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Dr. Kevin Govender  
Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD)  
Cape Town, South Africa

September 12, 2014

**Proposal for the creation of an Andean Regional Office of Astronomy for Development**

Dear Dr. Govender,

The purpose of this letter is to submit a proposal for the creation of the Andean Regional Office of Astronomy for Development (ROAD). If the proposal is successful, we expect to have a functional node starting on January 1st 2015.

This proposal improves upon the first proposal we submitted in September 2013. After its evaluation the committee suggested to clarify the following points:

- The role of Chile in the Node.
- The objectives, leaders and budget for each one of the suggested projects.
- The level of support from the institutions joining the Andean ROAD.

We have addressed these points in this proposal.

The Andean ROAD will encompass six countries: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. The main initiative for this proposal has been lead by several institutions in Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador.

The current state of this proposal is the result of meetings and discussions started in 2012, continued in an Andean meeting held in Bogotá in 2013 and virtual meetings during the year 2014. As a consequence of this intensive interaction some of the projects presented in this proposal (such as the Andean School on Astronomy and Astrophysics) are already ongoing.

In November 2013, during the XIV Latin American IAU Regional Meeting held in Florianópolis (Brazil) we shared the Andean ROAD initiative with all the attendees. This proposal also includes the input from all the people that got interested by the Andean ROAD project.

Attached to this letter you will find the full body of the proposal (16 pages), three support letters on behalf of the people sharing the responsibility of coordinating the ROAD and eleven letters from different institutions supporting the creation of the Andean ROAD.

We look forward to receiving the reply of the OAD steering committee to our proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaime', followed by a period. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning.

Dr. Jaime E. Forero-Romero  
Assistant Professor