

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

**25th Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council
(10-12 September 2024, Tianjin, China)**

COMMUNIQUÉ

The 25th meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council was held on 10-12 September 2024, at the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), Tianjin, China.

The meeting was attended by Heads/representatives of 16 Centres of Excellence, namely TIB-China, ICCES-China, NRC-Egypt, UTG-The Gambia, ITS-Indonesia, IROST-Iran, RSS-Jordan, KazNU-Kazakhstan, NMC-Nigeria, ICCBS-Pakistan, CUI-Pakistan, ITI-Sri Lanka, IRCC-Sudan, HIAST-Syria, TIRDO-Tanzania, and TUBITAK-Turkiye.

Under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, the participants deliberated upon the thirteen-point agenda and are pleased to unanimously adopt the following:

1. The Coordinating Council appreciates the Annual Activity Report presented by the Executive Director COMSATS, and is pleased to note the progress made since the last Council meeting.
2. The implementation of decisions taken during the Council's 24th meeting (held in January 2023 at ICCBS, Karachi, Pakistan) by COMSATS Secretariat is noted with appreciation. The Council is particularly satisfied with the following initiatives approved by the Council during its last meeting, and urges the esteemed Centres of Excellence to support as well as adequately utilize the same:
 - i. Establishment of R&D fund (utilized to support projects in areas of EV and Renewable Energy)
 - ii. Development of COMSATS Web-portal
 - iii. Development of COMSATS Catalog of Products, Technologies and Services
 - iv. Development of a COMSATS Resource Persons Directory
 - v. Initiation of collaborative programmes for IT and digital skills development of youth
 - vi. Provision of ICT Services to Member States
3. The Council endorses the following new initiatives proposed by the Executive Director:
 - i. Establishment of International Division with deputation of scientific and technological experts for promoting Intra-COMSATS Member States dependence as well as revenue generation to support international programmes (white paper to be prepared by COMSATS to be discussed during the next Council meeting)

- ii. Grant of status of an IGO to COMSATS by each Member State with special visa facilitation
4. The academic, research and capacity-building activities undertaken by Centres of Excellence during the period since the last Council meeting, as mentioned in their respective presentations, are highly appreciated.
5. The Council appreciates the holding of 29 physical or online 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.
6. The Council is pleased to learn about the progress made by the COMSATS Joint Centre on Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB), at the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB) in order to promote meaningful cooperation among the COMSATS' Member Countries and Centres of Excellence in the field of industrial biotechnology. The financial support of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and Tianjin Government towards the establishment and activities of CCIB is highly appreciated. The efforts made and leadership provided by Prof. Jibin Sun (TIB), Director CCIB, towards the collaborative activities are highly appreciated.
7. The progress made by the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) with regard to building capacity of the Member States and facilitate collaboration among them in the areas relevant to climate change and sustainable development are noted with appreciation.
8. Regular publication of COMSATS' Annual Report, Newsletter and other information material brought out by COMSATS during the reporting period deserves praise. The inputs and support of the Centres of Excellence in this regard is highly appreciated.
9. The Council appreciates the participation of members of the Technical Advisory Committee and representatives of international partner organizations, i.e. ANSO, PIDF, the South Centre, ECO-SF, TWAS and INSME, in the meeting as observers. The Secretariat may enhance collaboration with the partner organizations in the areas of mutual interest. The Council endorsed the TAC Members' advice of their regular meeting with COMSATS Coordinating Council.
10. The payment of AMC by China, Jamaica, and Pakistan 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.
11. The Council recognizes the significance of other statutory bodies of COMSATS, including the Consultative Committee. The Council requests the Chairperson Consultative Committee to convene the committee's next meeting at the earliest

convenience, in order to support the activities and initiatives of COMSATS. The Secretariat may also coordinate with Office of Hon. Chairperson to hold the next General Meeting of the Commission.

12. The Coordinating Council appreciates the excellent arrangements made by the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), for the 25th Council meeting and for providing generous hospitality to its participants.
13. The Council appreciates TIRDO for graciously offering to host the next (26th) Meeting of Coordinating Council. While acknowledging with gratitude the offer of IROST to host the 26th meeting, the Council would be happy if IROST makes the offer to host the 27th Meeting at its venue. The Council also noted with thanks the offer of ITS-Indonesia to host the Council meeting thereafter.
14. The Side-event titled ‘Biomanufacturing Cooperation for a Better Tomorrow in the Global South’ organized by TIB on 12th September, on the occasion of UN Day for South-South Cooperation, is praiseworthy. The event facilitated the exchange of knowledge and cooperation among the Centres of Excellence in the field of industrial biotechnology.
15. The preparation of necessary documentation by COMSATS Secretariat and the administrative support provided to TIB for the successful organization of the meeting is praiseworthy.
