

# Communiqué

**21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF  
COMSATS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**3-4 April 2018**

*Hosted by*

**Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU)  
Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan**



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

**Communiqué of the  
21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council  
(3 – 4 April 2018, Almaty, Kazakhstan)**

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The participants of the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council, including the representatives of fifteen Centres of Excellence, deliberated upon the fifteen-point agenda of the meeting during 3-4 April 2018, and are pleased to unanimously adopt the following statement:

1. The Coordinating Council pays gratitude to the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and for providing warm hospitality to its participants. The administrative support of COMSATS Secretariat to KazNU for the successful organization of the meeting, including active correspondence with the invitees and preparation of necessary documentation, is appreciated.
2. The excellent and efficient moderation of the discussions during various technical sessions of the meeting by the Chairperson Coordinating Council, Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, President NRC, is commended.
3. The Coordinating Council is pleased to welcome the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), China, as a member of COMSATS' Network of Centres of Excellence. It is hoped that TIB will actively participate in the activities of the Network, play a vital role in the achievement of COMSATS' objectives as well as provide imperative support to Network members whenever and wherever required.
4. The Council appreciates the R&D and academic activities being undertaken by Centres of Excellence individually as well as collectively. The strong intent of the Centres of Excellence to collaborate with each other for executing joint research and development projects having social and economic impact is commendable. The Network members are encouraged to streamline their programmes in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as to engage in South-North-South Triangular Cooperation.
5. COMSATS Secretariat is encouraged to continue its efforts to extend the membership of COMSATS' Network to other states as well. The Council also advises COMSATS Secretariat to include state-of-the-art centres from the North and the South in the Network in order to upgrade those Centres that need support from the advanced Centres to become true Centres of Excellence.
6. The linkage of Coordinating Council with other organs including Consultative Committee and Technical Advisory Committee may be strengthened in order to facilitate the upgradation of Centres of Excellence as well as expansion of the programmes and activities of COMSATS' Network. In this regard, the international

donor agencies may be approached for upgradation of labs and technical infrastructure of Centres of Excellence.

7. The Council encourages the establishment of new Centres of Excellence in the cutting-edge fields of science and technology for addressing national, regional and global challenges, with the support of international partner organizations and funding agencies.
8. The Centres of Excellence may benefit from the COMSATS Tele-health Programme for meeting the healthcare needs of the Member States.
9. The Lead Centres and collaborating institutions of ITRGs are encouraged to actively collaborate, share data, exchange expertise and laboratory resources, and build capacity in order to execute the joint research projects for the benefit of COMSATS' Member States. The ITRGs may also seek funding for this purpose from their respective Governments as well as international donor agencies.
10. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China is one of the largest infrastructure and investment mega-projects in history, involving 13 Member States of COMSATS. There are enormous opportunities of collaboration and funding under this Initiative. The Centres of Excellence are encouraged to capitalize on the opportunities available under this initiative for accelerating socio-economic development in the Member States.
11. The Council felicitates Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi, Executive Director COMSATS, on having been conferred upon the Al-Farabi Gold Medal for his outstanding contributions towards fostering international collaboration in science and technology.
12. The Council appreciates the efforts of COMSATS Secretariat to fulfil the objectives of the organization, and acknowledges the following achievements:
  - i. Initiatives taken by the new Executive Director of COMSATS for enhancing programmes and activities of the Organization as well as fostering regional and international cooperation;
  - ii. Steady growth of COMSATS flagship projects in Pakistan, i.e. the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) and COMSATS Internet Services (CIS);
  - iii. Continuous expansion of COMSATS Member States and Centres of Excellence;
  - iv. Organization of four (04) capacity building events in collaboration with Centres of Excellence and international partner organizations, which benefited various scientists, researchers, academicians, engineers and technicians belonging to Centres of Excellence and COMSATS Member States;
  - v. Increased utilization of postgraduate scholarships at CIIT-Pakistan by COMSATS Member States;

- vi. Exchange of resources and enhanced scientific collaboration among Centres of Excellence in various R&D domains;
- vii. Networking with the institutions of the North for the mobilization of financial resources and technical support so as to meet the objectives of the Network;
- viii. Regular publication of COMSATS' Annual Report, COMSATS' Newsletter, journal 'Science Vision' and other information material about the organization.

13. The Council encourages the Network members to make efforts for the following:

- i. Availing the opportunities of scholarships / fellowships available with COMSATS' Centres of Excellence;
- ii. Conducting capacity building events in accordance with the needs and demands of the scientific workforce of the Centres of Excellence and COMSATS Member States;
- iii. Sensitizing their respective governments regarding the benefits of regularly making AMC for the financial sustainability of COMSATS; and
- iv. Keeping COMSATS Headquarters abreast of the developments and achievements of their respective Centres