

# Communiqué

**19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF  
COMSATS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**17-18 May 2016**

*Hosted by*

**COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT)  
Islamabad, Pakistan**



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

**Communiqué of the  
19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council  
(17 – 18 May 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan)**

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The participants of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council, comprising of fourteen Council Members or their representatives, after having deliberated upon the twelve-point agenda of the meeting on 17-18 May 2016, are pleased to adopt the following statement unanimously:

1. The Members of COMSATS Coordinating Council appreciate the excellent arrangements made by the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) for holding the 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and for providing generous hospitality to its participants. The preparation of necessary documentation by COMSATS Secretariat and the administrative support provided to CIIT for the successful organization of the meeting is highly praiseworthy.
2. The Council Members are pleased to learn about the high quality educational programmes and research work being undertaken by CIIT faculty, and encourage the Institute to increase its enrolment of students from COMSATS Member Countries as well as enhance research collaboration with other Network Members.
3. The Council is pleased to learn about the successful organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting of COMSATS (27-28 October 2015) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of COMSATS Consultative Committee (26<sup>th</sup> October 2015) in Accra, Ghana. The re-election of H.E. Dr. John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana, as the Chairperson of COMSATS for the next three years' term (2015 - 2018) is highly welcome.
4. The outstanding leadership provided by Professor Dr. Eduardo Posada F., as the Chairperson of the Council during the period (2010 – 2016) and his services for the cause of COMSATS are duly acknowledged and highly applauded.
5. The Coordinating Council warmly welcomes the election of Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, President, National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt, as its new Chairperson for the term of three years (2016 - 2019), and hopes that he will be able to provide a new thrust to the COMSATS' Network with regard to achieving its objectives.
6. The consistent efforts being made by COMSATS Secretariat for extending COMSATS' membership to other developing countries is noted with admiration. The Council welcomes the accession of the Kingdom of Morocco, the State of

Palestine, and the Islamic Republic of The Gambia to COMSATS as Member States, and hopes that these new member countries will actively participate in the programmes and activities of the organization. In this regard, the Council requests the Governments of Palestine and The Gambia to nominate one of their renowned R&D organizations, each, for induction in COMSATS' Network of Centres of Excellence.

7. The Council is pleased to learn about the nomination of the Mohamed V University, by the Government of Morocco, for induction in COMSATS' Network of Centres of Excellence. It is desirable that the necessary formalities for induction of the Mohamed V University in COMSATS' Network are completed before the next Council meeting. COMSATS Secretariat is encouraged to continue its efforts to extend the membership of COMSATS' Network to all Member States.
8. The Council is pleased to note the approval of the COMSATS Statutes by the Commission during its third General Meeting. The efforts made by the Amendment Committee, constituted by the Coordinating Council, as well as COMSATS Secretariat with regard to the formulation of COMSATS Statutes, are highly appreciated.
9. The Council is pleased to note that the Rules and Regulations of COMSATS Endowment Fund, prepared by COMSATS Secretariat, have been approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting of COMSATS. The Member States are strongly urged to mobilize funds for the COMSATS Endowment Fund. In this regard, the release of US\$ 0.1 Million, by the Government of Pakistan, as the first instalment of its total commitment of US\$ 1 million towards the COMSATS Endowment Fund, is gratefully acknowledged.
10. The Council records with gratitude the financial and in-kind contributions by some Member Countries towards COMSATS' activities. The continuation of payment of Annual Membership Contribution (AMC) by Pakistan and China, and commencement by Kazakhstan is laudable. The Council encourages all other Network members to sensitize their respective governments regarding the benefits of regularly making AMC for the financial sustainability of COMSATS.
11. The Coordinating Council will be pleased to continue the current strategy of COMSATS during the next five years (2016-2020), as advised by the Commission, with emphasis on technical cooperation projects employing, inter alia, the concept of International Thematic Research Groups in order to provide maximum socio-economic benefits to the member countries;

12. The Council appreciates the dedicated efforts of COMSATS Secretariat to fulfil the objectives of the organization, and takes note of the following additional achievements:
- (i) Launching of the fifth International Thematic Research Group (ITRG) and continuation of the activities of four already operational ITRGs;
  - (ii) Preparations for launching one more ITRG during 2016;
  - (iii) Steady stream of capacity-building events, organized in collaboration with other international organizations, with the participation of scientists, engineers and technicians belonging to Centres of Excellence and Member States;
  - (iv) Continuation of COMSATS' Distinguished Professorship Scheme, COMSATS' Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Panel, and COMSATS' Science Diplomacy Programme;
  - (v) Increasing the utilization of postgraduate scholarships at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), Pakistan, by Member Countries; and
  - (vi) Concerted efforts for the regular publication of COMSATS' Newsletter, journal 'Science Vision' and other information material about the organization.
13. The Council encourages the Network members to make concerted efforts for the following:
- (i) Providing greater opportunities of graduate scholarships, doctoral fellowships, and short-term trainings to Member States.
  - (ii) Increasing interaction and cooperation with other members of the Network, including expert exchange, technology transfer, joint research projects, etc.
  - (iii) Launching of the remaining three ITRGs;
  - (iv) Keeping COMSATS Headquarters aware of new developments and major achievements of their organizations;
  - (v) Contributing scholarly scientific articles for publication in COMSATS' bi-annual journal, the 'Science Vision'; and
  - (vi) Placement of their officers at COMSATS Headquarters on secondment.
14. The Council is pleased to learn regarding the establishment of 64 new laboratories by NRC-Egypt. The generous offer of NRC-Egypt for sharing its equipment and laboratory facilities with other Centres of Excellence is highly appreciated. Also, the offer of graduate scholarships for The Gambia offered by CIIT is noted with high appreciation.

15. The Council encourages all the Network members to support the scientific community of Syria during its current crisis.
16. The Council members believe that the expansion of the scope of International Thematic Research Groups is desirable for the future success of the programme.
17. COMSATS Coordinating Council reiterates its recommendation for the Member States to increase their level of GERD component to a level of 2% of GDP and enhance financial support for international bodies that provide S&T capacity-building opportunities.