

Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 May 2020

To be held by webconference (due to COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions)

REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF ITS MEMBERSHIP BY A PARTICIPATING STATE AND ITS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – TURKEY

1. At its Sixty-first session, the Governing Council adopted resolution [GC/61/R17](#), taking note of the decision of Turkey to withdraw from IARC with effect from 3 June 2019.
2. In an effort to maintain dialogue and seek alternative ways, the Director and the Director of Administration and Finance, IARC, met with the Deputy Minister of Health of Turkey, Professor Dr Emine Alp Mese, during the World Health Assembly in May 2019, to discuss Turkey's membership of IARC.
3. Subsequently, Professor Emine Alp Mese, Deputy Minister of Health of Turkey, sent a formal letter to the Director-General of WHO, dated 28 May 2019, informing him of Turkey's wish to change their withdrawal request to a three-year suspension. A copy of this letter was received at IARC on 1 June 2019, just before the effective date of Turkey's withdrawal. Hence, Turkey's withdrawal was placed on hold in consultation with the Governing Council Chair.
4. In her letter dated 24 March 2020, the Director, IARC informed Professor Emine Alp Mese, Deputy Minister of Health, that the change of Turkey's withdrawal to a temporary suspension¹ of its IARC membership would be formally discussed at the forthcoming session of the Governing Council.
5. The Governing Council is requested to discuss and decide on the modalities of Turkey's suspension, including in particular with regard to duration; participation in the work of the Agency; accrual of annual membership fees, and payment thereof upon termination of such temporary suspension.

¹ Temporary suspension of membership means that annual membership fees will continue to accumulate, and will have to be paid upon termination of such temporary suspension.