

The Federal Republic of Somalia joins COMSATS as its 26th Member State

The Federal Republic of Somalia has signed an accession international agreement to join Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), on 9th November 2017. On behalf of the Somali government, the Minister for Education, Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education, Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Abdi Dahir Osman, signed the agreement, while from COMSATS the signatory was the organization's Executive Director, Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi. The Minister was accompanied by the Ambassador of Somalia to Islamabad, Pakistan, H. E. Ms. Khadija Almahzoumi; First Secretary, Embassy of Somalia, Mr. Ali Sheikh; and Advisor to the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education, Mohammed A. Nur. Senior officials from COMSATS also witnessed the ceremony.

Apart from its newly acquired membership of COMSATS, Somalia currently holds membership in African Development Bank (ADB), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), G-77, IDA, IDB, IFAD, NAM, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, WTFU, WHO, and WTO. Somalia will be represented at the Heads-of-State level Commission and the ministerial-level Consultative Committee of COMSATS by virtue of its State membership.

During the ceremony, Dr. Zaidi thanked the Minister and the Ambassador for making the efforts which led to the signing of accession agreement. He took the opportunity to brief about COMSATS, its statutory bodies, its international programmes and activities and considered the signing of the accession agreement a new chapter of science led collaboration for achieving sustainable socio-economic development. The minister showed pleasure on reaching this agreement and hoped to benefit from COMSATS' membership in academics as well as research and development.

The Minister expressed gratitude and appreciated the Ambassador of Somalia in Islamabad for her efforts to realize Somalia's membership to COMSATS, calling her a strong bridge between COMSATS and Somalia. The Minister of Education, Culture, and Higher Education, Somalia will now serve as the Focal Point of COMSATS with a representation at its Consultative Committee meeting.

The accession is a result of earlier consultations and meetings with the Somali Embassy and COMSATS' officials held earlier during the year.

