

FOUNDATION DOCUMENTS



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

*A headway approach to Scientific and
Technological Excellence in the Developing World*

Established In 1994

The Commission Meetings



The 1st COMSATS Commission Meeting, 4-5 October, 1994 at Islamabad-Pakistan



The 2nd COMSATS Commission Meeting, 16-17 April, 2012 at Islamabad-Pakistan



The 3rd COMSATS Commission Meeting, 27-28 October, 2015 at Accra-Ghana

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Foreword

The envisaging of a concept for the development of the countries in the year 1994 speaks of the commitment which the scientists and the diplomatic community showed towards the technological advancement of the developing world. There are numerous organizations in the world undertaking remarkable activities for sustainable development and we at COMSATS extend our earnest support to such organizations towards fulfillment of this noble cause. The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) is a promising endeavor to reach out to the scientific and technological community who could work towards the sustainability of the developing world through joint efforts of the member countries.

Over the span of twenty three years, the Commission has grown in terms of increase in number of member states and the flagship projects which the organization has initiated including, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), COMSATS Internet Services (CIS) and COMSATS e-Health Program. Similarly, the Commission is very active towards the activities of its Network of Centers of Excellence in various countries.

As a forward thinking approach, COMSATS strives to move ahead with more promising developmental projects in the future which may include increased collaboration with fellow organizations such as The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), International Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the like. We also plan to enhance the members of the organization who can partner with each other and work towards a developed South.

We also intend to partner with Governmental, Non-Governmental and International organizations so that we may be at ease while working towards making concerted efforts for sustainable development of the developing world.

Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi *H.I. S.I.*
Executive Director

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Introduction

The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) is an intergovernmental organization having a membership of 24 countries. Established in the year 1994 and having headquarters based at Islamabad, Pakistan, the organization is aimed for promotion of science and technology in the developing world. Currently, the organization has 20 Centers of Excellence in the world and the number is still growing. These Centers of Excellence provide the necessary pool of human resources and scientific infrastructure for undertaking a variety of capacity-building programmes, bilateral and multilateral cooperative research and consultancy/advocacy for the promotion of Science and Technology as primary ingredient of national development plans. The mission of COMSATS is to help create a world where all nations are at peace with one another and capable of providing good quality of life to their populations in a sustainable way using modern science and technology resources.

COMSATS also provides an institutional platform for North-South technical cooperation in areas of common interest such as Energy, Health, Education, Information Technology, and Environment. The flagship projects of COMSATS in Pakistan are open to all Member Countries for training and consultancy

The Commission's objectives are:

- 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 establishment of a Network of International Science and Technology Centers for Sustainable Development in the South
- c) To support other major initiatives designed to promote the 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 major North- South and South -South cooperative schemes in education, training and research, such as the proposal to setup programs of scholarships for research at centers of excellence in the South
- e) To support the relevant programs and initiatives of major scientific organizations working for the development and promotion of science and technology in the South



Foundation of the Commission

Foundation of the Commission

The foundation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) was laid through the invitation of the then Prime Minister of Pakistan H. E. Mrs. Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad on 4th and 5th October 1994. By virtue of being the Premier of the host country, she also chaired the First Commission Meeting in which Heads of Government or Heads of States of 36 countries including 22 Ministers of



Science and Technology and Higher Education representatives. The objectives set forth for the commission were:

- To formally establish the Heads of State or Government Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) and to agree on the objectives and functions of the Commission
- To lay down the foundations of the Network of International Science and Technology Centers in the South and to formally establish the first nodes of the Network at a number of already existing and highly competent institutions.

The meeting endorsed the establishment of Head of States or Governments Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) whose main objectives are to support major initiatives designed to promote indigenous capacity in science and technology for science-led sustainable development.

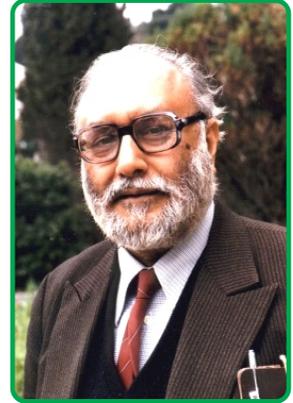
“The Government of Pakistan was inspired by Nobel Laureate, Professor Abdus Salam to hold this meeting. His vision of a free and unfettered collaboration amongst the scientists of the South echoed and re-echoed with a special resonance in our hearts and in our minds”

Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Mrs. Benazir Bhutto

H. E. Mrs. Bhutto in her inaugural address mentioned that we seek collaboration and not confrontation between the North and the South. In the end, she lauded the efforts of Dr. Abdus Salam and his associates who pioneered the idea of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development.

Establishment of the Commission

The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) was envisioned by Professor Abdul Salam who was the President of TWAS and TWNSO. Dr. Abdul Salam in his address referred to the importance of COMSATS in providing political backing to scientific and technological initiatives of major concern to the South and to significance of the network of centers of excellence in building high level scientific capacities in the South and in enriching mutual cooperation between the North and the South in Science and technology. In his address, Professor Salam thanked the Prime Minister of Pakistan for hosting the first meeting of COMSATS for kindness and generosity.



The First Meeting of the Commission was held on the 4th and 5th October 1994 and was organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan in collaboration with Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNSO).

The meeting concluded with the endorsement for the Establishment of Heads of States or Governments' Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) with the ratification of representatives of Heads of States or Government of China, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, D. P. R Korea, Pakistan, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Uganda. The meeting also endorsed the establishment of a Network of International Science and Technology Centers for Sustainable Development in the South to build and sustain a critical mass of the world-class scientists and technologists and to utilize their talent to expedite process of sustainable science-led development.

“The first Commission Meeting accepted generous invitation of the Government of Pakistan to setup Headquarters of the Network of International Science and Technology Centers for Sustainable Development in the South in Islamabad and to host the Secretariat of COMSATS at the Headquarters”

Nobel Laureate Dr. Abdus Salam

Representatives of Heads of State or Government of various Countries present at the First Meeting of COMSATS held on 4-5 October, 1994 at Islamabad, Pakistan

Bangladesh	Jamaica	Nigeria	Syria
Brazil	Jordan	Pakistan	Tanzania
China	Kazakhstan	Peru	Tunisia
Columbia	Korea, D.P.R	Philippines	Turkey
Egypt	Kuwait	Qatar	Uganda
Ghana	Malaysia	Senegal	United Arab Emirates
India	Mauritius	South Africa	Uzbekistan
Iran	Morocco	Sri Lanka	Zambia
Italy	Nepal	Sudan	Zimbabwe

Representatives of International Organizations Present at the First Meeting of COMSATS held on 4-5 October, 1994, Islamabad, Pakistan

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations University (UNU)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- World Bank

Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo
President of Ghana
Chairperson COMSATS

Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo became the 13th President of the Republic of Ghana after winning the country's Presidential Election 2016. On 7th January 2017, he took charge as the President of Ghana, by virtue of which he is an ex-officio Chairperson of COMSATS. The Chairpersonship of COMSATS was rotated in 2012 from Pakistan to Ghana through consensus among the members of COMSATS' Commission at its 2nd General Meeting held in Islamabad. The Chairpersonship was passed on to Mr. Akufo-Addo by his predecessor, Mr. John Dramani Mahama.



H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Pakistan
Head of the Host Country, Pakistan

Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is the 20th and current Prime Minister of Pakistan, since June 2013. He has previously also served as the Prime Minister from 1990 to 1993 and from 1997 to 1999. His Excellency's third term is credited to be one of social centrism. He aspires to make Pakistan "educated, progressive, forward looking and an enterprising nation".



H.E. Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain
Minister for Science and Technology, Pakistan
Head of COMSATS' Focal Ministry in Host Country

H.E. Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain is the current Minister for Defence Production and the Minister for Science and Technology. Mr. Hussain previously briefly held the cabinet portfolio of Minister for Defence Production in 2008. He has been an elected member of the National Assembly of Pakistan since 1985. He has previously served as Parliamentary Secretary to Ministry of Finance, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Finance, as well Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister.



Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi
Executive Director COMSATS

Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi H.I., S.I. assumed the charge of Executive Director in February 2017, by virtue of which he is also the ex-officio Secretary to the Commission, Coordinating Council and the Consultative Committee. He has rich and diverse experience spanning over forty years, ranging from his work for international and national organizations, educational-institution building, and research and teaching to foreign collaborative ventures. He has been the founding Rector of a Centre of Excellence of COMSATS, the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), which has phenomenally grown in operations and reputation both nationally and internationally. He is a recipient of two prestigious national awards of Pakistan, *Sitara-i-Imtiaz* and *Hilal-i-Imtiaz*.





**First Meeting of the
Commission on Science and Technology for
Sustainable Development in the South
(COMSATS)**

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

Held on 4-5 October 1994, Islamabad, Pakistan

Joint Statement by the Participants

We, the representatives of Heads of States or Governments of countries in the South, attending the first meeting of the Commission on Science & Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS):

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 development 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 Organisations (including 15 Ministers of Science & 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 President of the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNISO), the Nobel Laureate Professor Abdus Salam, in sensitizing the political leadership in the South to increase funding for research and development and to the South in the generation of science and new technologies and their utilization in technological production and social services;
4. **Convinced** that sustainable economic development in the South cannot be achieved without building and sustaining indigenous capacities in science and technology;
5. **Conscious** that South-South and North-South cooperation is essential in building science and technology capacity in the South; and
6. **Recalling** the resolution of the Heads of Government 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;

have agreed on the following:

- I. **Endorse** the establishment of the Heads of State or Government Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), with the following objectives:
 - a. to sensitize the countries of 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 major initiatives designed to promote indigenous capacity in science and technology for science-led sustainable development, such as the establishment of a number of international research and training centres of excellence in the South, and to help mobilize long-term financial support from international donor agencies to supplement the financing of international scientific projects in the South;
 - c. to provide leadership and support for major South-South and North-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
 - d. to support the relevant programmes and initiatives of major scientific organizations working for the development of science and technology in the South.

- II. **Endorse** the establishment of a Network of International Science and Technology Centres for Sustainable Development in the South with 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 areas of frontier science and technology and environmental sciences which are of critical importance to sustainable socio-economic development.
 - b. to attract talent, reduce the 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 and advise in finding scientific solutions to complex developmental and environmental problems in the South;
 - e. to provide avenues for international cooperation in areas of science and technology of global concern to environmentally sustainable development, including the sharing of information;
 - f. to provide a suitable framework for science and technology assessment and management in the South;



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

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 (TWNISO), 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.

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



**Statutes of the
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. 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;
- 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.

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:
- d) Coordinate and supervise all affairs of the Commission and, in particular, those concerning the programmes and finances of the Commission;
- e) Appoint, as it deems necessary, temporary and standing committees to facilitate the functioning of the Commission;
- f) Formulate the general policy of the Network;
- g) Assist in the fund raising efforts of individual members of the Network, at the national, regional and global levels; and
- h) 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;
- 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 organizations 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.



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

(Revised as on 13th May 2015)

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

(Revised as on 13th May 2015)

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.



**The Gazette of Pakistan for
Establishment of
Commission on Science and Technology for
Sustainable Development in the South
(COMSATS)**

The Gazette  **of Pakistan**

**EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

KARACHI, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1995

PART III

Other Notifications and Orders etc., issued by the Government of
Pakistan

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 28th November, 1995

No. IEE(I)-12/4/95.—Whereas Pakistan has signed the International Agreement to Establish the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) on 5th October, 1994 at Islamabad.

Recalling the Joint Statement issued in the Foundation Conference of COMSATS which was endorsed by the representatives of heads of States or Governments of countries in the South including Pakistan attending the aforesaid conference on 4 - 5th October, 1994, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Noting the decision of the Government of Pakistan to host the Secretariat of COMSATS and approval of the Charter of the Network of International Science and Technology, Centre of Excellence, dated 23rd July, 1995. Now therefore in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of Act, No. XX of 1948, it is hereby notified that the following provisions of the Schedule shall apply mutatis mutandis to the International Organisation known as Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), its representatives and officers :—

(75)

Price Ps. 30

THE SCHEDULE
(See Section 2 and 3)

ARTICLE I
Juridical Personality

SECTION 1. Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) shall possess juridical personality.

It shall have the capacity :—

- (a) to contract;
- (b) to acquire and dispose of immovable and movable property;
- (c) to institute legal proceedings.

ARTICLE II
Property, Funds and Assets

SECTION 2. Not applicable

SECTION 3. Not applicable

SECTION 4. Not applicable

SECTION 5. Without being restricted by financial controls, regulations or moratoria of any kind.

- (a) COMSATS may hold funds in currency of any kind and operate accounts in any currency;
- (b) COMSATS shall be free to transfer its fund or currency from one country to another or within any country and to convert any currency held by it into any other currency.

SECTION 6. Not applicable

SECTION 7. COMSATS its assets, income and other property shall be :—

- (a) exempt from all direct taxes; it is understood, however, that COMSATS will not claim exemption from taxes which are, in fact, no more than charges for public utility services.
- (b) exempt from customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of articles imported or exported by COMSATS for its official use; it is understood, however, that articles imported under such exemption will not be sold in the country into which they were imported except under conditions agreed with the Government of that country;
- (c) exempt from customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of its publications.

SECTION 8. While COMSATS will not, as a general rule, claim exemption from excise duties and from taxes on the sale of movable and

immovable property which form part of the price to be paid: nevertheless when COMSATS is making important purchases for official use of property on which such duties and taxes have been charged or are chargeable, Government of Pakistan will, whenever possible, make appropriate administrative, arrangements for the remission or return of the amount of duty or tax or issue exemption certificates in advance of such purchase by COMSATS.

ARTICLE III

Facilities in Respect of Communications

- SECTION 9. Not applicable
SECTION 10. Not applicable

ARTICLE IV

The Representatives of Members

- SECTION 11. Not applicable
SECTION 12. Not applicable
SECTION 13. Where the incidence of any form of taxation depends upon residence, periods during which the representatives of Members to the principal and subsidiary organs of the COMSATS and to conferences convened by the COMSATS are present in Pakistan for the discharge of their duties shall not be considered as periods of residence.
SECTION 14. Not applicable
SECTION 15. The provisions of Section 13 are not applicable as between a representative and the authorities of the State of which he is a national or of which he is or has been the representatives.
SECTION 16. In this article the expression 'representatives' shall be deemed to include all delegates, deputy delegates, advisers, technical experts and secretaries of delegations.

ARTICLE V

Officials

- SECTION 17. Not applicable
SECTION 18. Officials of COMSATS other than Pakistan nationals shall:—
(a) Not applicable
(b) be exempt from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by COMSATS.
(c) Not applicable
(d) Not applicable
(e) Not applicable
(f) Not applicable
(g) have the right to import free of duty their furniture and

personal effects at the time of first taking up their post in the Pakistan in question.

SECTION 19.

Not applicable

SECTION 20.

Not applicable

SECTION 21.

COMSATS shall co-operate at all times with the appropriate authorities of Pakistan to facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure the observance of police regulations and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities and facilities mentioned in this Article.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 22.

Not applicable

SECTION 23.

Not applicable

ARTICLE VII

SECTION 24-28

Not applicable

SECTION 29 and 30.

Not applicable

SAJJAD AHMAD SEEHAR,
Section Officer IEE(I)

COMSATS ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR 2017



Ambassador of Syria Calls on Executive Director COMSATS



The Ambassador of State of Palestine visits COMSATS Secretariat



Brainstorming session on way forward for COMSATS



Participants of 25th Advanced Diplomatic Course visit COMSATS Secretariat

Member States



Bangladesh



China



Colombia



Egypt



Gambia



Ghana



Iran



Jamaica



Jordan



Kazakhstan



Korea, D.P.R



Morocco



Nigeria



Pakistan



Palestine



Philippines



Senegal



Sri Lanka



Sudan



Syria



Tanzania



Tunisia



Uganda



Zimbabwe

Centres of Excellence



BCSIR-Bangladesh



Embrapa Agrobiologia-Brazil



ICCES-China



CIF-Colombia



NRC-Egypt



CSIR-Ghana



IROST-Iran



ICENS-Jamaica



RSS-Jordan



KazNU-Kazakhstan



NMC-Nigeria



ICCBS-Pakistan



CIIT-Pakistan



UCAD-Senegal



ITI-Sri Lanka



IRCC-Sudan



HIAST-Syria



TIRDO-Tanzania



CERTE-Tunisia



TÜBİTAK MAM-Turkey



Commission on Science and Technology for
Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS)
Shahrah-e-Jamhuriat, G-5/2, Islamabad, Pakistan.
www.comsats.org