



Centro Latinoamericano de Física
Centre Latino-Américain de Physique
Centro Latino-Americano de Física



Organización de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura

CLAF / MCTI High-Level Seminar

“Opportunities for the Latin-American Participation and Cooperation in Astroparticle Physics and the SWGO Project”

20 April 2023, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Opening Statement
Ulisses Barres de Almeida

Esteemed Colleagues,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this High Level Seminar on “Opportunities for the Latin-American Participation and Cooperation in Astroparticle Physics and the SWGO Project”.

First of all, I would like to thank all the authorities, delegates, representatives from the various institutions, and colleagues from the science community present here today, as well as all those who accepted our invitation to deliver the keynote presentations that make up our rich programme.

I would also like to thank CLAF, and in particular Dr. Luis Huerta, for the support and sponsorship of this event, the Ministry of Science, Technology and

Innovation of Brazil, through its Special Office for International Affairs, that is jointly convening the event, and CBPF, in the person of its Director, Dr. Marcio Portes de Albuquerque, for kindly hosting us here today.

This is the first such meeting organized by the Latin-American Center for Physics, through its recently instated Astro-particle Physics Unit, focusing on the important topic of science and technology collaboration for the development of Latin America.

The meeting will seek to present the status and context of the field of Astroparticle Physics in Latin America, focusing on its potential for harnessing multi-lateral science collaboration, technological development, and training of highly skilled human resources for advancing scientific research and socio-economic development in the Region.

The event aims, also, to bring together the various sectors relevant to this enterprise — the scientific community, the industrial sector, educators, funding agencies and governmental representatives — to share experiences and offer a platform to work towards the future development of the field, in particular in the context of the next global experiment to be built in the Continent, the Southern Wide-Field Gamma-ray Observatory (SWGGO).

When operational, the SWGGO project will be one among a number of world-leading facilities for Astroparticle Physics in Latin-America, which makes our continent the epicenter of the field in the Southern Hemisphere.

In this respect, during the morning session, you will have the opportunity to hear more about the context of the field and the experiments currently in activity or planned for the Continent, as well as the unique science and discovery potential of SWGGO as a Southern Hemisphere observatory.

Within this context of a long tradition of Astroparticle Physics development in Latin America, SWGO stands out as a singular opportunity for unprecedented multi-lateral collaboration within the Region, as the project currently enjoys the participation of a unique contingent of local participants — among the 14 countries involved in SWGO, over 30 institutes and many tens of scientists and students involved come from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, México and Peru.

As SWGO approaches the defining moment of its Research & Development Phase next year, where the site of installation of the observatory, as well as the technology and potential industrial partners for the project will be defined, we are presented with a first deadline to build and secure a lasting and effective participation of the many Latin American partners in the future of this world-leading project.

During the afternoon session, you will hear some examples of the potential benefits that involvement and cooperation in large international projects such as SWGO can bring for regional integration and development — which is exactly the mission of CLAF to promote.

We will also have the opportunity to hear, from the various country delegates attending in person or remotely, about the successful experiences of international science collaboration in the Latin American Region, as well as perspectives for the future.

Distinguished Participants,

As we have a busy agenda ahead of us today, I won't take more of your time.

As I leave the floor to our final introductory remark, by Professor Carlos Aragão, Director of Science and Technology at FINEP, I wish you all an interesting and constructive meeting. Thank you!