

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> COORDINATING COUNCIL  
MEETING OF COMSATS  
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- The Members of the Council concur that economic progress depends in large part on a nation's ability to harness science and technology for addressing wide-ranging socio-economic challenges. A growing number of countries have recently taken important steps to enhance indigenous S&T capacity. COMSATS is committed to working with member states to strengthen this process.
- Investment in S&T must be a cornerstone of strategic planning for long-term prosperity of the South. The norm of spending on R&D in developed countries, which is 2-3% of GDP, should be adopted by all States. Encouraging progress made by some member states of COMSATS in this respect needs to be emulated by others.
- An essential component of S&T capacity building is human resource development, for which the policy makers should devise ambitious plans. Political will plays a key role in the successful implementation of these plans. Members of COMSATS' Council reiterate their commitment to provide state-of-the-art research and training facilities to scientists from COMSATS Member States and, in general, to cooperate in the sharing of science and technology whenever and wherever feasible.
- The ultimate objective of developing or adapting scientific and technological solutions is to help society by promoting industrial productivity, food security, public health, environmental conservation, energy supplies and advanced communication. COMSATS' Centres of Excellence are engaged in R&D activities to address such issues. The strengthening of the Centres' infrastructures and facilities by national authorities will make international collaboration more effective, leading to more rapid achievement of the desired goals.
- The existing institutional infrastructure for R&D in the South requires review and upgrading. A national evaluation mechanism for achieving maximum performance on par with international standards is an essential component of research productivity. The success achieved among different members of the COMSATS Network in this regard is a matter of great satisfaction and could serve as a model for others.
- COMSATS' Coordinating Council Members realize that global scientific advances are taking place at a breathtaking pace and that new fields of study – for example, in the biological and material science – are gaining prominence. To keep abreast with such emerging fields in science and

technology will require the creation of new institutions and new collaborative scientific ventures.

- To advance the interests of developing countries in commerce, trade, environment, security and international stability, cooperative efforts are indispensable. Realizing the importance of research collaboration, members of the COMSATS Council resolve to establish thematic research groups for technical cooperation with the participation of clusters of countries within the membership of COMSATS. The groups would undertake research projects in selected areas of high socio-economic impact, including ICTs, agriculture and biotechnology, material science, mathematical modeling, environmental studies and space technologies.
- In view of the significance of scientific meetings and training workshops, COMSATS Council members will also make earnest efforts to hold at least one scientific activity every two years for scientists from COMSATS Member Countries, and to participate in scientific events under this arrangement taking place in other Member Countries.
- International fora devoted to South-South cooperation in S&T, including COMSATS, deserve the greatest financial support possible by the respective Member States. Adequate funding for organizations, such as, COMSATS is indeed in the best interest of the States.
- The Council calls upon the scientific communities in their countries to redouble their efforts to achieve excellence in their respective areas of expertise, request their governments to accord the highest priority to S&T capacity building, and earnestly call upon the world leaders to help achieve scientific progress throughout the globe. To achieve these lofty goals will require both political and financial commitments from governments, international collaboration and a willingness on the part of the scientific community to conduct research in society's interest.