

## Summary of the C4 activities since October 2019

1. Main focus had been planning and preparing for several international conferences, namely,
  - a) Type B: 21st International Symposium on Very High Energy Interactions (ISVHECRI) at Ooty, India, originally endorsed and supported by IUPAP for 2020 but now postponed to 2021. International Scientific Advisory Committee setup.
  - b) Type A: 37th International Cosmic Ray Conference (ICRC) at Berlin, Germany 15-22 July 2021. Preparations have begun and in a recent C4 meeting the proposal of the LOC for holding a hybrid conference with in person participation by some delegates (40-50% ?) and rest virtual participation.
  - c) Type B: 9th Very Large Volume Neutrino Telescope (VLVnT) Valencia Spain originally endorsed and supported by IUPAP for September 2020 but now recommended by C4 for postponement to April 2021.
  - d) Type C: Tera-electron Volt Particle Astrophysics (TeVPA), Chengdu, China 15-19 March 2021 endorsement recommended without any financial support.
2. Comments from C4 on Strategic plan which were sent as a separate mail;
  - (a) a.1. Appending at the end of "Reducing the Gender Gap in Physics and empowering women in Physics." via the equal opportunity approach
  - (b) Members felt that specific references to COVID-19 are probably not needed in a strategic document, especially in the penultimate paragraph. It is indeed a difficult time now, but most likely not worthy of special focus in the strategy.
  - (c) There may be a slight discrepancy between item 2 of New Activities "2. Managing the international conferences that IUPAP sponsors in a way that does not unreasonably contribute to CO2 emissions", which might imply a preference towards remote/online conferences (the ultimate CO2 reducing way) and "but also continuing to promote the necessary face to face interaction" (second last item) which most of us strongly support.
  - (d) Most importantly while COVID-19 might have incentivised online conferences but even after this pandemic is over and in-person conferences are back, it would be worthwhile having an online component in every IUPAP conference to allow for wider participation especially from developing countries where resources for international travel are always scarce.