

COMSATS' STATUTES

October 2015



**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH (COMSATS)**

Statutes of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS)

Chapter-I: Establishment and Membership

Article 1: Establishment

- a) The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), hereinafter referred to as "the Commission", is an intergovernmental organization established in 1994 in Islamabad, Pakistan by representatives of a group of Heads of State/Government in developing countries, through the signing of an international agreement (COM_DOC-1). The following statutes encompass the provisions of the 1994 agreement;
- b) The Commission shall operate in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes.

Article 2: Membership

- a) The Membership of the Commission shall be open to all Heads of State or Governments of the South;
- b) New Members are required to sign an Accession Agreement (COM_DOC-2);
- c) Members of the Commission may appoint high level government officials to represent them at the General Meetings of the Commission or to represent them in any other way.

Chapter-II: Objectives

Article 3: Objectives and Functions

The Commission shall have the following objectives and functions:

- a) to sensitize the countries in the South to the centrality of science and technology in the development process, to the adequate resource allocation for research and development, and to the integration of science and technology in the national and regional development plans;
- b) to support the functioning and activities of the Network of International Science and Technology Centres for Sustainable Development in the South, established at the foundation meeting of the Commission;
- c) to support other major initiatives designed to promote indigenous capacity in science and technology for science-led sustainable development, and to help

mobilise long-term financial support from international donor agencies and from Government/Institutions in the North and the South to supplement the financing of international scientific projects in the South;

- d) to provide leadership and support for North-South and South-South cooperative schemes in education, training and research, such as the proposal to set up programmes of scholarships for research at centres of excellence in the South; and
- e) to support the relevant programmes and initiatives of major scientific organisations working for the development and promotion of science and technology in the South.

Chapter-III: Structure

Article 4: Statutory Bodies

The Commission shall have the following statutory bodies:

- a) The General Meeting;
- b) The Consultative Committee;
- c) The Network of the International Science & Technology Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Development in the South (herein after referred to as the "Network"); and
- d) The Secretariat.

Article 5: The General Meeting

- a) The General Meeting shall consist of all the Members of the Commission or their representatives;
- b) The General Meeting shall be held at least once every three years;
- c) The General Meeting shall be convened by the Chairperson of the Commission by a written invitation;
- d) The General Meeting shall:
 - Elect the new Chairperson of the Commission;
 - Set and approve policies for the long term growth of the Commission; and
 - Issue overall policy guidelines for the Consultative Committee as it deems appropriate.

Article 6: The Consultative Committee

- a) The Members of the Consultative Committee shall be the national “Focal Points” of Member countries of the Commission;
- b) The Focal Point of the member country hosting the Secretariat shall act as chair of the Consultative Committee;
- c) Subject to the overall policy guidelines adopted by the General Meeting, the Consultative Committee shall be empowered to make decisions on all matters affecting the Commission and the Network. In particular, the Consultative Committee shall perform the following tasks:
 - Coordinate and supervise all affairs of the Commission and, in particular, those concerning the programmes and finances of the Commission;
 - Appoint, as it deems necessary, temporary and standing committees to facilitate the functioning of the Commission;
 - Formulate the general policy of the Network;
 - Assist in the fund raising efforts of individual members of the Network, at the national, regional and global levels; and
 - Assist in the establishment of new members of the Network and in facilitating the upgrading of institutions recommended for membership.

Article 7: The Network of the International Science & Technology Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Development in the South

- a) The Network was established at the foundation meeting of the Commission to pursue the objectives set out in the Charter of the Network (COM_DOC-3);
- b) The Network shall operate through a Coordinating Council in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Network.

Article 8: The Secretariat

- a) The Secretariat of the Commission shall be permanently located at Islamabad, Pakistan, and the Executive Director of the Secretariat shall be the Secretary of the Commission;
- b) The Secretariat shall work closely with the office of the Chairperson of the Commission in coordinating the Commission's functions and activities;
- c) The Secretariat shall establish formal working relationships with international and other relevant organizations for the promotion of the Commission's objectives; and
- d) The Secretariat shall interact with members of the Commission through the respective offices of the Focal Points designated by the Member States.

Chapter-IV: Chairperson and Executive Director

Article 9: The Chairperson

- a) The Chairperson of the Commission shall be elected at the General Meeting of the Commission;
- b) The term of office of the Chairperson shall be three years, which can be renewed in the next General Meeting or continued until then;
- c) The Chairperson shall convene and host at least one meeting of the Commission during his/her term of office.

Article 10: The Executive Director

- a) The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Head of the Government of the Country hosting the Secretariat;
- b) The appointment of the Executive Director shall be made from a panel of candidates recommended by a nominating committee, comprising of Chairperson Consultative Committee, Chairperson Coordinating Council, and Executive Director TWAS;
- c) The Executive Director shall hold office for a period of four years, and may be re-appointed for further two terms of four years each;
- d) The Executive Director shall be the Head of the Secretariat and shall be charged with the appointment and general conduct of the staff of the Secretariat of the Commission, and shall be responsible for the administration of the affairs of the Commission, including its finances;
- e) The Executive Director shall work closely with the Chairperson and the Consultative Committee of the Commission to implement the policies of the Commission;
- f) The Executive Director shall be the Secretary of the Consultative Committee.

Chapter-V: Finance

Article 11:

- a) The Commission is authorized to accept and receive contributions such as grants, donations, gifts and bequests as well as fees for any services it may render. Acceptance of such contributions shall be affected by the Consultative Committee;

- b) The Commission may invite Members and donor organisations to make contributions towards the costs of COMSATS Secretariat; and
- c) The accounts of the Commission shall be appropriately audited in accordance of best practices.

Chapter-VI: Revisions and Amendments

Article 12:

- a) Revisions and amendments of the Statutes may be made with two third majority of the members of the Commission present and voting in a regular Meeting; and
- b) Proposals for revisions and amendments will only be considered if they are received by the Secretariat of the Commission in writing at least three months before the commencement of the next General Meeting of the Commission.

**Agreement to Establish the Commission on
Science and Technology for Sustainable Development
in the South (COMSATS)**

(Revised as on 17 April 2012)

Preamble

The parties to the present Agreement representing Head of State or Government of the countries in the South:

1. **Realizing** the importance and necessity of a joint political commitment by the Heads of State or Government in the South to place science and technology at the top of their economic agenda and to support major initiatives of common concern aimed at building and sustaining indigenous capacities in science and technology and their application to socio-economic development;
2. **Recalling** the 1988 Trieste Declaration, which was adopted by the Founding Members of the Third World Network of Scientific Organization (including 15 Ministers of Science and Technology and 30 Heads of Science Academies and Research Councils from the South) and in which they resolved to work towards giving science and technology a position of highest priority in their own countries and to strengthen their collaboration with other countries of the South as well as of the North;
3. **Appreciating** the efforts of the former President of the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNSO), the Nobel Laureate (Late) Professor Abdus Salam, in sensitizing the political leadership in the South to increase funding for research and development and to intensify their cooperation in order to narrow the widening gap between the North and the South in generation of science and new technologies and their utilization in technology production and social services; have agreed as follows:

Article I: Establishment

- a. The parties to this Agreement declare and endorse the establishment of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), hereinafter referred to as "the Commission";
- b. The Commission shall operate in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

Article II: Membership

- a. The Membership of the Commission shall be open to all Heads of State or Governments of the South. The Members may, however, appoint nominees to attend meetings of the Commission or represent them in other ways.
- b. [Deleted]

Article III: Mission, Objectives and Functions

The Commission shall have the following objectives and functions:

- a. to sensitize the countries in the South to the centrality of science and technology in the development process, to the adequate resource allocation for research and development, and to the integration of science and technology in the national and regional development plans;
- b. to support the functioning and activities of the Network of International Science and Technology Centres for Sustainable Development in the South, established under this agreement;
- c. to support other major initiatives designed to promote indigenous capacity in science and technology for science-led sustainable development, and to help mobilize long-term financial support from international donor agencies and from Government/Institutions in the North and the South to supplement the financing of international scientific projects in the South;
- d. to provide leadership and support for North-South and South-South cooperative schemes in education, training and research, such as the proposal to set up programmes of scholarships for research at centres of excellence in the South; and
- e. to support the relevant programmes and initiatives of major scientific organizations working for the development and promotion of science and technology in the South.

Article IV: The Chairperson

- a. The Commission shall elect on a rotation basis a Chairperson from amongst its Members for three years' tenure;
- b. The Chairperson shall convene and host at least one meeting of the Commission during the period of three years.

Article V: The Secretariat

- a. The Headquarters of the Network of International Centres of Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South, permanently located at Islamabad, Pakistan, shall also house the Secretariat for the Commission, and the Executive Director of the Headquarters shall be the Secretary of the Commission;
- b. The Secretariat shall work closely with the office of the Chairperson of the Commission in coordinating the Commission's functions and activities;
- c. The Secretariat shall establish formal working relationships with international and other relevant organizations for the promotion of Commission's objectives;
- d. The Secretariat shall interact with members of the Commission through the respective offices of the Focal Points designated by the Member States.

Article VI: Finance

The Commission may invite Members and donor organizations to make contributions towards the costs of COMSATS Secretariat. It shall also mobilize sources of funding to support the Commission's Programmes.

Article VII: Revisions and Amendments

Revisions and amendments in the Agreement could be made with two third majority of the members of the Commission present and voting in a regular Meeting. Proposals for revisions and amendments will be conveyed to the Secretariat of the Commission in writing at least six months before the commencement of the next Commission Meeting.

Article VIII: Signature and Acceptance

The Agreement shall be open for signatures by all Members as defined in Article II. New Members would be inducted on signing an Accession Agreement (Annex-I).

AGREEMENT TO JOIN COMSATS AS MEMBER STATE

[Draft]

The Parties to this agreement:

the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), hereinafter referred to as 'the Commission', and the Government of <.....full name of country.....>, hereinafter referred to as <.....short country name.....>;

Recalling the joint statement made in the Foundation Conference to establish the Commission, held in Islamabad on 4-5 October 1994;

Endorsing the International Statutes of the Commission as an inter-governmental organization comprising of Heads of State/Government;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

Membership of the Commission

The Head of the State or Government of <.....short country name.....> shall be a Member of the Commission. The Member may, however, appoint a nominee to attend meetings of the Commission or represent him/her in other ways.

Article II

Membership of the Consultative Committee

The Government of <.....short country name.....> shall designate the Head of a relevant Ministry or Government Organization as the Focal Point, representing the Member of the Commission. The designated Focal Point shall be a Member of the Consultative Committee.

Article III

Membership of the Coordinating Council

The Government of <.....short country name.....> may nominate any R&D institution in the country to become a member of the Network of the International Science & Technology Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Development in the South. After evaluation and approval by the Coordinating Council, the nominated institution will be inducted in the Network as one of its Centres-of-Excellence. The Head of this Centre-of-Excellence shall be a Member of the Coordinating Council.

Article IV

Finances

The Government of <.....short country name.....> may contribute towards the cost of scientific activities conducted by the Commission's Secretariat on voluntary basis or through a separately agreed protocol for mutually agreed annual membership contribution.

Article V

Duration

This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period.

Article VI

Termination

The State Party to this agreement will have the right to terminate this Agreement giving an advance written notice of six months.

Article VII

Annexes

The Statutes of the Commission (Annex-1) shall be the integral part of this Agreement.

Article VIII

Coming into Force

This agreement shall come into force immediately on being signed by the representative of <.....full name of the country.....> and the Executive Director, COMSATS.

Done at <.....venue.....> in duplicate in English and <.....other language, if any.....> this <.....day.....> of <.....month.....>, <.....year.....>, both texts being equally authentic.

On behalf of the Government of
<.....short country name.....>

On behalf of COMSATS

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Executive Director
COMSATS Secretariat
Islamabad, Pakistan

Country: _____

Date:

Date:

Charter of the Network of the International Science & Technology Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Development in the South

PREAMBLE

The Working Committee set up at the First Meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), hereinafter referred to as "the Commission", held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 04-05 October, 1994:

1. **Convinced** that sustainable economic development in the South cannot be achieved without building and sustaining indigenous capacities in Science and Technology;
2. **Noting** the widening gap between the North and South in the generation of scientific and technological knowledge and its application to socio-economic development;
3. **Calling** for collective effort amongst the countries of the South to achieve self-reliance in frontier science and new technology;
4. **Conscious** that South-South and North-South cooperation is essential in building science and technology capacity in the South;
5. **Recalling** the resolution of the Heads of Governments of Non-Aligned Countries at their 1989 Meeting in Belgrade, which called for joint action by the Governments of the South, the UN System, the World Bank and donor agencies to establish in the South a Network of International Centres for research and training in areas of frontier science and technology and environmental sciences of critical importance to sustainable socio-economic development; and
6. **Noting** the Agreement reached at the First Meeting of the Commission to establish a Network of International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Development in the South (hereinafter referred to as the "Network");

has agreed on the following:

Article 1: Membership

- a. The Membership of the Network of Centres of Excellence shall be open to any suitably qualified institution proposed by a Developing Country. In principle,

there shall be only one centre for each Country but, where merited, more than one institution may be admitted per Country.

Article 2: Objectives

The Network shall have the following objectives:

- a. To assist the countries of the South to build and sustain a critical mass of world-class scientists and technologists in those areas of science and technology, which are of critical importance to sustainable socio-economic development;
- b. To attract talent, reduce brain-drain, and induce competent Third World scientists and technologists working abroad to return to their countries;
- c. To facilitate the transfer of technology and the supply to industry of highly qualified technical personnel;
- d. To assist in finding S&T-based solutions to sustainability issues in the South;
- e. To provide avenues for international cooperation in areas of science and technology of global concern, including those for environmentally sustainable development;
- f. To provide a suitable framework for science and technology assessment and management in the South;
- g. To develop strong links between Members of the Network and production sectors in the South;
- h. To promote joint scientific research and technological ventures of common interest amongst the Members of the Network; and
- i. To assist in carrying out other programmes as assigned by the Commission.

Article 3: Functions

In order to fulfill the above-mentioned objectives, the Members of the Network shall carry out the following functions;

- a. To conduct high-level research and training activities, nationally, regionally and internationally, in the scientific fields of each Node of the Network in order to achieve a critical mass of highly-qualified personnel in these fields in the South;
- b. To conduct basic and applied research in order to help find solutions to socio-economic development and environmental challenges facing the South;

- c. To conduct interdisciplinary research and modelling in order to devise scientific solutions to problems that have global implications for environmentally sustainable development; and
- d. To provide scientific and technical services to the Production and Services sectors in the South.

Article 4: Organs

The Network of Centres of Excellence shall have the following Organs:

- a. A Coordinating Council;
- b. A Technical Advisory Committee; and
- c. A Secretariat.

Article 5: The Coordinating Council

- a. The Coordinating Council shall be composed of the Heads of the Member Centres or their representatives. The Executive Director of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) or his/her representative shall be a Member of the Coordinating Council;
- b. The Coordinating Council shall elect from amongst its Members a Chairperson who shall hold office for three years and who may be re-elected for further terms of three years;
- c. The Coordinating Council shall take decisions on matters related to the Membership of the Network;
- d. The Coordinating Council shall be the controlling body that approves the programmes and budget of the Network and the Secretariat;
- e. The Coordinating Council shall make rules and regulations governing its own procedures;
- f. The Coordinating Council shall meet at least once a year; and
- g. The quorum for a meeting shall be half the number of Members of the Network. The Coordinating Council shall generally take its decisions by consensus. In case of difficulty in reaching a consensus, the Coordinating Council shall take decisions by a simple majority vote of its Members. In the event of equally divided votes, the Chairperson of the Coordinating Council shall have the casting vote.

Article 6: The Technical Advisory Committee

There shall be a Technical Advisory Committee of internationally renowned experts consisting of not more than 10 Members. The nominations for this Committee shall be made by The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and approved by the Coordinating Council.

The Technical Advisory Committee shall have the following functions:

- a. To review and advise on research and training priorities of the Member Centres; and
- b. To assess the scientific merit of institutions proposed for membership of the Network, and to recommend suitable ones to the Coordinating Council.

In fulfilling these functions the Technical Advisory Committee may constitute Specialized Committees of scientists and technologists of high repute in the relevant disciplines.

Article 7: The Secretariat

- a. The Secretariat of the Commission headed by its Executive Director shall also act as the Secretariat of the Network and shall be responsible for all matters related to the operation of the Network. The Executive Director shall be the Secretary of the Coordinating Council;
- b. The Secretariat shall assist the Organs of the Network in carrying out their duties;
- c. The Secretariat shall work closely with the Members of the Commission, TWAS, the Government of Pakistan through its Ministry of Science and Technology and other relevant organizations in discharge of its functions as determined by the Coordinating Council;
- d. The Executive Director shall be assisted by a Management Committee to discharge essential functions of the Secretariat. The Membership and the Terms of Reference of this Committee shall be determined by the Coordinating Council; and
- e. The Secretariat shall assist in carrying out the activities of the Member Centres in establishing collaborative programmes between them, and with other similar institutions. It shall also establish and manage a Technical Assistance Fund to support joint ventures.

Article 8: Finance

- a. Each Member of the Network shall be free to raise funds to fulfill its own requirements;
- b. The Coordinating Council and the Consultative Committee, with the assistance of the Secretariat, shall be empowered to negotiate with donor agencies and international organizations for financial and technical assistance to the Network; and
- c. The Government of Pakistan shall cover the major part of the running costs of the Secretariat. Members of the Commission and the Network will be expected to make voluntary financial contribution to support Secretariat's activities in their Countries.

Article 9: Official Work Language

English shall be the official working language.

Article 10: Amendments to the Charter

- a. Proposals to amend any part of the Charter may be submitted in writing to the Executive Director by any Member of the Network; and
- b. The proposed amendments shall be considered at a regular or a special meeting of the Coordinating Council, and shall only be approved by a vote of two-thirds majority of Members voting.

Article 11: Acceptance & Entry into Force

The Charter shall enter into force after approval by half of the members of the Commission.