

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

1. The following is a report in brief format, as requested by the Scientific Council, of the 53rd Session of the Governing Council in relation only to aspects directly related to the work of the Scientific Council. The full Minutes of the Governing Council meetings (GC/53/Min.1–3) are available on the IARC Governance web site (<http://governance.iarc.fr/GC/GC53/index.php>).

Director's Report (see document GC/53/3)

2. The Governing Council was interested to obtain more detail about the spread of co-authorship of publications and research collaborations between IARC and scientists internationally, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. These related also to the two new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which the Governing Council approved based on a recommendation from the Scientific Council. New initiatives have since been taken to explore how to capture this information reliably and to present it in a useful format to the Governing Council as part of its KPIs.

Spain and repayment of its outstanding contributions (see document GC/53/20)

3. Spain proposed a mechanism to repay its outstanding contributions and this was welcomed by the Governing Council. Resolution of this situation was vital in allowing the Agency to fulfil its planned research programme.

Report on the 47th Session of the Scientific Council (see documents GC/53/4 and GC/53/5)

4. The Governing Council members highlighted the need to develop the Agency's biobank procedures and the contribution to international developments in biobanking. The provision of bioinformatics capacity was also discussed.

5. Both the above topics have been the focus of further developments over the last months. The Agency is in the process of drafting access guidelines for its biobank specimens. Bioinformatics provision is discussed further in document SC/48/6.

Proposed Programme (2012–2015) and Budget (2012–2013) (see documents GC/53/6; GC/53/7 and GC/53/7 Summary Tables Revision No.2)

6. The Agency had faced cost increases, mostly as a result of mandatory staff cost increases, such that to maintain the same level of budget would have implied an 11.44% increase. A biennial budget had been proposed with a 3.98% increase, i.e. a total of €39 419 315 representing a cut in real terms in the programme budget of 6.57% and a decrease of 0.89% due to adjustment to the rate of exchange.

7. Several Participating States, however, wanted a zero nominal growth of the budget. The final resolution from the Governing Council approved the requested budget of €39 419 315 but with €1 000 000 charged to the Governing Council Special Fund rather than being through assessments on Participating States.

Plan for future infrastructure projects (including options for financing) (see document GC/53/11)

8. The current high level of risk to the Agency because of the poor state of repair of the IARC tower, including the air handling and air conditioning, was stressed. Based on further analysis in 2011, and discussions with the City of Lyon, the Agency proposed that the Governing Council should consider both the option of renovation of the tower and the option of a new building on a different site.

9. Cooperation with the City of Lyon and the region of “Grand Lyon” is proceeding well and the two options will be presented to the Governing Council at its 54th Session in May 2012.

Requests for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund (see documents GC/53/13A and GC/53/13B)

10. The Governing Council approved the purchase of scientific equipment and the additional support for senior visiting scientists as recommended by the Scientific Council.

Appointment of new members of the Scientific Council (see document GC/53/17)

11. Nine new members were appointed across a range of disciplines complementary to existing members.

Admission of a new Participating State – Turkey (see document GC/53/19)

12. Turkey was admitted as the 22nd Participating State of IARC. This is welcome news in relation to the scientific exchange with the cancer research community in Turkey.