RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF
OIC MINISTERIAL STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC
AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
COMSTECH

31st May – 1st June 2016

Islamabad

The Fifteenth Session of COMSTECH General Assembly, held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 31st May – 1st June 2016;

RECALLING resolution No.13/3-P (IS) of the Third Islamic Summit Conference held at Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 25-28 January 1981, establishing a Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and all subsequent resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences pertaining to COMSTECH;

FURTHER RECALLING resolution No. 3/10-S&T(IS) of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference held in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 16-17 October 2003, on the adoption of Vision 1441 H for Science and Technology;

FURTHER RECALLING the decision of the 13th OIC Summit held in Istanbul on 14-16 April 2016 adopting the OIC – 2025 Programme of Action;

HAVING CONSIDERED the resolutions on Higher Education, Science, Technology, Health, Environment and Water adopted by the Forty-second session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Kuwait on 27-28 May 2015;

NOTING the decision of the 4th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health held in Jakarta on 22 – 24 October, 2013 to adopt Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014 – 2023;

FURTHER NOTING the decision of 2nd Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water held in Istanbul on 5 – 6 March 2012 to adopt the OIC Water Vision and the decision of the 3rd Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water held in Istanbul on 17 – 19 May 2016 to adopt the TORs for the OIC Water Council;

FURTHER NOTING the decision of the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 4th -5th October, 2011 to adopt a document on "Key performance Indicators : A Guide for Assessment, and

Quality Enhancement for Universities in the Islamic World and the 7th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research" held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 18 -19 December 2014 to adopt the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the High-Level Quality and Accreditation Committee;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT reports of the **OIC G**eneral **S**ecretariat, **I**slamic **D**evelopment **B**ank **(IDB), I**slamic **E**ducational **S**cientific and **C**ultural **O**rganization **(ISESCO), S**tatistical, **E**conomic and **S**ocial **R**esearch and Training Centre for Islamic Countries **(SESRIC), I**slamic **U**niversity of Technology **(IUT), I**nternational **U**niversity of **U**ganda **(IUIU), I**slamic **U**niversity **I**n **N**iger **(IUIN)** and other OIC institutions and **APPRECIATING** their efforts in facilitating and assisting Member States in meeting the challenges of the 21st century in science, technology and innovation for socio-economic development;

NOTING with appreciation the progress reports presented by **I**slamic World **A**cademy of **S**ciences **(IAS)**, Inter Islamic Networks on Biotechnology **(INOGEB)**, Inter-Islamic Network on Renewable Energy **(INRES)**, Inter-Islamic Network on Oceanography **(INOC)**, Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences **(ISNET)**, Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development **(INWRDAM)**, Inter-Islamic Network on Biosaline Agriculture **(INBA)** and Inter-Islamic Network on Information Technology **(INIT)**; Inter-Islamic Network on Tropical Medicine **(INTROM)**, Inter-Islamic Network on Environment **(INE)**, Inter-Islamic Network on Veterinary Sciences **(INVSR)**, **N**etwork of the **A**cademies of **S**ciences **i**n the **C**ountries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation **(NASIC)**;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of linking the research activities with the industrial production for the creation of jobs and economic development of the Member States;

APPRECIATING the efforts and initiatives of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for promoting Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the Member Countries, including project financing and its specialized programs for Scholarship, Technical Cooperation, annual Prizes for Science and Technology and Resource Centers Mapping.

WELCOMING the selection of five centers of excellence from among those institutions/organizations/centers that won the IDB annual science prizes;

FURTHER WELCOMING the preparation of the draft Green Technology Blueprint to combat climate change with the support from the IDB;

WELCOMING the offer of Government of Kazakhstan to host the OIC Summit on Science and Technology in 2017;

REFERRING with appreciation the progress report presented by the Coordinator General on behalf of the Executive Committee of COMSTECH on the implementation of COMSTECH program for the period 2011-16, and the joint activities conducted by COMSTECH with TWAS, IFS and WHO/EMRO;

RECOGNIZING the importance of development of science, technology and innovation by the Member States in achieving the targets set by sustainable development goals;

RECOGNIZING the central role of COMSTECH for realizing the objectives of the Vision 1441 H for Science and Technology and the OIC-2025 Programme of Action;

EXPRESSING gratitude to the Government of Pakistan and particularly to Ministry of Science and Technology for successful convening of the 15th General Assembly of COMSTECH;

HAVING CONSIDERED the decisions of the 30th Meeting of COMSTECH Executive Committee held on 30th May, 2016 and the various items of the Agenda of the Fifteenth General Assembly meeting of COMSTECH;

The Fifteenth General Assembly of COMSTECH:

1. **EXPRESSES** its gratitude to President Mamnoon Hussain, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for patronizing the activities of COMSTECH for scientific and technological advancement of the OIC Member States;

2. **APPRECIATES** the efforts of COMSTECH in strengthening the capacity of Member States in the field of science, technology and innovation by arranging advanced training workshops providing opportunities to researchers from Member States to interact with eminent scientists of the developed countries as well as within the OIC region;

3. **WELCOMES** the signing of the Agreement by COMSTECH with the Lindau Nobel Council, Germany, for jointly financing up to 20 scientists every year from OIC countries and **CALLS UPON** COMSTECH to develop more linkages with the international research institutes for the benefit of the scientists and researchers of the Member States;

4. **COMMENDS** the efforts of COMSTECH for updating the Directory of Scientists of OIC Countries that identifies the names, fields, and

institutions of the researchers and **CALLS UPON** the Member States to encourage the research institutions to use the Directory of Scientists for increasing collaboration in research;

5. **REQUESTS** COMSTECH to coordinate with IDB and other members of the committee for selection of five other centers of excellence and provision of financial support to the ten selected centers;

6. **CALLS UPON** COMSTECH to work closely with the Member States, Centers of Excellence, research institutions and universities in OIC Member States for increased collaborative research, sharing of knowledge and transfer of technology;

7. **APPRECIATES** the efforts of Coordinator General of COMSTECH for preparing the Document **"Science and Technology in the OIC Countries: Goals, Priorities, and Actions,"** which inter-alia includes:

    i.   To initiate new programmes with mutual collaboration, such as the Ibn al Haitham Programme to enable exchanges of scientist among OIC Member States;

    ii.   Facilitate Enhancement of Educations and Skills in the Member States, with the target of 50 Universities of Member States to be included in the rank of the top 500 universities;

    iii. Support Policies and Actions for alleviating the effects of the looming crisis in water and food security in OIC Member States;

    iv.   Facilitate the Establishment of High Performance Computational Facilities across Member States;

    v.   Review the Security of Digital Content and management of Big Data though a Cross-Country OIC Task Force;

    vi.   Prepare Technical Feasibilities and Programs for 'Big' Science;

    vii. Establish an OIC Task Force on Climate Change;

    viii. Initiate an Exhaustive and Definitive Mapping of the physical resources;

    ix.   Compile the S&T Profile of OIC Member States;

    x.   Facilitate Programs and Resources to manage the unfolding crisis in human health;

    xi.   Prepare the Structure for the Implementation and Rigorous Monitoring of these programs through a Steering Committee;

8. **CALLS UPON** COMSTECH to further enrich the document by incorporating recommendations of the Member States for consideration of the OIC Summit on Science and Technology in Kazakhstan in 2017;

9. **CALLS UPON** COMSTECH to coordinate with the Government of Kazakhstan and OIC General Secretariat for making preparations for the OIC Summit on Science and Technology to be held in 2017;

10. **CALLS UPON** COMSTECH for early finalization of the OIC Green Technology Blue Print for OIC Member States before the OIC Summit to be held in Kazakhstan in 2017;

11. **REQUESTS** COMSTECH to develop a coordinated strategy for implementation of the provisions of OIC 2025: Program of Action pertaining to science and technology;

12. **COMMENDS** COMSTECH cooperation with the **T**he **W**orld **A**cademy of **S**ciences (**TWAS**) to promote science, technology and innovation programs for the young scientists in the OIC Member States;

13. **COMMENDS** the efforts of COMSTECH for preparing Science Report Project that would include mapping of top scientific research centers and technological capabilities of the Member States and **CALLS UPON** COMSTECH to approach IDB for provisions of the funds for the project;

14. **CALLS UPON** the COMSTECH to prepare recommendations for making Science Technology and Innovation Organization (STIO) functional and financially viable organization for the implementation of programmes and activities in the field of science, technology and innovation;

15. **CALLS UPON** COMSTECH to formulate a recommendations regarding evaluation of the performance of the Inter-Islamic Networks and propose a criteria for termination and establishment of such networks for consideration of the 16th General Assembly ;

16. **SUPPORTS** the request of the Palestinian Authority for assistance and cooperation of OIC Member States and institutions for the promotion of Science and Technology in Palestine;

17. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the award of 50 scholarships under the aegis of OIC Education Exchange Programme since 2009-10 and additional 50 scholarships through ISESCO by the Government of Pakistan every year for the students of the Member States;

18. **APPRECIATES** the offer of Government of Pakistan to award 30 scholarships to the students of OIC Member States to study at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) through OIC Education Exchange Programme;

19. **FURTHER APPRECIATES** the announcement of the Government of Pakistan to award an additional 100 scholarships to the students to the least developed countries of OIC;

20. **REQUESTS** the Member States to generously offer scholarships to the students from OIC LDCs in the field of Science and Technology;

21. **NOTES** the offer of Inter-Islamic Network of Science and Technology Parks (INSTP) to prepare feasibility studies within 3 months and submit to COMSTECH Secretariat the proposals to establish appropriate infrastructure within OIC Member States for Inter-Islamic Tech-Mart, a venture capital investment fund, and an Inter-Islamic Network of Laboratories;

22. **WELCOMES** the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran for five merit-based scholarships at graduate level and vocational training courses to the OIC Member States every year through OIC Education Exchange Programme;

23. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the COMSTECH awards given to leading scientists from the OIC Member States at the 15th General Assembly, and expresses deep appreciation of other major international awards offered by the Member States such as the King Faisal International Award, the Hamdan bin Rashid Award, the IDB S&T Awards, the ISESCO Awards, and the International Mustafa(pbuh) Prize which recognize and encourage excellence in science;

24. **WELCOMES** the offer of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the Member States to participate in the training programs and workshops organized by the UNESCO regional center for the Information and Communications Technologies and Center of Excellence in Technical Education of Bahrain;

25. **APPRECIATES** the activities of ISESCO towards the promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation in OIC Member States;

26. **APPRECIATES** the efforts of SESRIC for preparing technical background reports and statistical publications; developing databases and online software on STI related indicators and for enhancing technical capacities of National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) of the OIC Member Countries within the framework of the Centre's Statistical Capacity Building Programme (STatCaB);

27.   **APPRECIATES** the initiative of IDB Group in scaling up its Technical Cooperation Program through Reverse Linkage mechanism for exchange of knowledge, expertise, technology and solutions among the OIC Member States and **CALLS UPON** them to consider the proposal of the IDB to devote at least 10% of their total annual financial requests to S&T related projects and further encourages them to propose Reverse Linkage projects to IDB through its official channel in the respective countries;

28.   **APPROVES** COMSTECH program and budget for 2014-15 & 2016-17 and **URGES** all Member States to make generous contribution towards COMSTECH Programme and Budget;

29.   **REQUESTS** the Secretary General of the OIC to submit a report on the activities of COMSTECH to the 43rd Session of the CFM to be held in Uzbekistan in 2016;

30.   **REQUESTS** the Chairman of COMSTECH to present chairman's report to the 14th Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Gambia for endorsement;