

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING

IARC, Lyon and web conference

Tuesday 12 May 2020 at 10:00 Central European Summer Time (CEST)

Chairperson: Dr Stephen M. Robbins (Canada)

Secretary: Dr Elisabete Weiderpass, Director, IARC

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Participating State Representatives

Dr Stephen M. ROBBINS, <i>Chairperson</i>	Canada
Ms Lucero HERNANDEZ	
Ms Jennifer IZAGUIRRE	
Professor Jan-Ingvar JÖNSSON	Sweden
Dr Karin SCHMEKEL, <i>Vice-Chairperson</i>	
Dr Diane STEBER BÜCHLI <i>Rapporteur</i>	Switzerland
Professor Dorothy KEEFE	Australia
Ms Emma WOOD	
Ms Bronwyn ADAMS	
Ms Elisabeth TISCHELMAYER	Austria
Mr Lieven DE RAEDT	Belgium
Dr Marc VAN DEN BULCKE	
Dr Ana Cristina PINHO MENDES PEREIRA	Brazil
Dr Livia DE OLIVEIRA PASQUALIN	
Dr João Ricardo RODRIGUES VIEGAS	
Professor Mads MELBYE (<i>unable to attend</i>)	Denmark
Professor Tine JESS	
Dr Markku TERVAHAUTA	Finland
Ms Tuula HELANDER	
Professor Norbert IFRAH	France
Dr Jocelyne BÉRILLE	
Mrs Christine BERLING	
Mr Thomas DUBOIS	
Ms Elisabeth SCHULTE	Germany
Mr Thomas IFLAND	
Professor Ildikó HORVÁTH	
Professor Péter NAGY	Hungary
Dr Edit MAROSI	
Ms Vandana GURNANI	India
Dr Nilambuj SHARAN	
Ms Vidushi CHATURVEDI	
Professor Reza MALEKZADEH	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Mr Ciarán MURPHY	Ireland

Professor Silvio BRUSAFERRO (<i>unable to attend</i>)	Italy
Dr Mauro BIFFONI	
Dr Yosuke KITA	Japan
Dr Hitoshi NAKAGAMA	
Dr Teiji TAKEI	
Dr Tatsuya SUZUKI	
Dr Tomohiro MATSUDA	
Dr Kay OHARA	
Dr Rachid BEKKALI (<i>unable to attend</i>)	Morocco
Dr Latifa BELAKHEL	
Dr Loubna ABOUSSELHAM	
Mrs Renske VAN TOL	Netherlands
Mr Jeroen HULLEMAN	
Professor Pål Richard ROMUNDSTAD	Norway
Dr Karianne Solaas	
Dr Al-Hareth M. AL-KHATER	Qatar
Dr Eun Sook LEE	Republic of Korea
Dr Jae Kwan JUN	
Dr Igor KOROBKO	Russian Federation
Dr Sergey MURAVIOV	
Dr Oleg SONIN	
Dr Eduard SALAKHOV	
Dr Gonzalo AREVALO	Spain
Dr Maria José GONZÁLEZ DE SUSO	
<i>No Representative</i>	Turkey
Dr Mark PALMER	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Dr Mariana DELFINO-MACHIN	
Dr Mara BURR	United States of America
Dr Krycia COWLING	
Dr Robert HAWKINS	
Ms Gabrielle LAMOURELLE	
Dr Jamie MILLER	
Dr Amy NORRIS	
Dr Margaret PATON	
Dr Phillip RIBLETT	
Dr Larry WRIGHT	

World Health Organization

Ms Sigrid KRANAWETTER, Principal Legal Officer, Office of the WHO Legal Counsel

Dr Soumya SWAMINATHAN, Chief Scientist, Office of the Director-General, WHO

Observers

Dr Christine Friedenreich, Chairperson, Scientific Council

Dr Sonali JOHNSON, Head, Knowledge, Advocacy and Policy, Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

People's Republic of China

Dr Yang Zhang

Dr Jie He

Dr Xinhua Li

Dr Min Dai

External Audit

Mr Lito Q. MARTIN, Commission on Audit, Philippines (*unable to attend*)

Secretariat

Dr E. WEIDERPASS,
Secretary
Dr T. LANDESZ

Dr M. ALMONTE
Dr P. BASU
Ms A. BERGER
Dr F. BRAY
Dr P. BRENNAN
Mr C. CHAUVET
Dr G. CLIFFORD

Dr I. CREE
Dr P. FERRARI
Ms E. FRANÇON
Dr M. GUNTER
Dr K. GUYTON
Dr Z. HERCEG
Mr D. KAVANAGH
Dr Z. KOZLAKIDIS
Ms B. LAHOUE
Dr B. LAUBY-SECRETAN
Dr T. LEE

Mr F. LOZANO
Dr V. MCCORMACK
Dr J. MCKAY
Ms A. SANTHIPRECHACHIT
Dr A. SCALBERT
Dr M. SCHUBAUER-BERIGAN
Dr J. SCHÜZ
Dr I. SOERJOMATARAM
Dr M. TOMMASINO
Dr J. ZAVADIL

1. REQUESTS FOR FUNDING SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SPECIAL FUND: Item 9 of the Agenda (Documents GC/62/11, GC/62/14; GC/62/Inf.Doc.No.2)

- a. **Request for support for Open Access fees (paragraphs 11–12 of Biennial Report on publication activities 2018–2019)**
- b. **Request for support for Scientific IT Platform and return of unused funds**

The CHAIRPERSON, illustrating his remarks with slides from the Secretariat, recalled that the explanation concerning the request for funding support for open access fees was contained in paragraphs 11 and 12 of [document GC/62/11](#). The full Biennial Report on publication activities 2018–2019 would be reviewed under the Silence Procedure.

The request for support for a Scientific IT Platform was contained in [document GC/62/14](#) and amounted to an investment of some €350 000 in hardware, software and maintenance costs to support a modern approach to IARC's data.

The Acting Head of Communication and the Information Security Officer were on hand to answer any questions concerning the two requests. [Document GC/62/Inf.Doc.No.2](#) (Projection of Governing Council Special Fund Account for 2020–2023) showed there were sufficient resources in the fund to meet the requests. The Governing Council was invited to note the return of unused funds of €115 000 which had been due to the updated scientific priorities in the related Section and cancellation of the purchase of equipment initially envisaged. The Administration and Finance Officer was also on hand to answer any questions.

Dr LANDESZ (Director of Administration and Finance, IARC), responding to a question from Ms HERNANDEZ (Canada) concerning the risk included in the Statement on Internal Control concerning the safety of data, said that European GDPR regulations and other international regulations on data privacy were respected by IARC concerning the data that it received from agencies around the world. The support from the Governing Council Special Fund would be used to further strengthen the IT infrastructure and help to ensure the continuous improvement of data security and the safety of data and samples.

Ms HERNANDEZ (Canada) noted that the IARC's corporate risk register had drawn attention to significant risks facing IARC as outlined in the risk register (pages 15 and 16 of [document GC/62/7](#)), including the potential "loss of data" and proposed remedies concerning the IT infrastructure.

Ms SANTHIPRECHACHIT (Administration and Finance Officer, IARC) explained that the request for support from the Governing Council Special Fund was not directly linked to the audit but related to the proactive approach of the Agency in seeking to strengthen its IT infrastructure. The aim was also to support the Agency in more effective implementation of GDPR.

Dr LEE (Republic of Korea) supported the requests for support from the Governing Council Special Fund. As a participant in the randomized clinical trial to investigate the prevention of gastric cancer by *Helicobacter pylori* eradication, Republic of Korea expressed gratitude for the funds authorized from the Governing Council Special Fund to support the HELPER study under [resolution GC/61/R10](#) in 2019. The original study had been completed in Republic of Korea and a follow-up study was under way.

The CHAIRPERSON thanked Dr Lee for having shared the success achieved through previous investments from the Governing Council Special Fund.

The SECRETARY confirmed that the request for funds to support the IT platform was essential for IARC to carry out its scientific work with all necessary IT security. She thanked Dr Lee for her work on the HELPER study.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Open Access Publishing" (GC/62/R12):

The Governing Council,
Having reviewed [Document GC/62/11](#) "Biennial report on publication activities, 2018–2019",
APPROVES the use of up to a maximum of €50 000 per annum from the Governing Council Special Fund for two years (2021 and 2022) for open access publishing, subject to there being sufficient cash balances available in the Fund.

The resolution was **adopted**.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Request for support from the Governing Council Special Fund: Scientific IT Platform and return of unused funds" (GC/62/R15):

The Governing Council,
Having reviewed [Document GC/62/14](#) "Request for support from the Governing Council Special Fund: Scientific IT Platform and return of unused funds" and [Document GC/62/Inf.Doc. No.2](#) "Projection of Governing Council Special Fund Account for 2020–2023",

1. AUTHORIZES the Director to use up to a maximum of €350 000 from the Governing Council Special Fund, subject to there being sufficient cash balances available in the Fund, for the acquisition of the Scientific IT Platform: storage servers (€115 000), computer servers (€70 000), network equipment (€25 000), data management and analysis software (€120 000), professional services (€20 000), as well as maintenance of the platform, for a period of four years;
Recalling its [Resolution GC/60/R16](#), in which it authorized the Director to purchase an automated system for plasma phospholipid fatty acid profiling for an amount of €115 000,
2. NOTES the return of €115 000 to the Governing Council Special Fund due to the cancellation of the purchase following a reprioritization of scientific activities in the related Section.

The resolution was **adopted**.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ADMISSION OF NEW PARTICIPATING STATES: Item 10 of the Agenda

The CHAIRPERSON recalled that the Governing Council had decided in [resolution GC/53/R20](#) that “the number of members and composition of the Subcommittee shall be agreed upon at each regular session of the Governing Council”. The Subcommittee was currently composed of members from Brazil, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom as well as the Governing Council Chairperson (ex officio). He called for proposals for membership of the Subcommittee and inquired whether any current members wished to remain for a further year.

Dr PINHO MENDES PEREIRA (Brazil), Dr KITA (Japan), Mrs VAN TOL (Netherlands) and Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that they would be willing to remain on the Subcommittee.

The CHAIRPERSON, speaking as the representative of Canada, said that Canada would cede its place on the Subcommittee to another Participating State since he would continue to be a member of the Subcommittee in his ex officio capacity as Chairperson of the Governing Council.

Professor KEEFE (Australia) said that Australia would be pleased to nominate a representative, provided that the Subcommittee meetings would continue to be held by web conference.

The CHAIRPERSON confirmed that the Subcommittee meetings were usually held by teleconference.

Dr BURR (United States of America) said that the United States of America would like to nominate a member to join the Subcommittee.

Dr LANDESZ (Director of Administration and Finance) confirmed that it would be possible for an additional member to join the Subcommittee.

Professor KEEFE (Australia) indicated that she would be prepared to stand down in order to keep the number of Subcommittee members at six.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Membership of the Subcommittee on the admission of new Participating States” (GC/62/R19):

The Governing Council,

Recalling its Resolution GC/18/R14 nominating members of the Subcommittee on the Admission of new Participating States and the requirement to nominate new members at the end of each session of the Council,

Recalling its [Resolution GC/53/R20](#) deciding that the number of members and composition of the Subcommittee shall be agreed upon at each regular session of the Governing Council,

DECIDES that this Subcommittee shall be composed of, in addition to the Chairperson of the Governing Council (member ex officio), the representatives of Brazil, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America who shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council.

The resolution was **adopted**.

3. REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF ITS MEMBERSHIP BY A PARTICIPATING STATE (AND ITS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS) – TURKEY: Item 11 of the Agenda (Document GC/62/17)

The CHAIRPERSON said that significant efforts had been made by the Secretariat to engage in discussions with Turkey. It was important for IARC to retain the membership of Participating States given their valuable scientific interactions, active cancer research and financial contribution to the Agency. After extensive consultations, including with the Office of the WHO Legal Counsel, it had been determined that there was no provision in the IARC Statute or the Governing Council Rules of Procedure to allow the suspension of a Participating State's membership and therefore it could not be granted.

The SECRETARY reiterated that several attempts had been made to engage in dialogue with Turkey. The Agency had been informed that Turkey's proposed withdrawal had been based on its internal economic crisis.

Ms KRANAWETTER (Principal Legal Officer, WHO) confirmed that there was no legal provision for suspension of membership or for a moratorium on the payment of membership contributions. The sole exception made in the past, with respect to the Russian Federation, had still required the Participating State to accrue contributions that would be paid. Turkey had not been willing to accept an arrangement in which financial contributions would accrue. If the Governing Council did not accept the request for suspension, Turkey's withdrawal would become effective retroactively from June 2019.

Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) noted that the payment of financial contributions by new Participating States was staggered over a three-year period. He wished to know whether the contributions of a country that had withdrawn and subsequently re-joined would also be staggered.

Dr LANDESZ (Director of Administration and Finance) confirmed that if a country re-joined IARC, having previously withdrawn, it would pay the full amount of its contributions and not a staggered amount.

Dr BURR (United States of America) asked whether it was possible to learn more about the initial decision of Turkey to withdraw from the Agency. It was unusual that a Participating State had asked to suspend its membership and she believed that such a request should be addressed within the Statute of IARC and the Governing Council's Rules of Procedure. She supported deferring consideration of the proposed revision of Article XIII of the Statute governing withdrawal from participation until the next session of the Governing Council. It would be preferable to consider the addition of a provision to the Statute that covered the issue of suspension rather than leaving such matters to be decided by the Governing Council on a case-by-case basis. She recognized the financial implications of withdrawal, which could create a funding shortfall for the Agency. Many organizations required a notice period of one year for withdrawal, which allowed adjustments to be made with predictability with respect to financial stability. Such an option might be considered at the next session of the Council.

Ms KRANAWETTER (Principal Legal Officer, WHO) said that no precedent had been set with respect to suspension and there was no need to address the issue within the Statute unless the Governing Council wished to do so. The Governing Council could decide to discuss the issue of suspension during the present meeting under Agenda item 12.

Dr BURR (United States of America), responding to a question from the CHAIRPERSON, said that it would be satisfactory to discuss changes to the Statute under Agenda item 12.

Ms HERNANDEZ (Canada) expressed regret concerning the withdrawal of Turkey and appreciation for the efforts made by IARC to avoid that outcome. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, it would be advisable for the Agency to undertake financial planning in case other countries facing financial challenges were obliged to withdraw.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Request for suspension of its membership by a Participating State (and its financial implications) – Turkey" (GC/62/R16):

The Governing Council,

Having considered [Document GC/62/17](#) "Request for suspension of its membership by a Participating State and its financial implications – Turkey",

Recalling Articles III, XII and XIII of the IARC Statute and the Governing Council's Rules of Procedure,

1. NOTES that there is no established procedure for suspension of a Participating State's membership; and
2. CONFIRMS with regret, the withdrawal of Turkey as noted in [Resolution GC/61/R17](#).

The resolution was **adopted**.

4. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE IARC STATUTE TO REQUIRE A LONGER TERMINATION PERIOD OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR A WITHDRAWING PARTICIPATING STATE: Item 12 of the Agenda (Document GC/62/15)

The CHAIRPERSON recalled that, at its previous session, the Governing Council had agreed to constitute a working group to propose options for a potential amendment to the IARC Statute that would mitigate the potential risk to IARC operations in the case of withdrawal of a Participating State (see [Resolution GC/61/R5](#), para. 10). He suggested that the Governing Council should defer consideration of the issue until its next session, in view of the short time available at the current session.

Ms HERNANDEZ (Canada) suggested that, in the interim, the Working Group should continue to review the Statute and consider, for instance, establishing different timelines for approval of the withdrawal of a Participating State depending on the stage of the budget cycle at the time. Her delegation was concerned that the introduction of a formal provision for suspension of membership would set a dangerous precedent, particularly in the light of the global economic downturn expected to follow the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms KRANAWETTER (Principal Legal Officer, WHO) agreed that it would be safer to consider any applications for suspension of membership on a case-by-case basis. The case of the Russian Federation had been an unprecedented one and had met the condition of a “fundamental change of circumstances” laid down in the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

Dr SCHMEKEL, Vice-Chairperson, noted that, since both Representatives of Sweden would be stepping down from the Governing Council at the end of the current session, another member should be appointed to serve on the Working Group.

Ms HERNANDEZ (Canada) and Dr BURR (United States of America) indicated their willingness to serve.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled “Proposed Amendment to Article XIII of the IARC Statute (GC/62/R17):

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed [Document GC/62/15](#) “Report of the Governing Council Working Group on the Amendment of Article XIII of the IARC Statute”,

1. THANKS the Working Group for examining possible options;
2. DECIDES to defer the review of possible options and decision on a potential amendment to the Statute to the next session of the Governing Council, to allow more time for deliberation; and
3. WELCOMES Canada, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Governing Council (ex officio) as members of the Working Group.

Ms KRANAWETTER (Principal Legal Officer, WHO) suggested the addition of a new operative paragraph 2 to meet the concerns expressed by Canada, to read: “REQUESTS the Working Group to look at additional options”. She noted that any amendment to the Statute adopted by the Governing Council required formal endorsement by the World Health Assembly.

Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) noted that the proposed change, which affected the contributions paid by Participating States, would need to be approved by a two-thirds majority of Participating State governments, and that time would therefore need to be allowed for consultations at national level.

At the request of Ms HERNANDEZ (Canada) and Dr BURR (United States of America), Ms KRANAWETTER (Principal Legal Officer, WHO) agreed to prepare a short summary of the precedents relating to amendments to the Statute.

The resolution, as amended, was **adopted**.

5. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL (*closed session*)
([Document GC/62/16](#))

The Governing Council met in closed session from 11:45 to 12:45 CEST. On resumption of the public session, the RAPPORTEUR read out the following resolution, **adopted** by the Governing Council in the closed session, on the appointment of new members of the Scientific Council (GC/62/R18):

The Governing Council,

In accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Statute of the Agency,

1. APPOINTS

Professor Louisa Gordon, Australia)

Dr Marc Arbyn, Belgium)

Dr Manami Inoue, Japan) to serve for four years on the Scientific Council

Dr Ferrán Catalá, Spain)

Professor Kalipso Chalkidou, UK)

2. THANKS the outgoing members of the Scientific Council, Drs Adèle Green (Australia), Atsushi Ochiai (Japan), Roberto Salgado (Belgium), Pilar Sánchez Gómez (Spain) and Simon Tavaré (UK) for their valuable work in the Scientific Council and for the contribution that they have made to the research activities of the Agency.

The resolution was **adopted**.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Item 14 of the Agenda

Annual Financial Report, Report of the External Auditor and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (Documents GC/62/7, GC/62/7 Corr.1; GC/62/Inf.Doc.No.4)

Ms IZAGUIRRE (Canada) said that Canada was pleased that the External Auditor had issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements for 2019: it was an important recognition of efforts made by IARC in ensuring transparency and accountability. Canada was deeply concerned that IARC had posted a deficit of €4.89 million which was almost a four-fold increase from the previous year. Although the deficit was mostly due to unfunded liabilities related to After Service Health Insurance (ASHI), it would be important to explore with the Secretariat ways of balancing the books that did not discourage donors from providing funding or new countries from joining the organization. She asked whether the accounting deficit could be reduced by making a greater allocation to the ASHI budget line. It was not certain that the Agency would be able to meet the considerable liability and increasing funding gap due to ASHI by 2035. ASHI was calculated in US dollars. She would like to know whether it would be possible to have the ASHI liability accounted for and managed in US dollars in order to limit the losses due to exchange rate fluctuations and whether other cost containment measures could be considered by the Agency in view of the possible cost constraints that might result from COVID-19. Would it be possible for

increased contributions to be made to the ASHI fund? It would be important to contain the liability of ASHI in the longer term.

Ms SANTHIPRECHACHIT (Administration and Finance Officer), responding concerning the deficit of €4.89 million, said that total expenses had exceeded total revenue in the year from January to December 2019, but that did not mean that the Agency lacked cash or that funds had been mismanaged: there was a gap between recognition of revenue and the time that it was actually spent. For example, the revenue from assessed contribution allocated for 2019 was some €22 million and the expenditure was €24 million; this was possible because there was an unspent balance from 2018 (the first year of the biennium) which had been carried over to 2019. A similar situation applied to the grants, which were the subject of multi-year funding. The major part of the funding gap, however, related to the ASHI unfunded liabilities, had led to an additional €2.66 million in staff costs for 2019. IARC shared the concerns of Canada and other Participating States regarding the 30% increase in unfunded ASHI liabilities which had risen from €60.91 million in 2018 to €79.27 million in 2019. The main reason for the increase of €18.36 million were changes in actuarial financial assumptions, including the sharp decrease in the discount rate from 1.3% to 0.6% which accounted for €16.09 million of that sum. Page 44 of [document GC/62/7](#) showed the sensitivity of the discount rate at minus 1% and plus 1%.

Because of the uncertainty caused by fluctuation in the discount rate, a discussion about whether to continue to aim for a fully funded ASHI liability had been held across the United Nations System. Currently, IARC followed the WHO policy, which was to aim for a fully funded liability in the longer term. WHO had commissioned an actuarial study, which confirmed that, if IARC implemented all of the measures as planned it could achieve the fully funded target by 2035. The target would be achieved by continuing to increase contributions from ASHI members (contributions had been increased by 10% in 2012 and by 4% in each year thereafter; the increase had been reduced to 2% from 2020). The cost containment mentioned by Canada had been on-going and WHO had already negotiated with health care providers to achieve cost reductions. The Agency was confident that it would be able to achieve a 4.5% investment return in the longer term.

Professor KEEFE (Australia) said that it was very helpful to receive the explanation concerning the unspent balance from the first year of the biennium. Australia was concerned that, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all budget forecasts would need to be reset. It would be all the more important for IARC to undertake such an exercise in view of its unfunded liability.

Dr LANDESZ (Director of Administration and Finance) said that the Agency had no intention of requesting Participating States to contribute to the unfunded liability. IARC had become a permanent member of the governance of the staff health insurance and presented the concerns raised by the Governing Council at each meeting. IARC had enough funds to cover its current liabilities, although not its future liabilities to 2035; it was nevertheless confident that it could meet its liabilities without calling on Participating States. All IARC personnel had demonstrated increased efficiency and flexibility over the months of the COVID-19 pandemic and working procedures had been adapted and simplified. It had not been possible to complete some of the fieldwork and donors had been asked to support IARC in extending some projects as a result.

Dr BURR (United States of America) thanked the External Auditor and was pleased to note the unqualified opinion that had been provided. She noted with satisfaction that the External Auditor had not found any significant internal control issues and that the Agency had risk management plans in place to manage the other risks identified in the audit. She urged IARC to continue to maintain a positive cash flow and balance and to prevent expenses from exceeding revenues. She noted the plan in place to fully fund ASHI by 2035 and called on the Secretariat to continue on that path.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Financial Report, Report of the External Auditor, and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019" (GC/62/R7):

The Governing Council,

Having examined [Document GC/62/7](#) "Annual Financial Report, Report of the External Auditor, and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019" and its corrigendum (Document [GC/62/7 Corr.1](#)),

1. THANKS the External Auditor from the Republic of the Philippines Commission on Audit for his report and for his unqualified audit opinion, and for his collaboration during the past eight years;
2. THANKS the Secretariat for providing supplementary information on the After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liabilities and the funding gap ([Document GC/62/Inf.Doc. No.4](#)); and
3. APPROVES the Report of the Director on the financial operations of the Agency.

The resolution was **adopted**.

7. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR NEXT SESSION: Item 15 of the Agenda

Dr Schmekel (Sweden), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

On the proposal of Dr PALMER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Dr Robbins (Canada) was unanimously elected as Chairperson, the proposal being seconded by Ms TISCHELMAYER (Austria) and Dr AREVALO (Spain).

Dr Robbins resumed the Chair.

On the proposal of Dr STEBER BUCHLI (Switzerland), Rapporteur, Professor Romundstad (Norway) was unanimously elected Vice-Chairperson, the proposal being seconded by Professor JÖNSSON (Sweden).

8. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR GOVERNING COUNCIL SESSION: Item 16 of the Agenda

The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the next regular session of the Governing Council should be held in the week preceding the World Health Assembly in 2021, on either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday of that week. It might be necessary to make the session slightly longer than usual because of the large number of items held over from the current session.

Professor IFRAH (France) expressed a slight preference for Thursday and Friday.

Dr BURR (United States of America) expressed a preference for Monday and Tuesday as the same team was also going to attend the World Health Assembly.

The RAPPORTEUR read out the following draft resolution, entitled "Date of the 63rd Session of the Governing Council" (GC/62/R20):

The Governing Council,

1. DECIDES to hold its next regular session in Lyon, France, in the week preceding the opening of the World Health Assembly in the year 2021; and
2. REQUESTS the Director to inform members of the Council as soon as these dates are known.

The resolution was **adopted**.

9. SUMMARY OF DEFERRED ITEMS AND ITEMS TO BE TAKEN UNDER THE SILENCE PROCEDURE: Item 17 of the Agenda

The CHAIRPERSON recalled that the Governing Council had agreed to deal with the remaining items of the Agenda under the silence procedure¹. Participating States should submit any comments or objections to the Secretariat by 25 May 2020.

Ms KRANAWETTER (Principal Legal Officer, WHO) requested that, in the interests of clarity, Participating States should indicate their approval of draft resolutions, as well as any objections.

10. CLOSURE OF SESSION: Item 18 of the Agenda

The CHAIRPERSON noted that a large number of items had been deferred until the next session in view of the current difficult circumstances. If it proved necessary, an extraordinary session of the Governing Council could be organized, at the request of at least one third of Participating States. He thanked the staff of the Agency, particularly the information technology department, which had organized a successful online meeting with many changes to the Agenda, and commended the Agency scientists for their excellent scientific work throughout the year.

¹ For ease of reference, please consult the table provided as an Annex below.

The SECRETARY thanked the Chairperson, who had ably conducted the session even though the meetings had taken place in the middle of the night in the time zone of his native Canada, as well as the other Governing Council members from Participating States and observers, particularly those from the People's Republic of China. She thanked the Principal Legal Officer and Chief Scientist of WHO for their contribution and commended her staff on their hard work in preparing the online session.

The CHAIRPERSON declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 13:30 CEST.

11. Annex – Items considered under the Silence Procedure

Item No.	Item	Document No.	Resolution
S1.	Biennial Report 2018–2019	GC/62/2	GC/62/R3
S2.	Director's report	GC/62/3	GC/62/R4
S3.	Operational plans for the resource mobilization strategy	GC/62/19 Rev.1	
S4.	Report of the Fifty-sixth session of the Scientific Council	GC/62/4	GC/62/R5
S5.	Director's response to recommendations from the 56th Session of the Scientific Council	GC/62/5	
S6.	<i>Annual Financial Report, Report of the External Auditor and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019</i> ➔ <i>Item considered under "Any other business"</i>	<i>GC/62/7</i> <i>GC/62/7 Corr.1</i> <i>GC/62/Inf.Doc.No.4</i>	<i>GC/62/R7</i>
S7.	Statement by the IARC Staff Association	GC/62/6	
S8.	Biennial Report of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee (OHSC), 2018–2019	GC/62/10	GC/62/R10
S9.	Biennial Report on publication activities, 2018–2019 (excluding paragraphs 11-12 on request for funding support for open access fee)	GC/62/11	GC/62/R11
S10.	Acceptance of grants and contracts, including report on interest apportionment	GC/62/12	GC/62/R13
S11.	Acceptance of donations	GC/62/13	GC/62/R14