

# Communiqué

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

**14-15 May 2017**

*Hosted by*

**National Research Centre (NRC)  
Cairo, Egypt**



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

**Communiqué of the  
20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council  
(14 – 15 May 2017, Cairo, Egypt)**

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The participants of the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council, including the representatives of fourteen Centres of Excellence, deliberated upon the thirteen-point agenda of the meeting on 14-15 May 2017, and are pleased to unanimously adopt the following statement:

1. The Coordinating Council pays gratitude to the National Research Centre (NRC) for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and for providing warm hospitality to its participants. The administrative support of COMSATS Secretariat to NRC for the successful organization of the meeting, including active correspondence with the invitees and preparation of necessary documentation, is highly appreciated.
2. The excellent moderation of the discussions during various technical sessions of the meeting by the Chairperson Coordinating Council, Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, President NRC, is lauded.
3. The Coordinating Council is immensely pleased to welcome Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi as the new Executive Director of COMSATS, who has previously made outstanding contributions towards the organization as the founding Rector of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT). It is hoped that under the leadership of Dr. Zaidi, the programmes of COMSATS will be further enhanced in order to achieve the objectives of the organization. The Council also expresses gratitude to all of the previous Executive Directors of COMSATS for their sincere efforts and contributions towards fostering the programmes and activities of the organization.
4. The Coordinating Council is pleased to welcome the Al-Quds University (Palestine) as a member of COMSATS' Network of Centres of Excellence. It is hoped that Al-Quds University will actively participate in the programmes and activities of COMSATS and will establish strong collaborative ties with other members of the Network.
5. The Council is pleased to learn about the nomination of the National University of Science and Technology (Zimbabwe) for induction in COMSATS' Network of Centres of Excellence. It is desirable that the necessary formalities for induction of the Mohamed V University (Morocco) and the National University of Science and Technology (Zimbabwe) 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.

6. The Council highly appreciates the contributions made by the members of COMSATS' Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) who have served the organization on voluntary basis during the period 2014-17. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be reconstituted since the three-year tenure of its members has been completed. The decision regarding the induction of new members shall be taken jointly by the Chairperson Coordinating Council, Executive Director TWAS and Executive Director COMSATS. The Council looks forward to the valuable advice and guidance of the new members of the Technical Advisory Committee regarding various programmes and activities of the organization.
7. The Council gratefully acknowledges the financial and in-kind contributions by the Member Countries towards COMSATS' activities. The payment of Annual Membership Contribution (AMC) by China, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Sudan, is noted with appreciation.
8. The Council is pleased to learn about the high quality of research and academic activities being undertaken at the Centres of Excellence, including NRC. The offers of collaboration and exchange of scientific and technological resources made by various Centres of Excellence are highly appreciated. The Network members are encouraged to make the best utilization of these offers with a view to contribute towards the socio-economic development of the South.
9. The offer of scholarships and post-doctoral fellowships to COMSATS' Member States by various Centres of Excellence is a welcome step, which is acknowledged with appreciation. The Member States are encouraged to make the best use of these offers for capacity building of their scientific workforce.
10. The proposals for new initiatives presented by ICCES-China, ICCBS-Pakistan and TIRDO-Tanzania, for the socio-economic uplift of COMSATS' Member States are gratefully acknowledged.
11. The Council appreciates the efforts of COMSATS Secretariat to fulfil the objectives of the organization, and acknowledges the following achievements:
  - (i) Organization of 12 capacity-building events, in collaboration with other international organizations and Centres of Excellence, which benefited various scientists, engineers and technicians belonging to Member States;
  - (ii) Launching of the sixth International Thematic Research Group (ITRG);
  - (iii) Steady growth of the Flagship Projects in Pakistan, i.e. the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) and COMSATS Internet Services (CIS).

- (iv) Increased utilization of postgraduate scholarships at CIIT, Pakistan, by Member Countries;
  - (v) Continuous expansion of membership of COMSATS' Network of Centres of Excellence;
  - (vi) Increase in the Annual Membership Contributions by Member States; and
  - (vii) Regular publication of COMSATS' Newsletter, journal 'Science Vision' and other information material about the organization.
12. The Council encourages the Network members to make efforts for the following:
- (i) Enhancing cooperation with other Network members for launching new projects and programmes for the benefit of Member States;
  - (ii) Examining and availing the opportunities of fellowships available with TWAS;
  - (iii) Exploring the possibility of becoming Category-2 Centres of UNESCO;
  - (iv) Launching the remaining two ITRGs on 'Materials Science' and 'Construction Materials';
  - (v) Sensitizing their respective governments regarding the benefits of regularly making AMC for the financial sustainability of COMSATS; and
  - (vi) Keeping COMSATS Headquarters aware of new developments and major achievements of their organizations.
13. The Coordinating Council reiterates that every country must strive to build S&T capacity, as we cannot simply be the users of technology but have to generate new knowledge.
14. Lead Centres of ITRGs are encouraged to approach their respective governments in order to obtain funds for the activities of the groups.
15. The Coordinating Council reiterates its recommendation for the Member States to increase their Gross Expenditure on Research and Development to a level of 2% of GDP.