



**COMSATS' WORK ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



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

# Member States



Bangladesh



China



Colombia



Egypt



Gambia



Ghana



Iran



Jamaica



Jordan



Kazakhstan



Korea, D.P.R.



Morocco



Nigeria



Pakistan



Palestine



Philippines



Senegal



Somalia



Sri Lanka



Sudan



Syria



Tanzania



Tunisia



Turkey



Uganda



Yemen



Zimbabwe

September 2019

# **COMSATS' Work on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

(October 2015 – September 2019)



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## INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development is the bedrock of COMSATS' mandate long before the institution of the United Nations' Development Agendas (MDGs and SDGs). Accordingly, the Organization has streamlined its undertakings for meeting the challenges pertaining to various dimensions of sustainability through suitable tools and mechanisms. By expanding the scope of its activities towards Asia, Africa and Latin America, COMSATS has been able to establish itself as an ardent advocate of science for development of the South.

SDGs have acquired growing importance in COMSATS' activities, programmes and collaborations. In this respect, COMSATS has organized a number of capacity building activities in view of the emerging trends in S&T and needs of scientific communities in the developing region. In the similar vein, events for creating awareness, promoting networking and knowledge sharing, providing solutions and recommendations for meeting the sustainability challenges have been arranged by COMSATS from time to time in its 27 member states. These undertakings duly addressed the relevant targets set by the United Nations in its 2030 Global Agenda.

This document gives an outline of the programmes and activities organized by COMSATS independently and in collaboration with its partner Organizations since its 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary.

**1** NO  
POVERTY



## **GOAL 1: END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS**

COMSATS through its various programmes and activities endeavours to build the capacity of its member states so as to enable them to cope with economic, social and environmental challenges, in line with the targets 1.5 and 1.a.

**2** ZERO  
HUNGER



## **GOAL 2: END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

Following were the programmes and activities of COMSATS in line with the targets 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.a:

- Under the COMSATS-ISESCO Cooperation Agreement, COMSATS organized the International Workshop on 'Applications of ICTs in Education, Healthcare and Agriculture' in Morocco, Jordan, and Nigeria, respectively, for raising understanding on the cutting-edge ICT-based practical methods and techniques for problem solving in agriculture, health and education.
- Under the COMSATS-ISESCO Cooperation Agreement, COMSATS organized the International Conference on 'Agriculture, Food Security, and Biotechnology' in Sudan, Pakistan, and Morocco, respectively, with the aim to increase awareness on the benefits of biotechnology for achieving food security as well as to build and strengthen linkages among R&D/S&T organizations working in the field.



### **GOAL 3: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELLBEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES**

Following were the programmes and activities of COMSATS in line with the targets 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.d:

- Since 2001, COMSATS has been working in the field of telehealth, when it launched the pilot phase of the telehealth programme in Gujrat Khan. Since then, COMSATS has been actively playing

its role in the development of telehealth in Pakistan and so far, has benefitted more than 65,000 patients from marginalized communities of the remote and inaccessible areas of Pakistan. Telehealth services through COMSATS Internet Services (CIS) are now being provided in various areas of Pakistan, including Gwadar, Quetta, Jhelum, Multan, Swabi, and Mansehra. Further, under the umbrella of this programme, several capacity building and awareness raising events have been organized from time to time.

- Under the COMSATS-ISESCO Cooperation Agreement, COMSATS organized the International Conference on 'Agriculture, Food Security, and Biotechnology' in Sudan, Pakistan, and Morocco, respectively.
- COMSATS in collaboration with its partner organization, ISESCO, organized a Regional Workshop on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Life Sciences Research in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Workshop was aimed at increasing awareness on the benefits of adopting best practices in laboratory in relation to agriculture and life science research; make recommendations for developing organizational and national policies on biosafety and biosecurity; as well as to build and strengthen linkages among researchers and forerunners in the field of biosafety for evolving ongoing training programmes in the mode of South-South Cooperation.
- Under its Science Diplomacy Programme, a lecture on 'Biosurveillance: Science Needs for Microbial Forensics' was arranged by COMSATS in order to create awareness among members of the scientific communities regarding microbial forensics as well as to highlight the major issues that need to be addressed for global development of the science of microbial forensics.
- COMSATS in collaboration with its partner organization, ISESCO,

organized an International Congress on Viruses and Vaccines in Tropical Areas in The Gambia wherein recent scientific advances contributing to progress in the development of vaccines for tropical viruses were addressed and scientific challenges in the research and development of vaccines and associated technologies for tropical disease control were also identified.

- In recognition of its efforts to enhance the access to healthcare to the people of mountainous regions within Pakistan through Telemedicine and to utilize ICTs for capacity building of local staff and health care professionals, COMSATS Telehealth Programme won ICIMOD's ICT for Mountain Development Award 2018.



## **GOAL 4: ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFE-LONG LEARNING**

Following were the programmes and activities of COMSATS in line with the targets 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.b and 4.c:

- Under the COMSATS-ISESCO Cooperation Agreement, COMSATS organized the National Training Workshop on 'Repair and Maintenance of Scientific Engineering Equipment in Universities, Research Institutions and Small Scale Industries' in Ghana, Nigeria and Kazakhstan, respectively, with the purpose to provide



hands-on training to the researchers, scientists and technicians for improving their skills for independently maintaining and repairing the scientific instruments. The series also aimed at facilitating information-exchange among scientists, researchers, technicians, service engineers, and industrialists for enhancing the existing scientific capacity.

- Scholarships and fellowships are offered through COMSATS platform for the students/ researchers of COMSATS Member States, annually.



## **GOAL 6: ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL**

Following were the programmes and activities of COMSATS in line with the target 6.1:

- COMSATS in collaboration with its Centre of Excellence, National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt, organized an international workshop on “Water Resources: Expected Crises and Strategies of Predomination” in order to discuss and find solutions to the challenges related to water resources.

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



### **GOAL 7: ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE, AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL**

Following were the programmes and activities of COMSATS in line with the targets 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.a and 7.b:

- COMSATS in collaboration with its partner organization, ISESCO organized the International Conference and Exhibition on Renewable Energy Technologies in Islamabad, Pakistan, which provided a forum for liaison and networking and exchange of knowledge and information in relation to latest advancements in renewable energy technologies.

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



### **GOAL 8: PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL**

Following were the programmes and activities of COMSATS in line with the target 8.3:

- COMSATS in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) organized a seminar titled: 'Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Universities' which brought key people from academic community and universities on board with the SDGs for leading, guiding, and supporting the local, national, and international response to the SDGs.
- COMSATS organized a seminar on 'SDGs Implementation: The Collaboration among Universities' which led to the creation of clusters of universities and academicians on the seventeen SDGs in order to increase the participation of academia for the realization and indigenisation of Global Agenda 2030.

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



### **GOAL 9: BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION**

Following were the programmes and activities of COMSATS in line with the targets 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.a, 9.b and 9.c:

- COMSATS in collaboration with its partner organization, Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), organized the International Symposium on 'Light and Life' in order to commemorate the UN International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies. The Symposium highlighted the latest research and developments in the field taking place across the globe.
- COMSATS organized a Regional Consultative Workshop on National Innovation System and Intellectual Property in Tunis, Tunisia, with the objective to raise understanding of the participants on NIS and IP along with providing a platform for researchers, policy planners, industry representatives and administrators involved in the national STI policy planning and implementation.
- Under the COMSATS-ISESCO Cooperation Agreement, COMSATS annually organized the International Workshop on 'Internet

Security: Enhancing Information Exchange Safeguards' in Morocco, Kazakhstan and Qatar, respectively. The workshops provided a forum to the relevant young scientists and professionals from the developing countries to learn about the latest advancements in the field of Internet security; promote the use of state-of-the-art technologies for protection of network and network-accessible resources against different types of malicious attacks; and identify effective Internet/ information security solutions for governmental organizations, commercial ventures and general public, through rigorous risk-analyses and security management approaches.

- COMSATS in collaboration with the TUBITAK National Metrology Institute (TUBITAK UME), Turkey, organized a Workshop on Metrology for the Least Developed Countries.
- COMSATS in collaboration with the Service Facility Wing of EU organized an Awareness Seminar on Horizon 2020 which was successful in enlightening the academia and research organizations on various aspects of applying for the funding under Horizon 2020.
- COMSATS Internet Services (CIS), one of the flagship projects of COMSATS, is the pioneer Internet Service Provider (ISP) of Pakistan operating since 1996. It has operations in 19 cities of the country. CIS offers nine different branded services known as 'The Colors of CIS' and is executing a pilot project titled "Establishment of Telehealth Clinics Network".

# 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



## GOAL 10: REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Following were the programmes and activities of COMSATS in line with the target 10.6:

- The Executive Director COMSATS, Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi, participated in the preparatory meeting for BAPA+40, as a panelist, bridged within the context of regional and sub-regional arrangements for South-South Cooperation within COMSATS structural framework.
- Ambassador (R) Fauzia Nasreen, Advisor (SDGs), COMSATS Secretariat, participated in the 74th Session of UNESCAP whose theme was "Inequality in the Era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and made organizational statement as well as one on the use of frontier technologies for the benefit of persons with disabilities.

# 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



## **GOAL 12: ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS**

Following were the programmes and activities of COMSATS in line with the targets 12.2, 12.3, 12.5 and 12.a:

- COMSATS in collaboration with its partner organization, IESCO organized the International Conference and Exhibition on Renewable Energy Technologies which provided a forum for liaison and networking and exchange of knowledge and information in relation to latest advancements in renewable energy technologies.

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION



## GOAL 13: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

Following were the programmes and activities of COMSATS in line with the targets 13.1, 13.2, 13.3 and 13.b:

- COMSATS' Centre of Excellence in China, International Centre for Climate and Environment Sciences (ICCES), is the central point of COMSATS' programmes and activities related to climate change and environment. The Centre is also leading COMSATS' International Thematic Research Group (ITRG) on "Climate Change and Environmental Protection", which is executing a joint project to study the characteristics and mechanisms of extreme climate events.
- COMSATS has set up a Network of COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) in its 15 member states to provide an institutional platform for coordination, facilitation, advocacy as well as regional and international collaboration.
- COMSATS has collaborated with its partner organizations and Centre of Excellence in China, to organize CAS-TWAS-WMO Forum on Climate Science (CTWF) Series of Symposia, in China, on issues pertaining to Climate Changes and Environment.



# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



## **GOAL 17: STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Following were the programmes and activities of COMSATS in line with the targets 17.3, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.16 and 17.17:

- On the side-lines of 10th Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo, COMSATS organized an event titled 'Promoting South-South Cooperation in Science and Technology for Sustainable Development'. The event focused on the potentials and challenges being faced by the developing countries in promoting science & technology through education, research and related activities at the national, regional and global levels through the use of South-South and Triangular Cooperation modalities in the effort.
- COMSATS organized a seminar on 'SDGs Implementation: The Collaboration among Universities' which led to the creation of clusters of universities and academicians on the seventeen SDGs in order to increase the participation of academia in the realizing and localization of Global Agenda 2030.
- COMSATS organized a Discussion Forum on Science for a Sustainable Future (WSDPD2015) which resulted in a resolve to

voice concerns of scientists at appropriate quarters in an effort to develop a political will supportive of a science-based agenda and called for enhanced efforts on part of the government in deploying resources to address the state of Science and Technology in the country.

- Under the umbrella of its 'Science Diplomacy Programme', COMSATS has organized a series of lectures to sensitize the policy makers and public on the potential of scientific interventions in addressing the development issues, as well as the need for stronger and wider collaborations in science and technology.
- Commemoration of the United Nations International Day for South-South Cooperation has remained a regular feature of COMSATS activities.

# Centres of Excellence



BCSIR-Bangladesh



Embrapa Agrobiologia-Brazil



ICCES-China



TIB-China



CIF-Colombia



NRC-Egypt



CSIR-Ghana



IROST-Iran



ICENS-Jamaica



RSS-Jordan



KazNU-Kazakhstan



NMC-Nigeria



CUI-Pakistan



ICCBS-Pakistan



AQU-Palestine



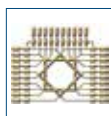
UCAD-Senegal



ITI-Sri Lanka



IRCC-Sudan



HIAST-Syria



TIRDO-Tanzania



CERTE-Tunisia



TÜBİTAK-Turkey



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