

## Resolutions of the Fifth Meeting of the BRICS Astronomy Working Group

02 October 2019

The BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG) from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, as well as astronomers from these countries who attended the 2-day workshop on multi-messenger and multi-wavelength astronomy, held the 5<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 02 October 2019.

The BAWG deliberated on strategic and operational matters and resolved as follows:

1. Apologies were received from India for not attending this meeting.
2. The BAWG acknowledged Mr Yunus Manjoo's contribution over the past 5 years as he will be retiring at the end of October 2019.
3. The two-day workshop on multi-messenger and multi-wavelength astronomy was a great success with all countries demonstrating an eagerness to continue with collaborations across all astronomy activities including science, human capital development and infrastructure development.
4. The presentation on the 3 flagship projects (Optical Transients Network, Big Data for the SKA and 21cm Cosmology) were of a high quality and demonstrated the need for large projects to foster meaningful collaborations across all the BRICS countries.
5. Formal report-back will be requested from the principal investigators of the astronomy projects funded through joint BRICS STI Calls at future meetings.
6. The BAWG requested the Secretariat to engage with the BRICS funding committee regarding the concerns raised on the streamlining of the closing dates of Calls and on the transparency of the feedback on the outcomes of the proposals that were evaluated.
7. It was agreed that there will be one integrated proposal that will be further developed from the three flagship projects by the respective principal investigators of each country led by Dr David Buckley. The working title of the integrated proposal is: **BRICS INTELLIGENT TELESCOPE NETWORK**.
8. The first draft of the revised proposal will be completed by December 10<sup>th</sup> and the Secretariat will submit the proposal to the respective BRICS structures to request funding by no later than the end of January 2020.
9. The Secretariat will work on the development of a Prospectus that will be used to communicate the proposal and activities of the BAWG.
10. The Secretariat with the support of Dr Bruno Castilho, Prof Dmitri Bisikalo and Prof Wang Zhong (TBC) would explore possible options for an appropriate legal entity for the eventual BRICS Astronomy Organization. The options will be presented for discussion at the next meeting.
11. The BAWG gratefully accepted the offer from Russia to host the 2020 meeting in line with the BRICS Presidency to be assumed by Russia next year. The Secretariat will work with the Russian colleagues on the hosting of the next meeting.