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PRESS RELEASE  
COMSATS' MEMBER STATES RESOLVE TO STRENGTHEN THE  
ORGANIZATION'S ROLE IN S&T-LED DEVELOPMENT  
Islamabad: April 17, 2012.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission Meeting of COMSATS concluded on April 17, 2012, after having worked out broad policy guidelines for the future functioning of the Commission. The meeting was attended by 17 member countries representing their respective Heads of State/Government at the level of Ministers, senior officials, observers from international organizations and envoys of the member countries placed in Islamabad. The number of participants stood at 53, including three delegates representing international organizations as observers.

Hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan, the Meeting had been inaugurated on 16<sup>th</sup> April by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The participating delegates extensively deliberated on the 12-point agenda of the Meeting during three plenary sessions spread over two days. The main highlights of the Meeting included: election of the new Chairperson of COMSATS; report by the Executive Director COMSATS, overviewing COMSATS' activities since its inception; country-statements by the Heads of Delegations; and amendments in the International Agreement of COMSATS.

The Republic of Ghana was elected the new chairperson of COMSATS for the next three-year term. In the acceptance speech on behalf of the new Chairperson, the Honourable Minister for Environment, Science & Technology, Republic of Ghana, H.E. Ms. Sherry Ayittey thanked the members of the Commission and pledged to "make every effort to strengthen the foundations and precepts of COMSATS and encourage the socio-economic growth for all our countries to become competitive in the global industrial development, trade and economic development in the countries of the South". In his presentation, 'Overview of COMSATS' Activities and Future Plans', the Executive Director COMSATS, Dr. I. E. Qureshi, recalled the key programmes and projects of COMSATS pursued over the last 17 years; highlighted the key achievements, and gave an insight to the future course of action envisaged for the organization.

Sixteen country-statements were made during the first and second plenary sessions of the Meeting, in which the current scientific capacities of the member countries were presented and the future plans of the respective governments were elucidated. The information shared in these statements formed an important basis for the ensuing Open Forum in which the participants held candid discussions on various pertinent issues of mutual interest. The need to enhance South-South cooperation in science and technology through the mechanism of capacity-building and joint cooperative projects was acknowledged.

A concise report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission Meeting was presented by the Rapporteur-General, H.E. Mr. Earle Courtenay Rattray, the Ambassador of Jamaica to China, after which the Resolution and Recommendations based on the deliberations were presented for approval. At the end, the Resolution of the Meeting proposed by COMSATS Secretariat was adopted unanimously after some deliberations.

The Meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Mir Changez Khan Jamali and said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission Meeting of COMSATS achieved its objective, inter alia, renewing the commitment of the Member States of COMSATS for cooperation in S&T through COMSATS' platform. It was recognized by the participants that the Second Commission Meeting will serve as a beacon for the future progress of COMSATS.