

Your Excellency, Mr. René Troccaz, the Consul General of France in Jerusalem
Excellencies, The President,
Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening to everyone,

I am very pleased to be with you today at the opening session for this new and special edition of the Winter School in High Energy Physics in Palestine, which, unfortunately, is hosted online due to the current health situation. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to every one of you, His excellency the Consul General of France. Distinguished participants from the French consulate, IJC LAB friends from CERN, my fellow students and colleagues from Palestinian universities.

I would like also to thank Dr. Ahmed Bassalat and Prof. Achille Stocchi for their continuous effort in launching and maintaining a sustainable collaboration between An-Najah National University and Paris-Saclay University, and for their distinguished work in leading important projects which have provided knowledge support for the benefit of the Palestinian community.

I am here with you today to confirm ANNU support for the Winter School in High Energy Physics in Palestine. We believe that this school lays the ground for further collaboration projects. In this context, I would like to mention a few examples, the Centre of Excellence in High Energy Physics in Palestine that is currently in the commissioning phase, our preparations to join ATLAS as associate member, and the 100

exchange scholarship provided to students and staff from different disciplines.

This school aims for multi-disciplinary engagements that open research in physics to other disciplines. Students from the departments of chemistry and mathematics, the faculty of engineering and IT are involved in implementing multi-disciplinary activities. We are glad to see colleagues from the faculty of medicine and engineering also joining the committee this year. Furthermore, we are planning to disseminate this work to other faculties and to initiate new, multi-disciplinary joint master programs.

I am confident that the team in charge of this school will expand its activities to include other faculties and departments.

At the end, I would like to again thank all participants from abroad for their continuing support to An-Najah University and to the Palestinian community.

I also thank Dr. Ahmed Bassalat and Prof. Achille Stocchi for the successful organization of this important gathering.

Thank you all and best wishes for a successful meeting.