

# Communiqué

**22<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF  
COMSATS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**16-17 April 2019**

*Hosted by*

**Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB)  
Tianjin, People's Republic of China**



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

**Communiqué of the  
22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council  
(16-17 April 2019, Tianjin, China)**

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The participants of the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council, including the representatives of eighteen Centres of Excellence, deliberated upon the fifteen-point agenda of the meeting during 16-17 April 2019, and are pleased to unanimously adopt the following:

1. The Coordinating Council appreciates the excellent arrangements made by the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB) for the 22<sup>nd</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 TIB for the successful organization of the meeting is praiseworthy.
2. The Council is grateful to the representatives of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology as well as Chinese Academy of Sciences for briefing on the key activities and action plan of the Chinese government under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The Centres of Excellence are urged to benefit from the opportunities of collaboration and funding available under this initiative.
3. The Council pays gratitude to the Government of China for increasing its Annual Membership Contribution (AMC) to COMSATS from US\$ 20,000/- to US\$ 50,000/-.
4. The outstanding leadership provided by Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan as the Chairperson of the Council during the period (2016 – 2019) and his services for the cause of COMSATS are duly acknowledged and highly applauded.
5. The Coordinating Council is pleased to elect Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, as its Chairperson for another term of three years (2019 - 2022), and hopes that he will be able to provide a new thrust to the COMSATS' Network with regard to achieving its objectives.
6. The Council is delighted to learn that a delegation of COMSATS Headquarters led by Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, Chairperson Coordinating Council, had a very productive meeting with the honourable Chairperson of COMSATS, President of Ghana. The guidance of the honourable Chairperson would enable the organization to achieve its mission and objectives. The COMSATS Secretariat is advised to keep close contact with the office of the Chairperson to receive guidance regarding the on-going and future programmes of COMSATS, from time to time.
7. The Council warmly welcomes the Republic of Yemen as the 27<sup>th</sup> Member State of COMSATS. It is hoped that Yemen will actively participate in the programmes and activities of the organization. In this regard, request will be made on behalf of the

Council to the Government of Yemen to nominate one of its renowned R&D organizations, for induction in COMSATS' Network of Centres of Excellence. The consistent efforts being made by COMSATS Secretariat for extending COMSATS' membership to other developing countries is noted with approbation.

8. The Council welcomes the designation of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) as COMSATS' Centre of Excellence. The addition of TUBITAK and its 15 research institutes has further added strength to COMSATS' Network. TUBITAK is expected to play a significant role in the achievement of COMSATS' objectives.
9. The Council appreciates the nomination of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) and Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) by the Government of the Philippines for induction in COMSATS Network. The endeavour would now be to complete the necessary formalities for induction of the nominated institutes in COMSATS' Network before the next Council meeting. COMSATS Secretariat is encouraged to continue its efforts to extend the membership of COMSATS' Network to all Member States.
10. The Council appreciates the efforts being made by COMSATS to establish new Centres of Excellence and Universities in the Member States in the cutting-edge fields of science and technology for addressing their socio-economic needs. The Centres of Excellence and international partner organizations are requested to play a facilitative role in this regard.
11. The activities undertaken by Centres of Excellence during the period since the last Council meeting are highly appreciated.
12. The Council while recognizing the significance of the linkages between climate change and sustainable development is pleased to note with appreciation the progress made with regard to the establishment of COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS). The Council expressed appreciation that eleven Member States have so far agreed to participate in the CCCS network and urges other Member States to join COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability and extend support for the success of this important initiative.
13. The Council recognizes that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation enable developing countries to achieve sustainable development through close cooperation. It is heartening to note that the work and activities of the Centres of Excellence are aligned with the SDGs. The Centres of Excellence are encouraged to strengthen collaboration and partnership for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

14. The Council is pleased to learn that COMSATS Secretariat is making preparations to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> Consultative Committee Meeting (June 2019, Turkey) and 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Commission (August 2019, Ghana). The Centres of Excellence are requested to provide inputs for the afore-mentioned meetings, as well as to share joint proposals for projects and programmes to be considered during these meetings for support/funding.
15. The Council appreciates the standing offer of 100 postgraduate scholarships made by CUI-Pakistan; and the post-doctoral fellowships offered by NRC-Egypt, ICCBS-Pakistan and BCSIR-Bangladesh. While this effort should be continued, other Centres of Excellence may beneficially make use of these opportunities.
16. The Lead Centres and collaborating institutions of ITRGs are encouraged to continue their research activities for the benefit of COMSATS' Member States. They may jointly submit project proposals to international donor agencies for seeking financial support for the joint research projects.
17. The payment of AMC by Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Jamaica during the period since the last Council meeting is also noted with appreciation. The Council encourages all other Network members to sensitize their respective governments regarding the importance of regularly making AMC for the financial sustainability of COMSATS.
18. The Council appreciates the following efforts/achievements of COMSATS Secretariat with regard to fulfilling the objectives of the organization:
  - i. Continuous expansion of COMSATS Member States and Centres of Excellence;
  - ii. Steady growth of COMSATS flagship projects, i.e. COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), COMSATS Internet Services (CIS) and COMSATS Telehealth Programme;
  - iii. Organization of six (06) capacity building events in collaboration with Centres of Excellence and international partner organizations, which benefited the scientists, researchers, academicians, engineers and technicians belonging to the Member States;
  - iv. Increased interaction and collaboration among the Centres of Excellence for the exchange of human and technological resources;
  - v. Outreach to the institutions of the North and conclusion of various MoUs/Agreements;
  - vi. Regular publication of COMSATS' Annual Report, Newsletter and other information material. The inputs and support of the Centres of Excellence in this regard is highly appreciated.
19. The Council accepts and highly appreciates the offer made by ICCBS-Pakistan to host the next (23rd) Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council in Karachi, Pakistan, during March/April 2020.