

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. The Fifty-first Session of the Governing Council was held in Lyon on 14–15 May 2009. The Chairperson, Dr Lars Hanssen (Norway) welcomed all the participants. The Secretary, Dr Christopher Wild, extended a warm welcome to participants on behalf of the Agency. Professor Pekka Puska (Finland) was elected Vice-Chairperson. Dr Mark Palmer (UK) was elected Rapporteur.

Interim Annual Report (2008)

2. The 2008 Interim Annual Report, which had been prepared by the previous Director, described the impressive body of research which the Agency produced, amounting to around one publication every day in 2008.

3. The Governing Council expressed its satisfaction with the work accomplished.

Director's Report

4. For the first time, the Director's report had been submitted to Governing Council members in writing and in advance. In his first 100 days as Director, his initial impressions about the relevance of the Agency's mission and the exceptional dedication of its staff had been confirmed. The Agency's activities were of international importance, particularly for prevention and early detection of cancer in low-resource countries. It also had a major role to play as the coordinator of large, international research initiatives which would achieve the large study sizes required and in times of financial constraint the cooperation the Agency could foster would avoid duplication and waste of resources. However, there was clearly a need for organizational reform.

5. Since taking up the post of Director in January 2009, he had restructured the scientific activities of the Agency. The old cluster structure had been replaced by 10 Sections with a clear leadership and the potential for more interdisciplinary work. The new structure gave a higher profile to some of the most important areas of the Agency's work, including cancer registration and the Monographs series. A new Section of Biomarkers sought to translate laboratory techniques into tools which could be applied in population studies. Prevention and detection activities had been brought together in a single section. The Cabinet had been replaced by a Senior Leadership Team (SLT), to which all staff had access via Section Heads, plus an Operational Team (IOT) consisting of the Heads of the support services and one Section Head.

A laboratory working group had been appointed to report on the modernization of laboratory equipment and organization of laboratory activities in all Groups.

6. The Agency now numbered 283 staff, including 62 at professional level with 48 of these being scientific staff. The new Director of Administration and Finance, Dr Hichem Lafif, would take up his duties on 22 June 2009. The recruitment of three new Heads of Section was under way. Four professional staff and six general service staff had left the Agency since his arrival. Attracting high-calibre staff was certainly a challenge: he intended to pursue recruitment actively through a number of avenues.

7. The first Agency Staff Day would take place on 11 June 2009, organized by professional teambuilding experts. It aimed to bring staff from all sections and grades together to increase mutual understanding and reflect on their work.

8. A number of improvements had been made to the Agency's buildings, including reinforced glass windows and restricted external access to the basement. In the first part of 2009, videoconferencing facilities had been installed, as well as a new meeting room, named after a former Director, Lorenzo Tomatis, and a staff room.

9. One of the major highlights of the Agency's work in the past year had been the publication of the results of a cluster-randomized trial of over 131 000 women in Osmanabad, India, which had shown a 48% reduction in advanced cervical cancers and cervical cancer deaths after a single round of testing for human papillomavirus (HPV). It had been a major multicentre trial of the kind particularly suited to an international body such as the Agency, and its results had major implications for cervical cancer screening worldwide. The review of Group 1 carcinogens conducted during the preparation of Vol. 100 of the Monographs series had revealed new links between exposure to asbestos and ovarian cancer, and between Epstein-Barr virus and gastric cancer. Research into methodology had identified new tools for use in population-wide studies, such as the isolation and testing of circulating DNA in plasma.

10. The INTERPHONE study on links between mobile phone use and brain tumours had been completed in 2006, but the data had never been published. However, the Director had made this a priority and the study group had now reached agreement, and the report would soon be submitted for publication.

11. The current backlog in the publication of IARC Monographs was a major concern. The 100th volume in the Monograph series was a special edition presenting updated evidence about all previously identified Group 1 carcinogens. The Agency had made greater efforts to include representatives of industry as observers in the Monograph meetings, but had also tightened up the regulations governing their involvement.

12. The fourth edition of *Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues*, in the WHO Classification of Tumours Series ("Blue Books") had sold over 20 000 copies in three months. Vol. IX of *Cancer Incidence in Five Continents* had required some editorial corrections and was now scheduled to be published in July 2009.

13. The Agency had received voluntary contributions (mostly in the form of external grant funding) worth US\$ 4 million for the period 2008–2009. The major sources were the European Commission and the United States of America. Voluntary contributions had decreased in 2008, although some contracts had merely been delayed and would be signed soon. He did not feel

that the Agency's ability to obtain competitive funding was declining generally. Negotiations were currently under way to secure European Union funding for the International Fellowships Programme, to a value of € 0.84 million.

14. The Director planned to review the objectives, content, leadership and funding of the education and training programme, which was a core responsibility of the Agency.

15. A number of major scientific meetings had taken place at the Agency during 2008 and early 2009. The Agency had built up an excellent working partnership with WHO headquarters: a joint meeting on the Global Burden of Disease had been held at the Agency in January 2009, and collaboration on tobacco control and the "Blue Books" series continued.

16. The role of biostatistics in the Agency had been under discussion for many years. At present, he was consulting the Agency's own biostatisticians about the relative merits of establishing a separate biostatistics section or deploying biostatisticians in individual research groups. As with laboratory capacity, there was the potential to make use of the existing biostatistics capacity of the city of Lyon, as well as in the field of bioinformatics. He hoped to bring his proposals before the Scientific Council at its next meeting in January 2010.

17. The Governing Council expressed its satisfaction with the Director's written and oral reports.

Address by the Director-General, WHO

18. Dr Ala Alwan (Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO), speaking on behalf of the WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, said that a notable feature of the current swine influenza pandemic was the number of people affected who were already suffering from underlying chronic conditions. As the situation evolved, the world might well learn some striking lessons about the need to do more to prevent and treat chronic diseases, including cancer, and to invest more in research.

19. He welcomed the Director's emphasis on the need to monitor the cancer burden, which could usefully be linked to the WHO global information system. The Agency must establish strategic leadership in cancer registration in order to provide a consistent picture of cancer trends which would enable WHO Member States to plan and monitor their national cancer control programmes.

20. The Agency's work was particularly valuable for the implementation of Objective 4 (research) of the Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2008. The Action Plan emphasized the importance of evidence to support noncommunicable disease prevention and control strategies and the urgent need for more work on translational research. WHO headquarters, the Agency, international experts and WHO Collaborating Centres were finalizing a draft cancer control research agenda which would summarize research priorities and guide collaboration between basic research and public health policy, as well as addressing the need to expand the current evidence base in order to scale up appropriate health interventions.

21. He welcomed the high level of coordination which had developed between the Agency and the Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health Cluster and Information, Evidence and

Research Cluster at WHO headquarters in the short time since the Director's arrival. Joint activities had been initiated to implement Objective 6 of the Action Plan, which aimed to monitor noncommunicable diseases and their determinants and evaluate progress at national, regional and global levels. The first report on the global status of prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases would be submitted to the World Health Assembly in 2010.

22. Further evidence about nutritional risk factors for cancer was urgently needed if the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health was to be effectively translated into public health practice. It was also of public health interest to know more about the interaction between genes and environmental risk, including biomarkers for the assessment and definition of genetic and environmental causes of cancer.

23. He welcomed the Agency's involvement in tobacco control activities in collaboration with the WHO Tobacco Free Initiative, including research into taxation of tobacco products and the activities of the WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation (TobReg).

24. The Agency's new emphasis on expertise in the social and behavioural sciences was particularly welcome in relation to integration of preventive approaches into health systems, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The Agency had contributed greatly to important new areas of prevention, such as the estimation of human papillomavirus prevalence worldwide for the development and monitoring of large-scale vaccination strategies. Pragmatic, low-technology approaches such as visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) screening for cervical cancer were also highly beneficial to low- and middle-income countries.

25. The Governing Council's emphasis on translational research was fully consistent with the Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases. WHO hoped to produce specific recommendations on strengthening of national capacity to address noncommunicable diseases by the end of 2009. Those measures would not be implemented by WHO itself, but by other stakeholders, including WHO Collaborating Centres.

Report of the Forty-fifth Session of the Scientific Council

Director's response to recommendations of the Scientific Council

26. Professor Siemiatycki, Outgoing Chairperson of the Scientific Council, noted that the Forty-fifth Session of the Scientific Council in January 2009 had taken place only three weeks after the new Director had taken up his post. The Scientific Council has taken note of a number of reports submitted by the previous Director, but had not asked his successor to respond to its concerns.

27. In the past, the Scientific Council had reviewed one research cluster per year, in a five-year cycle. It would need to review that practice in the light of the reorganization of the Agency's research activities into 10 sections. The Scientific Council had discussed and endorsed the very positive review of the Molecular Carcinogenesis Cluster, conducted in November 2008.

28. The Director had said that he wished to submit proposals on a number of areas of the Agency's activities: organizational structure, new priorities, the ethics review process, the Medium-Term Strategy and the Proposed Programme Budget for 2010–2011. Since the Director had had no time to prepare detailed proposals for consideration by the Scientific Council, the

latter had agreed that he should submit them directly to the current session of the Governing Council.

29. The role of the Scientific Council had never been completely clear. In his own opinion, the Council existed to advise the Director and Governing Council on the Agency's performance and its future plans. He hoped that a clearer mechanism could be established by which the talent and competence it embodied could be used as effectively as possible.

30. Dr Comber, Incoming Chairperson of the Scientific Council, said that the progress made since the Scientific Council meeting in January justified the confidence which the Council had placed in the new Director. The Council had a number of concerns about education and training within the Agency, and hoped that a new strategy would be developed. It was also concerned that the Molecular Carcinogenesis Group might suffer from the creation of a separate Section of Biomarkers.

31. The Director said that he greatly valued the contribution of the Scientific Council. He had taken a number of steps in response to the Council's recommendations. Many of the activities formerly covered by the Biostatistics and Epidemiology Cluster had been moved to the new Section of Cancer Information. The recruitment process for the Head of the new Section was under way. Information Technology Services had been moved to the Division of Administration and Finance. The Radiation Group had been moved to the Section of Environment, and the post of Head of the Group was now financed from the regular budget. The Nutrition and Database Resource team would form part of the new Section of Nutrition and Metabolism, for which a new Head was also being recruited. Other Groups from the former Biostatistics and Epidemiology Cluster had been moved to the new Section of Early Detection and Prevention. He felt that the new structure was more logical.

32. Turning to the review of the former Molecular Carcinogenesis Cluster, he hoped that the Section of Biomarkers would create synergies with the work of the Molecular Carcinogenesis Group. The Scientific Council's review had highlighted the importance of the Agency's Biobank: the Council had recommended that more staff should be employed in order to relieve senior scientists of the responsibility for day-to-day administration of the BioBank. The Scientific Council had supported his proposed activities in the field of epigenetics in relation to exposure to risk factors. He intended to deploy a scientist to investigate the use of biomarkers in epigenetic population studies.

33. Professor Siemiatycki said that no one wanted the Scientific Council merely to "rubber-stamp" the proposals presented to it. However, it should not interfere with the legitimate functions of the Director or the Governing Council, either. The Scientific Council's role should be explicitly defined by means of an amendment to the Statute or a written understanding between itself and the Director. One problem was that members of the Scientific Council served for only four years, and the Chairperson for two years at the most, which made it difficult to establish a close working relationship with the Director. Nevertheless, the Scientific Council had been impressed by the new Director's openness and willingness to collaborate.

34. Dr Comber said that the Scientific Council had no desire to interfere in the scientific agenda of the Agency, but it did wish to be involved at an early stage in strategic decisions with long-term consequences. Its capacity for oversight was limited, since it met only once per year.

More regular contact between the Director, the Chairperson of the Scientific Council and the Chairperson of the Governing Council were planned for the future. He also hoped that individual Scientific Council members would be involved in areas in which they possessed expertise. The report of the Governing Council Subcommittee on the Role and Responsibilities of the Scientific Council (Resolution GC/50/R14, annex) was a legal, formalistic document which provided little scope for a constructive solution. However, the Director seemed very willing to address the Scientific Council's concerns.

35. The Director said that, on reading the report of the Governing Council Subcommittee, he had been concerned that it might be interpreted as giving too much influence to the Scientific Council. However, he sought a closer working relationship between the administration and the Scientific Council. The Council might, for instance, be involved in the activities of advisory groups, be in more frequent contact with the Director and the Chairperson of the Governing Council.

36. He greatly valued the experience and advice of the Scientific Council and its evaluation of earlier decisions, but he himself bore the final responsibility for decision-making. For instance, it would be difficult for the Agency to operate if decisions such as the purchase of laboratory equipment required the approval of the Scientific Council. However, it would be entirely appropriate for the Scientific Council to be involved in discussions about possible investments in expensive equipment in a new area of research. The Scientific Council should contribute to the evaluation of new ideas and project areas, with the Director free to manage activities in the chosen areas as he saw fit.

37. It was suggested that the teleconference between the Director and the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Council already scheduled for 1 July 2009 should be expanded to include the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Scientific Council.

38. Dr Harford (USA) agreed that rules for the relationship between the Director and the Scientific Council were not enough: goodwill was required too. He was optimistic that the relationship between the two had improved. He welcomed the Director's response to the review of the former Biostatistics and Epidemiology Cluster and supported the renewed emphasis on cancer registration in low- and middle-income countries. The establishment of a dedicated Section of IARC Monographs was a commendable move. One potential problem with the new organizational structure was that some groups might not be reviewed again for some time. In respect of the former Pathogenesis and Prevention Cluster, he suggested that more emphasis should be placed on specific diagnostic tools in low-resource settings and on the evaluation of screening techniques, particularly in countries where no cancer registry existed.

39. He asked whether the BioBank would be available to scientists outside the Agency. The Director replied that data from the BioBank were certainly not restricted to Agency scientists, since they often came from multicentre studies: however, there should be clear rules for governance and access.

40. Dr Palmer (UK) said that the Governing Council relied upon the Scientific Council to give an assessment of the quality of the Agency's work, which members could use to justify their country's membership of the Agency with their own governments. In the past, the Scientific Council's assessments had not gone into sufficient detail about the cluster reviews, for example,

and did not indicate the rating they had given each Cluster. The Director said that the full cluster evaluations were available to Governing Council members, but they were extremely detailed and a summary would be needed as well.

41. Dr Comber said that the Scientific Council was faced with considerable time constraints and had to adopt its report before the end of the session. Often, the report did not adequately reflect the high quality of the debate. In future, it would be better to leave drafting the report until after the session.

42. The Scientific Council recognized the need for creativity and initiative in the management of the scientific programme. It would not seek to usurp the Director's role and would not interfere with the running of the Agency at an operational level.

43. The Governing Council congratulated the members of the Scientific Council for their constructive and excellent work and commended the Director for his constructive responses to the recommendations of the Forty-fifth Session of the Scientific Council.

Unaudited Interim Financial Report for the year 2008

44. In 2008, the regular budget had been US\$ 22.351 million and the rate of collection had been 87.84%; the shortfall of US\$ 2.7 million had been covered by a temporary transfer from the Working Capital Fund which had been restored to it once the contributions had been received in 2009. The Working Capital Fund had therefore been restored to the approved level of US\$ 4.6 million in 2009.

45. The average United Nations exchange rate during the year had been lower than the rate used for the approved programme budget by 16.2%. Consequently, the Agency had suffered a significant exchange rate loss, US\$ 2.245 million of which had been covered from the Governing Council Special Fund, while other losses had been absorbed by keeping vacant posts unfilled and reducing some activities. The uncommitted balance of the Governing Council Special Fund had been US\$ 0.7 million at the end of 2008; a hiatus funding facility, would allow expenditure not exceeding US\$ 500 000 subject to an adequate cash balance in the Fund.

46. The Voluntary Contributions account stood at US\$ 7.7 million. The total advances from the loan facility of the Governing Council Special Fund stood at US\$ 2.9 million and US\$ 0.9 million had been temporarily advanced from undesignated contributions to commence projects. As all income would be recognized in the future on an accrual basis in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), it was planned to recover the funds in 2009. At 31 December 2008, the account balance had been US\$ 8.9 million.

47. Adoption of the euro should reduce the losses suffered by the Agency as a result of exchange rate fluctuations.

48. The Governing Council approved the Unaudited Interim Financial Report for the year 2008 on the financial operations of the Agency.

Proposed Programme (2010–2013) and Budget (2010–2011)

49. Budget proposals had been drawn up by Cluster Heads and submitted to the Cabinet in September 2008 (i.e. under the previous administration); the Scientific Council had reviewed them in January 2009 and had recommended them for adoption by the Governing Council given that the new Director had flexibility to assign funds differently. The document presented was an integrated budget that included the regular budget, which was financed from assessed contributions from Participating States. It also gave conservative estimates of voluntary contributions and programme support cost expenditure.

50. After discussion, there was general agreement on the adoption of the budget for the biennium 2010–2011 at the level of € 37 911 000.

Financial implications of the acceptance of new Participating States

51. After discussion of this item, there was a consensus that, when a new Participating State joined the Agency, no Participating State would have an increase and some would have a slight decrease in their contributions. It was explained that 70% of IARC's total budget was divided equally among Participating States; the remaining 30% of the budget was allocated according to a unit system whereby 52 units were divided between countries according to their assessed ability to pay. Most speakers were also in favour of the gradual increase in contributions for new States. The Governing Council could, at its discretion, alter the rules to allow for a slower increase in contributions in the case of individual countries.

52. Discussions by the previous administration had been under way with three potential new Participating States: China, Brazil and Portugal. It was important to decide whether any restrictions should be placed on the number of new Participating States, whether equitable geographical distribution should be observed and whether any conditions for membership should be imposed. The Director called upon the Governing Council Subcommittee on the Admission of New Participating States for guidance in those matters and the strategy in general behind the Agency's search for new Participating States.

53. The Governing Council decided to maintain the method by which contributions to the budget are assessed, to maintain the gradual increase of contributions for new Participating States and the principle that no Participating State shall have an increase in its contribution as a consequence of the admission of a new Participating State.

Report of the Working Group to Examine Infrastructure Projects

54. The Governing Council recommended, after discussion, that IARC continues its negotiations with the City of Lyon and the host country to provide adequate means in their respective budgets for 2010 onwards for the works mentioned in the table "Infrastructure maintenance projects" (see Document GC/51/10 Corr.1; page 2) and that the Director elaborates a capital master plan based on his vision of the future activities of the Agency, which should include options for financing, e.g. by host country, the City of Lyon, public institutions, foundations, Participating States and other States.

Statement by the IARC Staff Association

55. Ms ASANTE, Chairperson of the IARC Staff Association, thanked Governing Council members for the interest they had shown in the Staff Association's activities. She wished to convey to the Director the appreciation of staff for having made the proceedings of the Governing Council available for staff, as they had requested that for some time. The Staff Association had experienced difficulties for several years, having no committee at all between 2007 and 2008 due to a lack of candidates. Since 2007, the staff had adapted to major organizational changes, including the election of a new Director, the implementation of a new management system (SAP), a reorganization of the Agency, which had been finalized in mid-April 2009, and the global economic downturn.

56. Given the financial uncertainty, staff had been pleased that the Director had indicated he would not turn to workforce reductions unless absolutely necessary. The continued effects of implementation of the SAP system was also a major worry to staff. The Staff Association believed a forum should be created for staff to discuss the problems inherent in the system and possible solutions, as that would go a long way towards resolving tensions.

57. The Staff Association congratulated the Director for the initiatives he had taken since joining the Agency, including increasing communication with staff and asking for, and listening to, their ideas. Staff who understood and felt a part of the Agency were highly motivated and willing to give their utmost to help it to succeed. The new dialogue had given staff a chance to work on many issues, including increasing the transparency of administrative procedures, improving communication between the scientific and the administrative sectors, creating an atmosphere of ethical responsibility and enhancing training and quality of work. The 2007 Staff Climate Survey had indicated much concern about bureaucracy, fairness and the perceived divide between General Service and Professional staff. 12% of staff had also experienced harassment. Those issues had not been addressed by the previous Administration. It was to be hoped that the 2009 survey would yield more positive results. Staff Association members were working hard to encourage interactions between staff and to make the Association accessible.

58. In his first speech to staff, Dr Wild had said that he hoped staff would look on their stay at IARC as one of the best times of their lives. The Association welcomed that noble goal and hoped to achieve it with the support of the Governing Council.

59. The Director, in response, said that an effective Staff Association was essential to the Agency and he thanked the Committee members who had taken on that additional commitment on top of their normal workload. The results of both the 2007 and the 2009 surveys showed that there was a need to generate better understanding and respect between the Scientific and the Administrative parts of the Agency. Those issues would take time to change. He would seek to involve staff in finding solutions to the problems raised. He had instituted regular meetings between himself, the departments of Human Resources and Administration and the Staff Association. He had also set up the "Director's open door" once a month, with open appointments for any member of staff who wished to raise problems and propose solutions. His aim would be not to deny problems but to seek solutions through dialogue. He echoed the importance of the survey results and the serious concerns expressed on harassment; he would work together with the Staff Association and Human Resources on that problem. Overall, he had found the working atmosphere to be a positive one.

60. The Governing Council asked the Director and the Staff Association to focus on harassment in the year ahead as it would wish to learn what specific measures had been taken at its next meeting. It was important that even in times of financial crisis, the Agency should take care of its staff. The Council had been glad to see that staff had once again taken up the challenge of running the Staff Association.

Requests for funds from the Governing Council Special Fund

A. Publications

61. Since its inception, it had been part of IARC's mission and strategic objectives to disseminate information and to generate sufficient income to sustain its publishing activity. In recent years, the majority of sales income had been derived from one series of publications: the *WHO Classification of Tumours* ("Blue Books"). Although the commercial success of that series had made it possible to produce less commercially viable, but highly relevant, publications, IARC needed to identify more resources to sustain its publishing activity. In order to collect more funds, a higher percentage of royalties was being renegotiated with WHO Press. Additionally, the Governing Council was requested to agree to a higher return of proceeds from the Governing Council Special Fund to the Publications programme.

62. The Governing Council authorized the Director to draw 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 to the Publications programme, subject to there being sufficient cash balances available in the Fund and requested the Director to report on an annual basis on Publications activities.

B. Upgrading of telephone and sound systems

63. It had been established that there was no need to install some of the new security systems and it was therefore proposed to use the savings made as a result to partially fund urgent projects to replace the outdated sound system in the Auditorium and to upgrade the telephone exchange, which was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain. There was no need to replace the equipment for simultaneous interpretation as it could be hired cost-effectively.

64. Therefore, noting the urgent need to upgrade the current central telephone exchange system and to replace the sound system for the Auditorium, the Governing Council authorized the Director to draw supplementary funding for the upgrading of the telephone and sound systems of up to US\$ 282 000 from the Governing Council Special Fund, subject to availability of an adequate balance in the fund.

Discussion of IARC future strategy and activities

65. The Director presented the context and priorities of the scientific strategy, which had been presented to, and had received general support from, the Scientific Council in January 2009.

66. On the question of IARC's role, one of the basic features of the Agency had been the interdisciplinary nature of its research, which combined laboratory sciences with epidemiology. There

was a general recognition that to conduct high-quality population-based research, laboratory support was essential. One of the strengths of the Agency was its ability to promote collaborative research internationally and that activity should be continued. The Agency had always had a focus on research in low- and middle-income countries. Research should provide the evidence base for public health decisions on cancer and be of the highest quality. The projected increase in cancer occurrence over the next 50 years, especially in less-developed regions, demonstrated the growing need for an international cancer research agency. The Agency should also continue to develop key relationships with national cancer research agencies, particularly with those from Participating States. Partnerships with WHO and the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) were also of benefit.

67. There were five core priorities for the Agency: to describe cancer occurrence; to establish the causes of cancer; to evaluate cancer risks; to develop and evaluate prevention; and education and training. The Agency would review its education and training activities and integrate them in an overall plan in key areas such as cancer registration, prevention and epidemiology, possibly introducing distance-learning modules. He wished to explore the possibility of extending training fellowships through bilateral agreements with Participating States, perhaps instituting training fellowships that could be hosted in the Agency on projects in low- and middle-resource countries as that would strengthen research in those areas of the world and inspire young researchers to spend their careers in international health and cancer research. The dissemination of publications was also part of knowledge transfer and education.

68. The Director believed there was a great need for cancer research in Africa but supported by specific and measureable targets to ensure that investment was effective. He proposed five areas for cancer etiology and prevention on the continent as well as increased training. It would be his goal within 10 years to welcome an African Participating State to the Agency.

69. In response to comments made, the Director said that it was possible for the Agency to adopt an ambitious plan and broad scope of work because of the number of collaborative projects it was able to embark upon. His presentation had focused on new areas, but research on existing projects, including work on alcohol and smokeless tobacco, would continue. He took the point that epigenetics would need to be based on good basic science and IARC did have existing expertise in that field. There were distinct risk factors for different chronic diseases and therefore the cancer agenda could and should not be simplified to a set of common risk factors across diseases. He did not want to limit the Agency to work in low- and middle-income countries, nor did he wish to create a research Group devoted to Africa, but Africa was the area in which there was the least amount of cancer research; he would like to work on quality research that was within the medium-term strategic plan. By highlighting work in Africa, the Agency might be able to raise its profile, which would help to bring other partners and leverage external funding.

70. The Governing Council was grateful for the input of the Director and members on that item.

Process to define and endorse IARC Medium-Term Strategy and Implementation Plan for 2010–2014

71. This point is covered in document SC/46/4.

Biennial Report of the Ethics Review Committee (ERC), 2007–2008

Proposed changes to IARC Ethics Review Committee (ERC)/ IARC Institutional Review Board (IRB) Structure

72. Mr PASTERK (Scientific Coordination Office) presented the biennial report of the Ethics Review Committee in the absence of the Chairperson, Dr Byrne. For the past four years, the Agency had had a two-tier ethics review system: the Institutional Review Board, which met regularly in Lyon, and the Ethics Review Committee, which met twice a year in various WHO regions and sought to guarantee international consistency in ethical matters and reconcile different regional practices. The report listed the topics which the Ethics Review Committee had discussed. It also contained the report of the Institutional Review Board, which had considered 35 research proposals over the previous year.

73. The Governing Council thanked the outgoing Chairperson of the ERC, Dr David Byrne, for this Report and requested the Director to continue reporting biennially on issues related to ethics at the Agency.

74. The Director proposed changes to the current two-tier (ERC/IRB) ethics review system at IARC: the two-tier structure introduced in 2005 had improved operational procedures and documentation of the ethical review process. However, it consumed considerable resources, and he felt that it was no longer the most appropriate system. After consultations with the Chairpersons of both bodies, the WHO Research Ethics Review Committee and the Scientific Council, he now proposed to have a single body, the Institutional Review Board. The new structure would be introduced in January 2010.

75. The Governing Council endorsed the Director's proposal to establish a single committee "The IARC Institutional Review Board (IRB)", with a modified membership from the current IRB (i.e. 12 members from diverse backgrounds: an independent Chair and Vice-Chair (both external), three members of IARC staff and seven additional members external to the Agency). The Governing Council decided that the appointments to the new IRB will be made by the Chairperson of the Governing Council and thanked the outgoing members of the "Ethics Review Committee (ERC)" for their guiding role, views and advice in ensuring that international consistency and completeness in ethical approval be achieved.

Acceptance of donations

76. The monetary donations or bequests from private individuals amounted to US\$ 291 610 during the current year.

77. The Governing Council expressed its deep appreciation to the donors for their generous contribution to the research activities of the Agency.

Acceptance of Grants and Contracts

78. The Governing Council noted the post facto reporting of grants and contracts accepted by the Director and commended the staff on its success in winning competitive research grants.

Membership of the Subcommittee on the Admission of New Participating States

79. The Governing Council decided 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 UK, who shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council.

Appointment of new Members of the Scientific Council (Closed Session)

80. The Governing Council appointed the following new members to serve for four years on the Scientific Council: Dr Giulio Superti-Furga, Austria; Dr Richard Gallagher, Canada and Dr Florence Demenais, France.

81. The Governing Council thanked the outgoing member of the Scientific Council, Professor Jack Siemiatycki, for his valuable work in the Scientific Council and for the contribution which he has made to the research activities of the Agency.

82. Professor AUTRUP (Denmark) called upon the Scientific Council to indicate in future which areas of expertise it would like new members to cover.

Any other business

83. Mr IFLAND (Germany) thanked staff members for their hard work in preparing for the Governing Council session. He was particularly pleased that the documentation had been distributed in good time.

Election of Chairperson for next Session and Date of next Session

84. Professor Hanssen (Norway) was unanimously re-elected Chairperson.

85. The 52nd Governing Council Session will take place in Lyon on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 May 2010.