

A momentous Sustainable Development Agenda, which integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental, was adopted by the 193 Member States of the United Nations on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals are the first Member State-led global development guide in history, laying out 17 aspirational objectives with 169 targets for countries to meet by 2030 with achievements monitored periodically to measure progress.

There is already a strong interest in, and response to, the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by governments, international agencies, businesses, civil society and other institutions in UN member countries. The SDGs are being fully owned by these stakeholders as a major influencer on their strategies and actions of these stakeholders – based on their needs, capacities, resources and alliances. The SDGs also have strong relevance to universities and Higher Education institutions as education and research are explicitly recognised in a number of the SDGs. Engaging with SDGs as a convener and facilitator of support processes and partnerships will also greatly benefit universities by helping them demonstrate university impact in our society.

Universities – both individually and collectively – can help lead, guide, and support the local, national, and international response to the SDGs. We need to create processes that generate Universities engagement with the SDGs through their extensive educational, research and operational activities, only then we will have a realistic change in accomplishing the audacious task set by Agenda 2030. To motivate such a commitment we need to bring key people from academic community and universities on board with the SDGs, identifying strengths, gaps, priorities, and opportunities for university engagement with the SDGs, for policy formulation and developing an action plan.

With the purpose of sharing the academic community’s perspective on SDGs, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) is organizing a National Seminar entitled “Sustainable Development Goals: Role of Universities” on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The objective is to facilitate the universities understanding, preparing and responding to the opportunities and challenges presented, in particular the localization of transformative 2030 agenda. Themes: Promotion and Advocacy for SDGs; SDGs Implementation: Perspective on Research & Development; and Frontier Technologies: Scientific Institutions driving Innovation

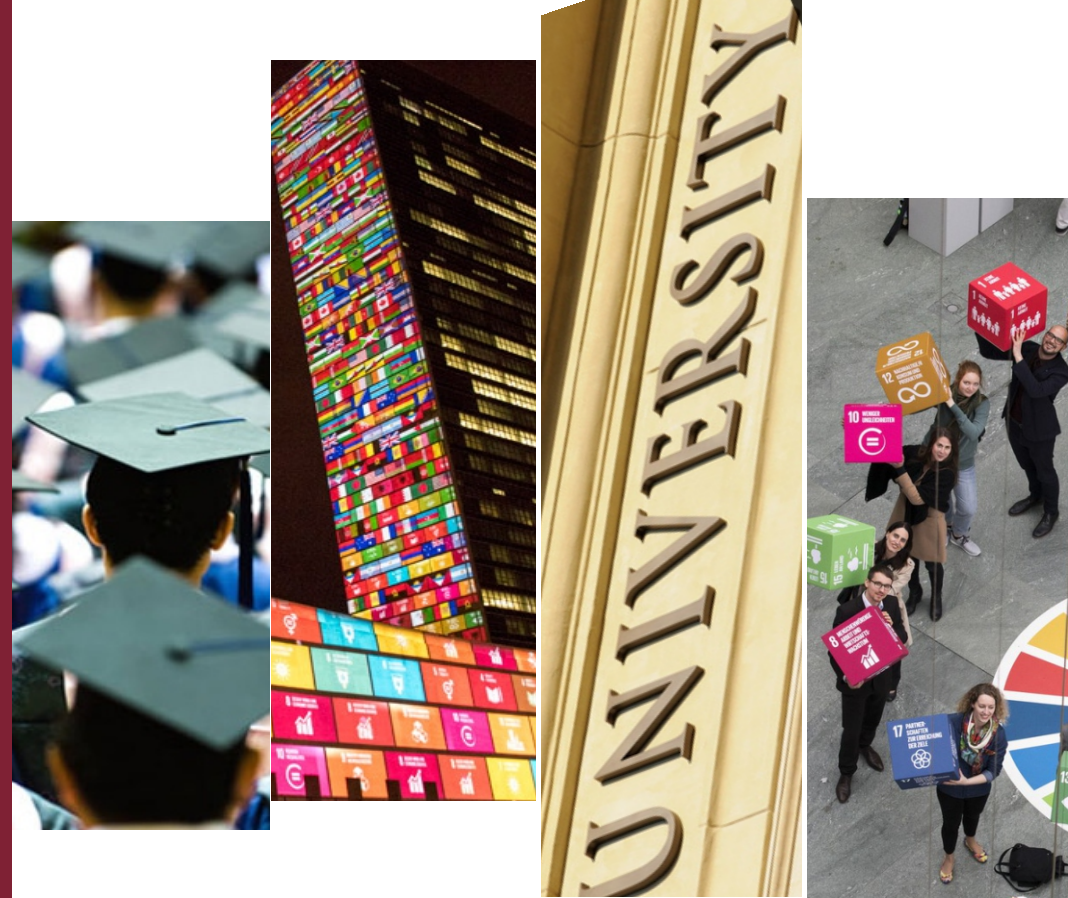
This event is expected to encourage a cross-sectoral dialogue on the theme of the seminar. The programme will feature expert talks from the representatives of international organizations who will elaborate the general concepts, steps, and examples of operating SDGs framework across the University. This seminar is expected to generate insightful discussions culminating a set of recommendations for policy formulation and action plan to align R&D with SDGs.

## CONTACT PERSONS

**Ms. Fauzia Nasreen**  
Advisor (SDGs)  
COMSATS Secretariat, Islamabad  
Tel: (051) 9214515-7 Ext. 203  
Email: [fauzia.nasreen@comsats.org](mailto:fauzia.nasreen@comsats.org)

**Ms. Huma Balouch**  
Sr. Assistant Director (Programmes)  
COMSATS Secretariat, Islamabad  
Tel: (051) 9214515-7 Ext. 215  
Email: [huma@comsats.org](mailto:huma@comsats.org)

For more details, please visit [www.comsats.org](http://www.comsats.org)



# Seminar on SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES

9<sup>th</sup> July  
2018 | Serena Hotel  
Islamabad



Commission on Science and Technology for  
Sustainable Development in the South  
(COMSATS)