



# Evaluation of IARC activities & development of IARC's Medium-Term Strategy 2021-2025

International Agency for Research on Cancer  
Lyon, France

Items 13 and 14



# OUTLINE



## 1 Evaluation

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- 1.2 Main conclusions
- 1.3 Main recommendations
- 1.4 Developments since
- 1.5 Next steps

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# 1

# EVALUATION OF IARC ACTIVITIES

## 1.1

## Key stages



1 IARC's Governing Council commissioned external Evaluation of IARC's activities by ad hoc Advisory Group

2 Evaluation commenced mid July 2019; conducted with WHO Evaluation Office

3 Evaluation was concluded by the end of November 2019

### OUTPUT

High quality report; **valuable and constructive recommendations for IARC's way forward.**



**First ever evaluation of IARC; conducted in record time**

# 1

# EVALUATION OF IARC ACTIVITIES

## 1.2

## Main conclusions (1/2)



« ... IARC continues to fulfill an **essential role in the global evaluation of cancer** etiology, surveillance, prevention and control in addition to training... »



« ... provided **research bridges for LMICs** when few other institutions were present in this space. »



« ... IARC ... maintained **high levels of productivity, scientific rigor and effectiveness** in generating research of significant benefit to the international community. »

# 1

# EVALUATION OF IARC ACTIVITIES

## 1.2

## Main conclusions (2/2)



« ... public communication about cancer risks and hazards ... guided through **standard operating procedures** to ensure consistency of messaging between IARC and WHO. »



« ... **clear impact and productivity of IARC**, ... even under ... circumstances of significant funding uncertainties. »



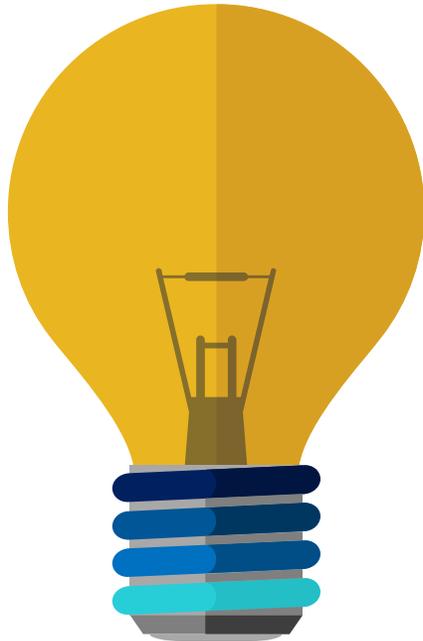
« ... **further opportunities to sharpen prioritization and use of its resources** can be identified and pursued. »

# 1

# EVALUATION OF IARC ACTIVITIES

## 1.3

## Main recommendations (1/2)



« ... a more **inclusive, transparent and focused strategic prioritization process** during the development of **MTS 2021-2025** »



« .... **strengthened collaboration between IARC and WHO**, in particular with WHO's ... Science Division, ... »



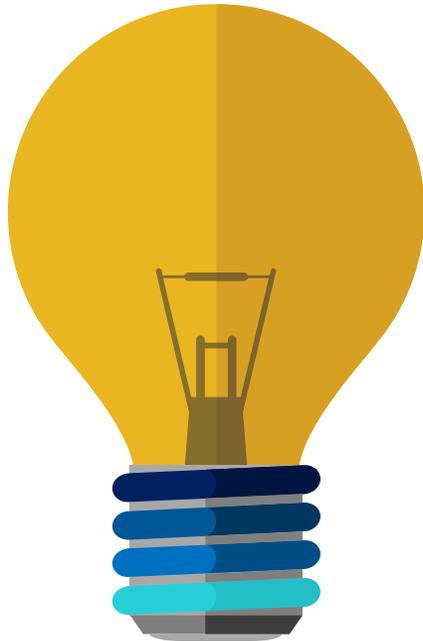
« ... **future-focused consideration** of which **core in-house laboratory capacities** ... be incorporated into the Nouveau Centre and which are best obtained through ... external laboratories »

# 1

# EVALUATION OF IARC ACTIVITIES

## 1.3

## Main recommendations (2/2)



« ... obtain **additional laboratory, bioinformatics, and other disciplinary expertise** through collaboration, Visiting Scientists, and secondments from Participating States and other partners »



« ... enhance biobank capacity ...; and assess whether collection of biological samples is optimal ... »



« ... ensure ... financial sustainability of research through strengthened budgeting, communications and resource mobilization. »

# 1

# EVALUATION OF IARC ACTIVITIES

## 1.4

## Developments since report



1

Evaluation Report was discussed among IARC's Leadership Team in January 2020 and reviewed by IARC's 56th Scientific Council in February 2020

2

SC endorsed the report and provided comments

3

Evaluation findings and recommendations inform the ongoing development of IARC's next Medium-Term Strategy



IARC commenced to develop a detailed Action Plan in response to recommendations

# 1

# EVALUATION OF IARC ACTIVITIES

## 1.5

## Next steps

**May 2020:**  
Governing Council reviews Evaluation report and provides comments

1

2

**June 2020:**  
IARC finalizes Action Plan in response to recommendations

3

**June – October 2020:**  
Evaluation report informs IARC's next Medium Term Strategy

4

**After July 2020:**  
Start of Action Plan implementation



# 2

# MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY 2021-2025

## 2.1

## Update on progress



1

Governing Council [Resolution GC/61/R7](#)

2

Secretariat proposed specific activities in preparation of development of the next Medium-Term Strategy



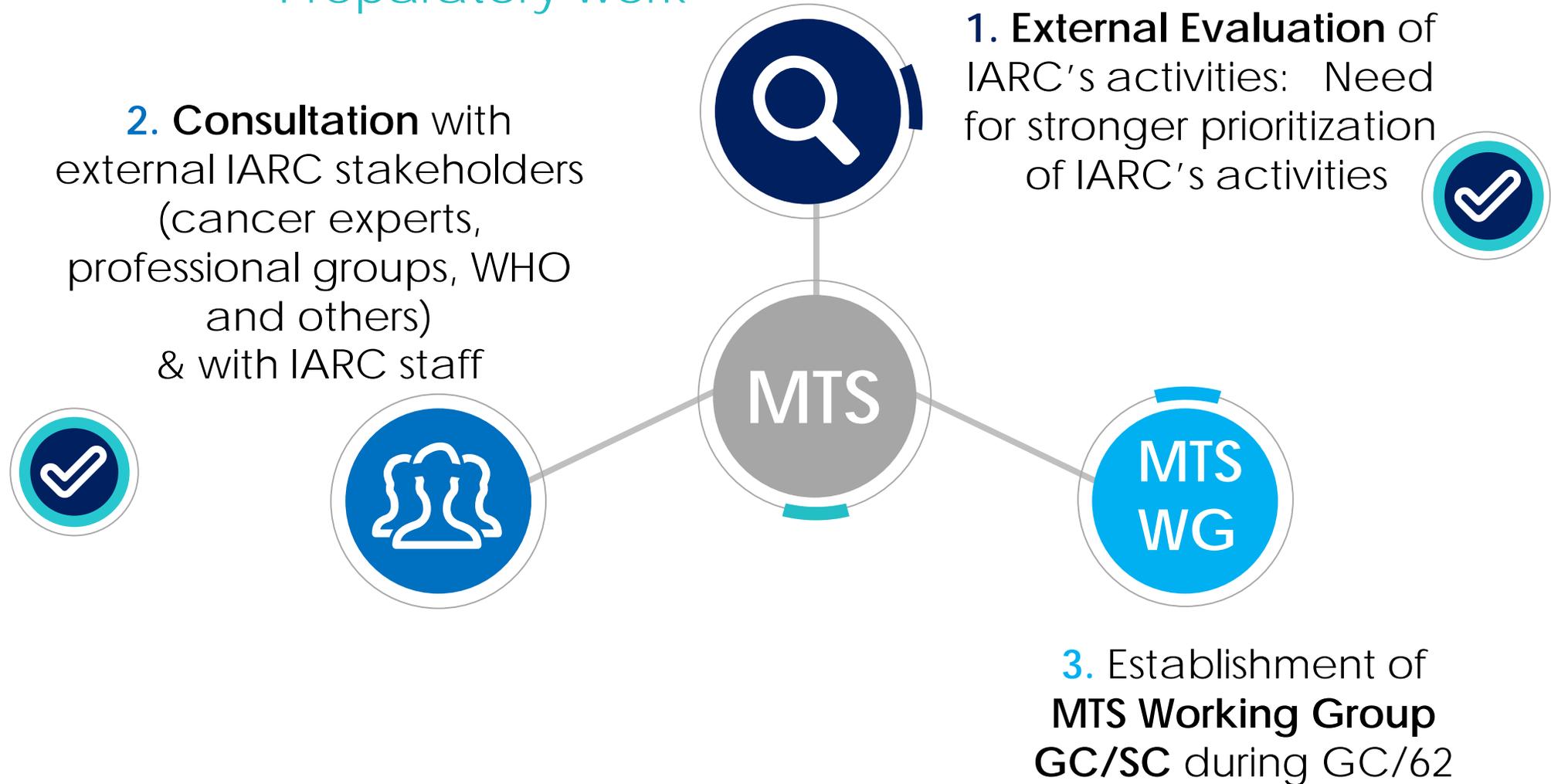
Activities conducted and completed:

- External Evaluation of IARC activities
- Stakeholder consultation

# 2

# MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY 2021-2025

## 2.2 Preparatory work



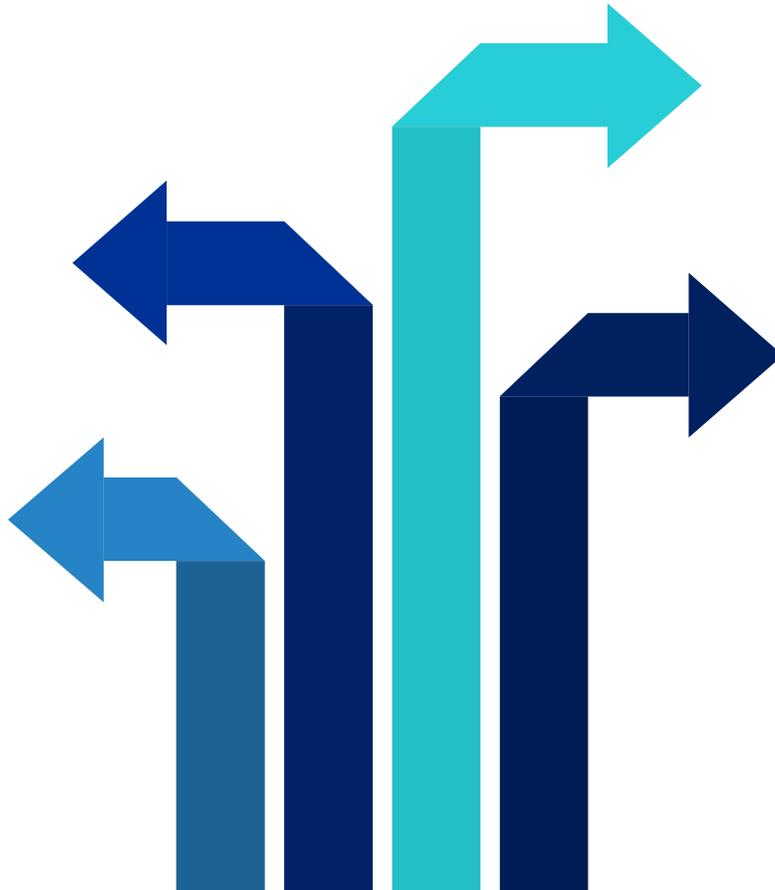
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# MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY 2021-2025

## 2.3

### Initial conclusions (1/6)

Early feedback, initial findings and expert recommendations from consultations and the external evaluation support the following **intended direction of IARC's future strategy:**



- IARC to seek the maximum impact of its work where it matters the most to its ultimate beneficiaries
- IARC to prioritize those efforts that respond to the most urgent and pertinent questions about cancer prevention by the international cancer control and public health community

**With the new approach IARC will:**



- Consciously opt for engaging in what it is best at - by making full use of and strengthening its comparative advantages
- Intentionally pursue cancer research and science that is expected to positively and notably affect people's health

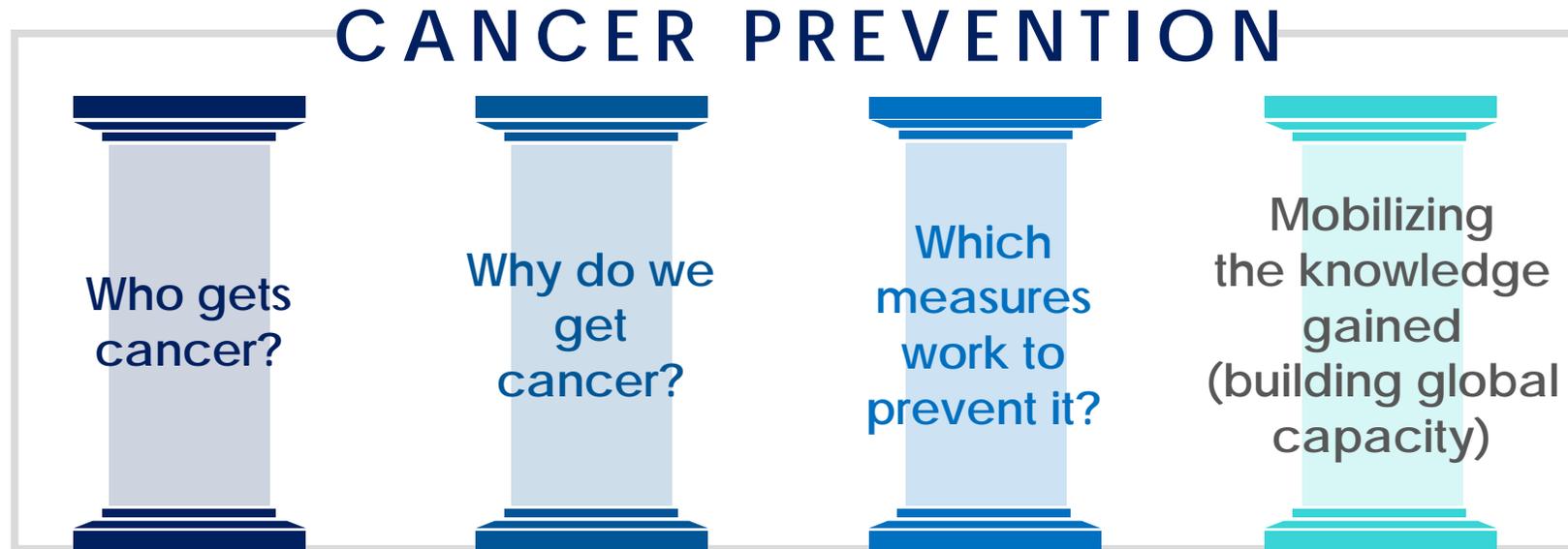
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# MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY 2021-2025

## 2.3

### Initial conclusions (3/6)

IARC will continue to build upon the **pillars** of the journey to:



These are the **fundamental priorities** of the Agency.

# 2

# MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY 2021-2025

## 2.3

### Initial conclusions (4/6)

New topics of particular relevance for reducing cancer incidence or mortality through prevention emerged = **Emerging priorities**



\* Described in Annex 1 of Document [GC/62/20](#)

# 2

# MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY 2021-2025

## 2.3

### Initial conclusions (5/6)

- Considering its mandate, expertise and comparative advantages, IARC is well placed to significantly advance research, understanding and build capacities in relation to these priorities.
- As a cornerstone of the next MTS, IARC should significantly strengthen its engagement, resources and collaboration in priority areas when conducting its scientific and research work.
- A clear emphasis on priorities should steer the design of IARC's biennial Programmes and Budgets during the period 2021–2025, including the initiation and selection of projects. The upcoming Programme and Budget 2022–2023 will be presented with a clear link to priority areas.

# 2

# MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY 2021-2025

## 2.3

### Initial conclusions (6/6)

- The Secretariat will continue to develop the draft MTS 2021–2025 in the coming months, in close consultation with the Joint Governing and Scientific Council Working Group on the MTS (GC/SC MTS WG) that will be established during the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Governing Council.
- The Secretariat would benefit from the GC/SC MTS WG guidance to the further strengthening of its prioritization efforts.

# 2

# MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY 2021-2025

## 2.4

## Next steps

May 2020:  
GC/SC MTS WG  
established

1

2

June – October 2020:  
draft MTS 2021-2025  
formulated jointly by  
GC/SC MTS WG and  
Secretariat

3

Nov 2020:  
draft MTS 2021-2025  
submitted to  
SC meeting

4

March 2021:  
Final draft MTS  
2021-2025  
submitted to GC  
meeting

