

**WELCOME SPEECH BY DR. ABDULAI B. SALIFU, DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR), GHANA**

**(Joint Inaugural Session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Consultative Committee and  
16<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Council Meetings of COMSATS, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2013, Accra, Ghana)**

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Mr. Chairman  
Hon. Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI)  
Executive Director, COMSATS  
Deputy Director-General, CSIR-Ghana  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
Representative/Executive Directors of International Organizations in Ghana  
COMSATS Liaison Officers  
Directors of CSIR Research Institutes  
Directors of MDAs  
Research Scientists  
Distinguished Participants  
Members of the Press  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to be with you to welcome you all to the Republic of Ghana on this May Day. On behalf the President and People of the Republic of Ghana, the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), I wish to welcome you all to Ghana and to the Joint Inaugural session of 2<sup>nd</sup> Consultative Committee Meeting and the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS). We are very pleased that our local guests and partners have also responded to our invitation to participate in this joint inaugural session of COMSATS in Ghana.

On behalf of MESTI and the CSIR, I wish to express our gratitude to the Executive Director and the COMSATS Secretariat for their encouragement and support to Ghana in making this joint meeting a reality. Let me take this opportunity to thank the local organizing committee for their efforts in organizing this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

The CSIR-Ghana is the largest scientific research organization in Ghana. It operates under the sector Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MEST). The CSIR was established by the Government of Ghana to organize and coordinate scientific research and development activities and advise the government on scientific and technological advancements likely to be important for the development of Ghana.

The CSIR has about 500 researchers of varied specialized disciplines and expertise who all play significant roles towards Ghana's socio-economic development. From its Head Office in Accra, the CSIR oversees the activities of 13 Research Institutes, each of which has a definite mandate covering specialized areas like Agriculture, Industry, Social Sciences and some aspects of health. The institutes are:

- Animal Research Institute, Accra
- Building and Road Research Institute, Kumasi
- Crops Research Institute, Kumasi
- Food Research Institute, Accra
- Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, Kumasi
- Oil Palm Research Institute, Kusi-Kade
- Plant Genetic Resources Research Institute, Bunso
- Savanna Agricultural Research Institute, Tamale
- Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, Accra
- Soil Research Institute, Kumasi
- Institute of Science and Technological Information, Accra
- Institute of Industrial Research, Accra
- Water Research Institute, Accra

In its 54 years of existence, the CSIR has creditably discharged its mandate by generating several research findings and technologies, which contribute to the reduction of poverty, enhanced livelihoods in rural communities, improved food security in Ghana and promote socio-economic development in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Minister, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Time will not permit me to provide in detail, the achievements of the CSIR in the national development effort. Permit me, however, to say that the CSIR has kept faith with the mission of COMSATS to achieve sustainable development in the south through the use of science and technology. The CSIR has contributed meaningfully to economic growth and development in Ghana, including poverty reduction, through research with impact. CSIR research institutes have undertaken research activities, which impact on the development of key sectors of Ghana's economy. Key research programs are:

- ensuring food security and poverty reduction through crop production, animal health and production, agro-processing and fisheries,
- agro-industrial development and productivity,
- environmental sustainability and conservation of biodiversity,
- community and livelihood improvements,
- development of road infrastructure and road safety,
- human settlements development, including housing and shelter,
- water and sanitation,
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT),
- energy supply.

The CSIR has contributed to the development of agro-industrial technologies for ARIBRO production, rainwater harvesting, drilling of boreholes, mango production, pozzolana cement production for housing, and technologies for road infrastructure, electrification and fisheries. These CSIR products provide appropriate and effective solutions to Ghana's unique developmental challenges, such as low industrial and agricultural productivity, community degradation or stagnation, unemployment, especially youth unemployment, and poverty.

The CSIR has consistently worked to develop agriculture, forestry and fisheries by improving the quality of livestock, developing various crop varieties and improving production technologies for increasing outputs to ensure food security and poverty reduction. It has also developed technologies for value addition to agricultural produce to reduce post-harvest losses. In the industrial sector, the CSIR has developed various technologies, processors and products, which are important in the building, materials, energy, food and allied industries.

CSIR technologies have contributed to expanding opportunities for productive employment, community renewal, environmental conservation, income generation and poverty reduction. The CSIR has consequently contributed to industrial and agricultural productivity in Ghana and enhanced the crucial importance of science, technology and innovation in the attainment of national developmental goals.

Currently, the CSIR Council has approved the establishment of a CSIR-Horticultural Research Institute, and a 3-member team of experts has been constituted to develop modalities towards the establishment of the institute. It is expected that the establishment of the institute will further widen the scope of research into fruits, vegetables, ornamentals and medicinal plants to assist the growth of the horticultural industry in Ghana.

Distinguished Guests, Renowned Scientists, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The CSIR also has strong linkages and collaborative arrangements with government ministries, departments and agencies, universities and research institutions, and several international organizations and donor agencies, to promote cooperation in Science and Technology for socio-economic development in the south. Notable among these are:

- Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), Ghana
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Accra
- International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Nigeria
- International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Colombia
- CORAF/WECARD
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Accra
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Accra
- The Africa Rice Centre (WARDA), Cotonou, Benin
- International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines

Collaboration between CSIR and international research organizations has enabled us to work in partnership to develop joint research programs for the development of national research systems. It has also enabled the CSIR and its partners to provide technical support for research and development activities in Ghana and the West African sub-region.

The CSIR, Ghana has generated science and technology products and services for the advancement of agriculture, industry, health, environment, roads, and building and construction in line with the vision of COMSAT for sustainable development in the south through science and technology. CSIR products contribute to employment creation, income generation, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and improvements in livelihoods of communities in Ghana. The CSIR also collaborates with several international scientific and technological organizations such as IITA, GTZ, CORAF/WECARD, IFPRI, AGRA and many others for the advancement of science and technology for the development of Ghana.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to urge those of our colleagues who have come from outside Ghana and especially are doing so for the first time, to find time to visit some of our research institutes and the international scientific organizations, many of which are located on the CSIR campus, to familiarize themselves with their research programs.

Once again, on behalf of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-Ghana), the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, and my own behalf, I welcome you all to this important joint meeting. Hopefully, this meeting will assist us to develop strategies to further strengthen science and technology to achieve sustainable development in the south, to enhance agricultural and industrial productivity and increase food security, self-reliance, enhanced livelihoods and poverty reduction in our communities.

I wish you all successful deliberations and hope that our visitors will enjoy the traditional Ghanaian hospitality.

Thank you very much.