

**General Assembly**

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**Fifty-eighth session****Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session****International Year of Physics, 2005****Letter dated 30 April 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, France, Lesotho, Monaco, Portugal and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "International Year of Physics, 2005".

Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have attached an explanatory memorandum (annex I) in support of the above request and a draft resolution (annex II).

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

*(Signed)* Ronaldo Mota **Sardenberg**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Brazil

*(Signed)* Jean-Marc **de La Sablière**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of France

*(Signed)* Lebohang Kenneth **Moleko**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho

*(Signed)* Michel **Borghini**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Principality of Monaco

*(Signed)* Gonçalo Aires **de Santa Clara Gomes**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Portugal

*(Signed)* Emyr Jones **Parry**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom

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## Annex I

### Explanatory memorandum

#### International Year of Physics, 2005

Physics plays a crucial role in our understanding of the physical world we live in. It provides a significant basis for the development of the understanding of nature; it has a tremendous impact on society through progress in technology. The contribution of physicists in the welfare and economic development of the nations is well known yet little understood and appreciated. The knowledge and problem-solving skills of people who have studied physics are essential in many fields and industries. An understanding of the fast-changing technological world requires people who are trained in this field in every country.

During the thirty-second session of its General Conference, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted by acclamation a resolution proclaiming 2005 the International Year of Physics.

The International Year of Physics is envisaged as a worldwide celebration of physics and its importance to our everyday lives. It has the objective of raising worldwide awareness of physics as well as physical science. The year 2005 is the centenary of a series of great scientific advances of Albert Einstein which have influenced all of modern physics. This provides an opportunity for the world to celebrate in the twenty-first century one of the greatest minds in physics.

The International Year of Physics is meant to be a worldwide endeavour that should be led by UNESCO in partnership with the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. This effort must be a partnership with the local physics and science associations and teachers. This should also help bring to the fore the challenges faced by physicists in the developing world as a result of the lack of opportunities, an effort that must be led by UNESCO, possibly organizing meetings where these discussions can be carried out.

## Annex II

### Draft resolution

#### International Year of Physics, 2005

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* that physics provides a significant basis for the development of the understanding of nature,

*Noting* that physics and its applications are the basis of many of today's technological advances,

*Convinced* that education in physics provides men and women with the tools to build the scientific infrastructure essential for development,

*Being aware* that the year 2005 is the centenary of seminal scientific discoveries by Albert Einstein which are the basis of modern physics,

1. *Welcomes* the proclamation of 2005 as the International Year of Physics by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;
  2. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to organize activities celebrating 2005 as the International Year of Physics, collaborating with physics societies and groups throughout the world, including in the developing countries;
  3. *Declares* the year 2005 the International Year of Physics.
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