

REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR GENERAL OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF COMSTECH

Sha'baan 24-25, 1437 Hijri
May 31- 01 June, 2016
Islamabad

Introduction:

The Fifteenth Session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) was held at Islamabad from 31st May - 1st June, 2016, corresponding to Sh'aban 24-25, 1437 Hijri, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chairman of COMSTECH.

2. The meeting was attended by 20 Ministers, several Deputy Ministers and high level officials from 39 OIC Member and Observer States; OIC Institutions; and international organizations. (List of participants is attached as **Annex-I**).

Opening Session

3. H.E. Dr. Shaukat Hameed Khan, Coordinator General COMSTECH welcomed the delegates to the Meeting and wished them a pleasant stay in Islamabad and fruitful deliberations. He expressed his deep appreciation to H.E. the President and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for their continued support extended to COMSTECH.

4. H.E. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Science and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan delivered his welcome address in which he underlined the importance of cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation for socio-economic advancement of the OC Member States.

5. H. E. Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group in his address commended the work done by COMSTECH in promoting science and technology in OIC Member States. He expressed readiness of the IDB Group to continue supporting the efforts of Member States as they seek to improve their lot in the domain of science, technology and innovation.

6. H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, OIC Secretary General in his address underscored the centrality of Science, Technology and Innovation in overall development of the Member States. He called upon Member States to accord high priority to science education in their respective curricula at all levels; apportion a higher percentage of national budgets for development of science, technology and innovation; and develop a 'Science Culture' in Member States with active participation and patronage of national governments and support of civil society and other organizations.

7. H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chairman of COMSTECH delivered the inaugural address in which he welcomed the delegates to the 15th Meeting of COMSTECH General Assembly. He further stressed the need for increasing the budgets allocations for research and development and investing in producing high quality scientists.

Presentation of COMSTECH Awards

8. COMSTECH Awards were conferred by H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, Chairman COMSTECH in the following areas:

- a) Best Research Paper Award 2015 to **Dr. Zia ur Rehman**
- b) Best Young Researcher Award 2015 to **Dr. Muhammad Farooq**
- c) COMSTECH Award in Physics 2015 to Prof. **Dr. Altug Ozpineci**
- d) COMSTECH Award in Mathematics 2015 to **Prof. Dr. Tasawar Hayat**

Election of the Bureau

9. Following the inaugural statements, the Conference proceeded to elect its Bureau by acclamation as follows:

Chairman: Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Vice Chairmen: State of Palestine
Republic of Azerbaijan
Kingdom of Morocco

Rapporteur General: Islamic Republic of the Gambia

Adoption of Agenda and Programme of Work

10. The Conference adopted its Agenda and Programme of work (15-COMSTECH-2-5)

Report of the Coordinator General on the activities of COMSTECH since the 14th Meeting of COMSTECH General Assembly

11. The Coordinator General presented his report on behalf of the Executive Committee. The report described the activities of COMSTECH since its Fourteenth General Assembly meeting held in Islamabad in 2011. The report highlighted the initiatives taken by COMSTECH and the achievements registered during that period. The report also described the financial constraints of COMSTECH. The General Assembly took note, with appreciation, of the report of Coordinator General. The General Assembly registered special appreciation to the Coordinator General and his team for their effort in establishing effective partnerships and to raise substantial funds from external sources.

Statements by Heads of Delegations

12. The second plenary session started with the statements by the Heads of Delegations. Statements were made by the heads of the delegations of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of United Arab Emirates, Islamic Republic of the Gambia, Republic of Maldives, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kingdom of Morocco, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Sultanate of Oman, State of Palestine, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State of Qatar, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Cameroon, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkmenistan, Malaysia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of the Sudan, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Niger, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Russian Federation.

13. In their national statements, the Ministers Responsible for Science & Technology

and Heads of Delegations shared their respective experiences in the field of STI. They also pointed out the various challenges facing their countries and the measures taken to address those challenges and their expectations from effective and expeditious implementation of the OIC activities and programmes in STI domain.

14. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations also underscored the need for improved coordination, increased financing for research activities and innovation.

15. They welcomed the proposed First OIC Summit on Science and Technology scheduled to be held in Kazakhstan in 2017 noting that this will bring STI to the forefront in the planning strategies of Member States and strengthen the political will for the promotion of science.

Presentation of activity reports by OIC institutions, universities and COMSTECH Networks

16. The reports of OIC Secretary General, OIC institutions and universities were presented. In this regard, Representatives of Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre in Islamic Countries (SESERIC), Islamic Development Bank, (IDB), Islamic Educational Scientific, Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) presented activity reports in the field of Science and Technology were presented. The Assembly also listened to the report of Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) and International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). The report of Islamic University in Niger (IUIIN) was circulated. The General Assembly took note the reports and expressed appreciation for the activities taken by the various institutions.

17. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Networks on Oceanography (INOC), Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET), Tropical Medicine (INTROM), Water Resources (INWRDAM), Information Technology (INIT), Nano-Technology (INN), Science and Technology Parks (INSTP) and Virtual Universities (INVU) presented their reports.

Report by the Coordinator General of COMSTECH on Suspended Networks or Recommended for Suspension.

18. The Assembly considered the report of the Coordinator General on the performance of the COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Networks. It endorsed the decision of the Executive Committee on mandating the Coordinator General to establish a performance evaluation policy for the Networks and approaching host Member States and make appropriate recommendations to the next Executive Committee for necessary action.

Reports on Joint Activities of COMSTECH with International Organizations outside the OIC System (TWAS and IFS).

19. The General Assembly took note of the on-going joint activities between the COMSTECH and the World Academy of Sciences for Advancement of Sciences in the Developing Countries (TWAS); and the International Foundation for Science (IFS) in Sweden aimed to promote the research efforts of promising young researchers, who have the potential to become leading scientists in their countries. The Assembly expressed appreciation to these two institutions for their support and crucial partnership with COMSTECH.

Miscellaneous Reports

20. The General Assembly reviewed the status of the proposal by COMSTECH to prepare a Science Report of OIC Member States. The General Assembly approved the decision of the Executive Committee to submit a project proposal for the preparation of Science Reports of the 10 top countries of the OIC to the IDB for consideration.

Status of OIC Blueprint for Green Technologies, Renewable Energy Profile of OIC Member States and Current Activities of STIO

21. The General Assembly considered the report of the Coordinator General on the OIC Blueprint for Green Technologies. The Assembly expressed appreciation to the IDB for funding the study. It took note of the Coordinator General's proposal to have the document updated in light of new realities in the energy sector. It further recommended that the COMSTECH study on Renewable Energy Profile of OIC Member States to be used as a guide to enrich and update the OIC Blue Print for Green technologies for submission to the First Summit on Science and Technology.

Science, Technology and Innovation Organisation (STIO)

22. The Assembly endorsed the decision of the Executive Committee directing the Coordinator General to prepare a report in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat regarding the measures to be taken to make STIO functional.

Discussion of COMSTECH's proposed Ten –Year Plan for the Development of Science and Technology in Member States and its implementation

23. The General Assembly took note of the COMSTECH's proposed Ten –Year Plan for the Development of Science and Technology in Member States and endorsed the decision of the Executive Committee to further enrich the Document by incorporating the proposals from the Member States.

Approval of MoUs of COMSTECH with International Organisations.

24. The General Assembly took note of the MoUs signed between COMSTECH and various international Organisations and called upon COMTECH to seek effective partnership with international partners for the benefit of Member States.

Approval of Proposed Budgets for the Bienniums 2014-2015 and 2016-2017, as Recommended by the 30th Executive Committee.

25. The General Assembly approved the Draft Programs and Budgets 2014-2015 and 2016-2017.

Mobilization of Resources and Contributions from Member States to COMSTECH.

26. The General Assembly took note of the efforts of the Coordinator General to mobilize funds for the activities and programmes of COMSTECH and called upon Member States, OIC relevant institutions and international partners to contribute generously to the budget of COMSTECH.

Cooperation in Science and Technology among the Member States: A Review and Open Discussion: Problems, their Solutions, and Policy Initiatives.

27. The General Assembly deliberated the current issues in scientific and technological development of Member States and stressed the need to find solution to the problems hindering cooperation among the Member States. The General Assembly focused on specific issues requiring immediate attention

and indulged in candid debate by the participating delegates to help COMSTECH formulate its next programs in the light of these discussions.

Conclusion

28. During the two days of 15th Session of COMSTECH General Assembly an atmosphere of goodwill, understanding and accommodation prevailed. The delegates made full use of the meeting documents and appreciate high quality of documentation prepared by the COMSTECH Secretariat. The delegates also interacted and exchanged notes freely and discussed issues in great detail.

29. I express my thanks to His Excellency, the Co-Chairman COMSTECH and his Government for arranging all the assistance and placing resources of COMSTECH at our disposal for a smooth, efficient and successful conclusion of the Fifteenth Session of COMSTECH General Assembly.

30. I express my thanks to the Vice-Chairpersons of the meeting for their cooperation and contribution to the deliberations of the meeting and conducting the respective plenary sessions smoothly and efficiently.

31. I express my gratitude to the Government of Pakistan, particularly H.E. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Science and Technology, and his Ministry for the excellent arrangements made for organizing the Fifteenth General Assembly meeting of COMSTECH.

32. I express my deep appreciation to the Coordinator General, H.E. Dr. Shaukat Hameed Khan and the COMSTECH Secretariat for assisting in the conduct of the proceedings of the meeting.

33. Finally, I would like to record my thanks to all concerned for helping me to complete in time the assigned task. I am also grateful to the various delegations of the meeting for their cooperation and inputs.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. MEMBER STATES:

- i. Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan**
- ii. People's Democratic Republic of **Algeria**
- iii. Republic of **Azerbaijan**
- iv. Kingdom of **Bahrain**
- v. **Brunei Darussalam**
- vi. Republic of **Cameroon**
- vii. Arab Republic of **Egypt**
- viii. **Islamic Republic of the Gambia**
- ix. Republic of **Indonesia**
- x. Islamic Republic of **Iran**
- xi. Republic of **Iraq**
- xii. Republic of **Kazakhstan**
- xiii. State of **Kuwait**
- xiv. **Kyrgyz Republic**
- xv. Republic of **Lebanon**
- xvi. **Malaysia**
- xvii. Republic of **Maldives**
- xviii. Kingdom of **Morocco**
- xix. Republic of **Niger**
- xx. Federal Republic of **Nigeria**
- xxi. Sultanate of **Oman**
- xxii. Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**
- xxiii. State of **Palestine**
- xxiv. State of **Qatar**
- xxv. Kingdom of **Saudi Arabia**
- xxvi. Republic of **Senegal**
- xxvii. Republic of **Sierra Leone**
- xxviii. Republic of the **Sudan**
- xxix. Republic of **Somalia**
- xxx. Republic **of Tajikistan**
- xxxi. Republic of **Togo**
- xxxii. Republic of **Tunisia**
- xxxiii. Republic of **Turkey**
- xxxiv. **Turkmenistan**
- xxxv. State of the **United Arab Emirates**
- xxxvi. Republic of **Uzbekistan**
- xxxvii. Republic of **Yemen**

II. OBSERVER STATES:

- i. **Russian Federation**
- ii. **Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus**
- iii. **Kingdom of Thailand**

III. OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS, SPECIALIZED AND AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- i. General Secretariat of the **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**
- ii. Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing **Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH)**
- iii. **Islamic Development Bank (IDB)**
- iv. **Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)**
- v. **Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)**
- vi. **International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)**
- vii. **Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU)**
- viii. **Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS)**
- ix. **Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA)**
- x. **Inter-Islamic Networks on:**
 - i. **Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET)**
 - ii. **Oceanography (INOC)**
 - iii. **Tropical Medicine (INTROM)**
 - iv. **Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM)**
 - v. **Nano-Technology (INN)**
 - vi. **Virtual Universities (INVU)**
 - vii. **Science and Technology Parks (INSTP)**
 - viii. **Information Technology (INIT)**
- xi. **Network of Academies of Sciences in Countries of OIC (NASIC)**
- xii. **(UNESCO)**