



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

1. The following is a summary report on the 56th Session of the Governing Council restricted to aspects directly related to the work of the Scientific Council. The full Minutes of the Governing Council meeting (GC/56/Min.1–3) are available on the IARC Governance website (<http://governance.iarc.fr/GC/GC56/index.php>).

Biennial Report 2012–2013 and Director’s Report (see documents GC/56/2 and GC/56/3)

2. The Governing Council thanked the Director for the provision of his standard report and expressed its satisfaction with the work accomplished, commending the Director and the Agency’s staff for the progress and achievements described in the Biennial Report.

Report on the 50th Session of the Scientific Council and Director’s Response (see documents GC/56/4 and GC/56/5)

3. The Governing Council expressed its satisfaction with the Scientific Council’s support for the Agency’s work programme and with the Director’s responses to its recommendations.

4. The Governing Council welcomed the Scientific Council’s endorsement of the proposal on the creation of the Tumour Seminar Series and noted the interest raised by the discussion of the three cross-cutting research projects presented by Agency scientists, as well as the support for the re-launch of the *IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention* series.

5. The Scientific Council’s assessment of the scientific merit of the study of chrysotile in the Russian Federation was noted, together with its acknowledgment of the risks associated with this study and support for the measures which had been implemented to mitigate them. The Scientific Council’s recommendation for IARC to withdraw should the study’s scientific integrity be compromised was also noted.

Update on the “Nouveau Centre” project (see document GC/56/10)

6. Progress over the last year on the negotiations between the Secretariat, the Working Group on Infrastructure and representatives of the Agency's hosts (City of Lyon, Grand Lyon and French Government) was presented to the Governing Council.
7. The Governing Council noted the adjusted project scope and commended the Agency, the City of Lyon and the Grand Lyon on the progress achieved during the previous year, thanking the Agency's hosts for the continuing support of the project.
8. The Governing Council acknowledged that discussions on the precise financing were still ongoing and affirmed the need for a timely decision on the concrete financial commitments of the French Government and the local partners.
9. The Governing Council emphasized the importance of IARC being closely involved in the specification and design activities, as well as being engaged in the management of the project and build.
10. Finally, the Governing Council decided to invite two members of the Scientific Council to join the Governing Council Working Group on Infrastructure on the discussions of the detailed specifications and architectural designs for the “Nouveau Centre” project, to provide technical advice to the Working Group on this topic.

Plans for IARC's 50th Anniversary in 2015 (see document GC/56/14)

11. The proposed activities to mark the Agency's 50th anniversary were presented, including: the publication of a short history of IARC; the plans for a symposium and a celebration hosted by the City of Lyon on the day after the next Governing Council meeting; the organization of a major scientific conference in Lyon in June 2016 with a focus on research for cancer prevention. The scientific conference would include a bursary scheme – “50 for 50” – to allow participation of 50 future scientific leaders from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), one for each year of the Agency's history. For these participants the meeting would be preceded by a training programme in scientific leadership.
12. The Governing Council expressed its strong support for the proposals put forward and encouraged the Agency to consider additional outreach initiatives to raise public awareness on the work of IARC and on the importance of cancer prevention.
13. The Governing Council agreed to allocate funds from the Governing Council Special Fund to initiate the development of the plans outlined and endorsed the Director's request that Participating States consider making voluntary contributions to support the organization of the conference or the bursary scheme. The support of Scientific Council members in identifying potential sponsors of the Conference would be welcomed by the Agency.

New proposed structure for presenting IARC's Programme and Budget (see document GC/56/17)

14. The Governing Council endorsed the proposal to adopt a new common structure for the presentation of the Programme and Budget and the IARC Medium-Term Strategy, based on a project-tree framework, which grouped projects and activities in terms of their outcomes and how these contributed to fulfilling the main objectives of the Agency.

15. The Governing Council welcomed this move towards a results-based approach in the presentation of IARC's programme, and acknowledged that this new proposed structure would enable a clearer evaluation of the alignment between the Agency's activities and its strategic priorities.

Request for use of funds from the Governing Council Special Fund (see document GC/56/16A)

16. The Governing Council noted the Scientific Council's support of the plan for sharing equipment between Sections, and its acknowledgment of the importance of obtaining the equipment in a timely manner and of investing in new cutting-edge equipment to maintain IARC's leading scientific role.

17. The Governing Council approved the use of €353 000 for the purchase of scientific equipment as endorsed by the Scientific Council.

Appointment of new members of the Scientific Council (see document GC/56/19)

18. Five new members were appointed across a range of disciplines complementary to existing members:

Dr Ole Raaschou-Nielsen, Denmark

Dr Elisabete Weiderpass-Vainio, Finland

Dr Ellen Kampman, The Netherlands

Dr Martin Rösli, Switzerland

Dr Stephen J. Chanock, USA

Clarification on the procedure for the election of the Director (see document GC/56/20)

19. The Governing Council agreed to defer discussion on the process for election of the IARC Director until May 2016 given the time demands on the Secretariat in preparing the Medium-Term Strategy (2016–2020) and the Nouveau Centre project prior to the 57th Session of the Governing Council in May 2015.