

30 May 2017

IARC welcomes the adoption of the new cancer resolution by the World Health Assembly

Today, governments from around the world adopted a new cancer resolution at the Seventieth World Health Assembly, in Geneva, Switzerland.

This resolution complements the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2020. It points to many cancer control measures, including health promotion, reducing exposure to cancer risk factors, and improving access to early diagnosis and treatment.

“Today, governments worldwide have reaffirmed their recognition of cancer as a public health priority and as a barrier to achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals,” says Dr Christopher Wild, Director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). “The new resolution is a positive step forward in vital efforts to counter the rising global cancer burden.”

Prevention and early detection have a key role to play, in particular in low- and middle-income countries, which are seeing the greatest rises in cancer incidence because of ageing populations and changing exposure to cancer risk factors. Measuring the cancer burden is also of central importance. IARC is leading a multipartner programme, the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development ([GICR](#)), to provide technical assistance and training in order to improve the quality and coverage of cancer registries in low- and middle-income countries.

As the cancer agency of WHO, IARC has been leading efforts to better understand and prevent the disease through a wide range of research activities. The Agency contributes to the evidence underpinning cancer control measures through its collaborative research with partners worldwide and through provision of its databases. These include information on cancer occurrence, causes, and prevention as well as the classification of tumours, all of which are key assets in informing public health policy and decision-making by WHO, other regulatory agencies, and national governments.

The resolution’s call for a world report on cancer is an excellent opportunity for IARC to support WHO in assembling the scientific evidence base to support WHO Member States in their efforts to develop and implement efficient cancer control programmes.