



Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South

REF: COMSATS/SMEs/2025/

NOTE VERBALE

The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) presents its compliments to the esteemed Focal Points in Member States, Centres of Excellence, and Member Institutions of the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS), and has the honour to inform them of COMSATS' forthcoming capacity-building e-Workshop on "Enhancing University-Business and R&D-SME Collaboration for Innovation and Growth", scheduled to be held on 27th May 2025 (09:00–12:00 GMT).

In light of the growing global emphasis on innovation as a key pillar of sustainable development and economic transformation, particularly within the Global South, the imperative to foster robust linkages between universities, research institutions, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) has never been more pronounced. In response to this need—echoed by Member Institutions during the 25th Meeting of the COMSATS Coordinating Council held in China in September 2024—COMSATS is pleased to convene the aforementioned workshop in a virtual format.

The workshop is designed to strengthen institutional capacity across COMSATS Member States in fostering effective university-industry collaboration and innovation-driven partnerships. It will feature eminent experts from international and regional organizations, including the South Centre, the International Network for Small and Medium Enterprises (INSME), Pardis Technology Park (Islamic Republic of Iran), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The workshop will deliberate on strategies for effective R&D–SME collaboration, the development of green and sustainable innovation ecosystems, mechanisms for technology transfer and commercialization, entrepreneurial capacity development, and the design of policy and governance frameworks to support innovation partnerships.

In the spirit of inclusivity and broad-based participation, Member Institutions are kindly requested to nominate 8 to 10 suitably qualified individuals—including faculty members, researchers, programme managers, or academic staff—to attend the session virtually and benefit from its technical content. It would be appreciated if nominations may please be submitted by Wednesday, 21st May 2025, via email to mehwish.durani@comsats.org, with a copy to huma@comsats.org. Participants attending the full session will receive e-certificates.

A detailed concept note and provisional programme are enclosed herewith for reference. Participation details and the Zoom access link will be shared directly with the nominated participants.

The COMSATS Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Honourable Members of the Network of Centres of Excellence, the Liaison Officers of COMSATS Focal Points, and the Member Institutions of the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS), the assurances of its highest consideration.

Islamabad, 15th May 2025

Enclosures:

1. *Concept Note*
2. *Provisional Programme*

