

**Governing Council
Sixty-second Session**

**GC/62/22
06/05/2020**

Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 May 2020

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

SPECIAL PROCEDURES of the 62nd SESSION OF IARC GOVERNING COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

1. According to Rule 4 of Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, *“The Governing Council shall hold at least one regular session a year. It shall determine at each session the time and place of its next session. Notices convening the Governing Council shall be sent by the Director of the Agency, at least six weeks before the commencement of a regular session [...].”*
2. In line with the above Rule, the Governing Council (GC) decided to hold its 62nd session (regular session) in Lyon, France, on the Monday and Tuesday of the week preceding the opening of the World Health Assembly in 2020 (Resolution GC/61/R16); these dates were subsequently determined as 11 and 12 May 2020.
3. However, the current limitations resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic do not allow for face-to-face meetings.
4. In consultation with the GC Chair and Vice-Chair, the Secretariat informed GC Members that the GC 62nd session would be held remotely on 11 and 12 May 2020. This decision is in line with the GC Rules of Procedure, Rule 4 stated in paragraph 1 above. In addition, there is no provision in the IARC Statute and/or in the GC Rules of Procedure that prohibits a remote session or that requires a physical session of the GC.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

5. The IARC Secretariat in consultation with the GC Bureau, recognizes the challenges with regards to maintaining the original agenda and proposes that the Provisional Agenda (Document GC/62/1 (Prov.) Rev.1) be split into two parts as follows:
 - PART I: items to be taken during the webconference on 11 and 12 May 2020.
 - Part II: items to be taken under the Written or Silence Procedure, detailed in Annex 1.
6. The GC is requested to consider adopting the Special Procedures, including Annex 1 to this document, to regulate the conduct of the 62nd session of the Governing Council.

Annex 1: Written or Silence Procedure

- 1) A written or silence procedure is the tacit acceptance or acceptance through written approval of a proposal.
- 2) At the request of the GC Chair, the Director will transmit to the Participating States the DRAFT Resolutions for consideration under this written silence procedure.
- 3) The communication will contain the text of the DRAFT Resolutions to be considered under this written silence procedure and will set a date for the receipt of any objection. Any such objection is to be conveyed in writing and addressed to the Director (by e-mail to: iarc.gc@iarc.fr).
- 4) In absence of the receipt by the set date of any written objection from a Participating State, the DRAFT Resolutions concerned will be considered as having been validly adopted by GC.
- 5) In the event of the receipt of one or more written objections from a Participating State by the set date, the DRAFT Resolutions concerned will be considered as having not been adopted by GC and will be referred to the GC for consideration at its next session.
- 6) The Director will communicate the outcome of the written silence procedure to all Participating States as soon as possible after the set date referred to in paragraph 3. The date of the Director's communication will be date of adoption of the Resolutions.
- 7) Without prejudice to the above, any Participating State may explain their position in respect of a DRAFT Resolution that is subject to the written silence procedure by submitting a written statement to the Director by the date set for receipt of objections under paragraph 3.