-elected as Chairperson of the Governing Council, the proposal being seconded by Professor ESKOLA (Finland).

**Dr Palmer resumed the Chair.**

On the proposal of Dr ROBBINS (Canada), Professor Melbye (Denmark) was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairperson, the proposal being seconded by Dr BABBS (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

## **8. DATE OF NEXT SESSION: Item 27 of the Agenda**

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Date of the Fifty-ninth session of the Governing Council" (GC/58/R19):

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 2017; and
2. REQUESTS the Director to inform members of the Council as soon as these dates are known.

The resolution was **adopted**.

## **9. CLOSURE OF SESSION: Item 28 of the Agenda**

The CHAIRPERSON thanked the Director and his staff for their hard work in preparing for the session, and paid tribute to his Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur.

The SECRETARY thanked members for their contributions to the session and the interest they had shown in the early-morning information meeting on the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR), which had been greatly appreciated by the staff. He called upon members to look out for potential sources of financing for GICR. He thanked the officers of the Governing Council and the outgoing Chairperson of the Scientific Council for their many contributions to the work of the Agency. In closing, he thanked his staff for their hard work and paid tribute to Ms McKeough of the WHO Office of the Legal Counsel, who was attending her last session after many years of providing legal advice for the Governing Council.

The CHAIRPERSON declared the session closed.

**The meeting rose at 13:09.**