

# The Union of Physicists from Portuguese Speaking Countries

On 15 November 2019, in the beautiful Penafiel Palace in Lisbon, headquarters of the Comunidade de Países de Língua Portuguesa (CPLP), physicists from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Portugal and São Tomé Príncipe established the “União de Físicos de Países de Língua Portuguesa” – the UFPLP was born!

The day started with a conference on “Physics for Sustainable Development in the CPLP” which was followed by the Constitutive Assembly of the UFPLP. Its statute was approved and the administrative committees (General Assembly, Director Board and Fiscal Council) were appointed. It was the culmination of a process that started in 2010 with the 1<sup>st</sup> Physics Conference of Portuguese Speaking Countries in Maputo, where the idea of UFPLP was first proposed. The following editions of this Conference in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro and in 2019 in São Tomé laid the foundations of the Union.

A webpage for the Union was created ([www.ufplp.org](http://www.ufplp.org)) and is still under development. The logo for the Union (<UF |  $\hat{P}$  | LP>) was chosen as a free association of its acronym with the most used framework in physics – quantum mechanics.

▼ Photograph taken in the Meeting Hall of the CPLP with some participants of the UFPLP's Constitutive Assembly.

The main goals of the Union are:

- To develop conditions that promote a unifying environment and solidarity among physicists of the associated countries and territories in the UFPLP, with the goal of creating opportunities and conditions conducive to successful careers in the physics profession;
- To cooperate in the various fields of physics in which the professional activities of physicists are devoted to the cultural, scientific, technological and economic development of the different countries and territories, under the principle of prioritising and defending the best interests of their peoples, in particular the most disadvantaged in terms of teaching and research infrastructures;
- To provide channels for forming mutual partnerships with individuals and international organisations of a professional or cultural nature, fostering networks of collaborations and influence;
- To contribute to the promotion and defense of the historical heritage and professional activity of every

physicist and, in general, to promote all the activities that bolster the strengthening of the elements of the cultural identity that unite them.

At the website, already several journals in Portuguese are available, such as the *Gazeta de Física*, the *Revista Brasileira de Ensino de Física* and *Física na Escola*, a link to a series of “lives” in Physics, as well as a COVID-19 report from the African Academy of Sciences. We are also planning to have the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Physics Conference of Portuguese Speaking Countries in Cape Verde in 2022, during the International Year of Basic Sciences for Development. We do hope to increase our activities after the COVID-19 pandemic becomes more manageable. We welcome ideas for initiatives and cooperation. Please do not hesitate to contact us via [secretariado@ufplp.org](mailto:secretariado@ufplp.org) if you can think of joint opportunities! ■

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