

Communiqué of the 14th Coordinating Council Meeting of COMSATS (26-27 May, 2011), Bogota – Colombia

- COMSATS' Coordinating Council expresses its profound sense of gratitude to the International Centre of Physics (CIF), Bogota, Colombia and the Government of the Republic of Colombia for hosting the 14th Meeting of the Council and for providing excellent facilities to make the Meeting a real success.
- The members of the Council appreciate that the venue of this year's Meeting was chosen to be in the Latin American region, which has enabled the COMSATS' Centres of Excellence to create a deeper understanding of the technical strengths, operational framework of the scientific institutions and above all the rich cultural background of this great region.
- The successful outcome of the Meeting reaffirms the conviction of COMSATS founding members that the role of science and technology is crucial in building socio-economic strengths of the countries of the South and cooperation among the developing countries to attain self reliance for peace and prosperity has become essential in the 21st Century.
- The meeting greatly appreciates the scientific and technological progress made by COMSATS' Centres of Excellence which has contributed to the mission and objectives of the Commission. The strengthened capabilities of the Centres of Excellence have great role to play not only in providing a robust support to their national economies, but also in sharing their technical strengths with those Centres of Excellence whose collaborative efforts in COMSATS' programmes need to be augmented.
- The Council welcomes the induction of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research as a new member in COMSATS' Network of International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Development in the South. It is hoped that this prestigious R&D organization will play an important role in enhancing the scientific strength of the Network.
- The Council attaches great importance to the thematic programme of COMSATS' technical cooperation projects. In this respect the launching of thematic activities in the areas of Natural Products Sciences by ICCBS, Karachi, Pakistan, Climate Change and Environmental Protection by ICCES, Beijing, China and Information and Communication Technologies by CIIT, Islamabad, Pakistan are greatly appreciated. The Council expresses its keen desire that more projects are launched in the thematic areas which have been agreed in the previous Coordinating Council Meetings and more areas are added to the programme.

- The Council reiterates its belief that COMSATS' thematic technical cooperation programme should proceed with the assistance of an agreed strategy. The efforts made by the Secretariat to evolve such a strategy enjoy the appreciation and support of the Council Members. The approval given by the 14th Coordinating Council to the 1st part of the strategy document containing strategic objectives will provide useful inputs for successful completion of the thematic projects. The Council recognizes with appreciation the assistance provided to COMSATS' Secretariat by TWAS – Italy, in producing the revised strategy document and asks the Secretariat to commence work on the second part of the document which will contain the implementational aspects of the thematic projects.
- It is evident that capacity building is an essential and continuous process for any scientific organization. The Council expresses its resolve to enhance cooperation among its Centres of Excellence and to make special efforts to further build capacities by means of training, technical exchange, workshops, higher education, equipment maintenance, dissemination of knowledge and linkages with donor agencies.
- Owing to the importance of holding the 2nd Commission Meeting, the Council desires that efforts may be enhanced by the Secretariat and the Member States to meet this mandatory requirement as early as possible. The Meeting appreciates the efforts made by the Secretariat during the last two years in this regard and urges it to continue necessary work in order to achieve this objective possibly in 2012. The Centres of Excellence have shown their resolve to invigorate their efforts to ensure maximum participation of the members of the Commission at the highest possible level.
- In order to achieve the goals of the Charter of Network of Centres of Excellence and to accelerate the pace of progress, the Council gives high importance to the ensured, efficient and timely communication among the member Centres and the Secretariat. The Centres of Excellence will augment their efforts to significantly improve the efficiency of the communications.
- The Council reaffirms its commitment to continue upholding the spirit and principles of South-South cooperation for the sustainable socio-economic development of COMSATS' Member States for the collective benefit of the developing world.
- The Council reiterates its call to all Member States to allocate annually at least 2% of their GDP for the S&T sector.