

**DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION AT THE 3<sup>rd</sup> VICE CHANCELLOR'S FORUM OF THE**

**UNIVERSITIES IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD: FACING GLOBAL CHALLENGES**

**HELD AT ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 23-24, 2015**

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chancellors' Forum on Universities in the Islamic World: Facing Global Challenges (Forum) met at Islamabad on February 23-24, 2015, and adopted by consensus the following Resolution:

Takes cognizance of the fact that COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Government of Pakistan; Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, the Islamic Educational and Cultural Organization and Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World organized the previous two meetings of the Forum on June 11-12, 2012 and September 23-24, 2013. Meetings of the Forum provided an excellent opportunity to the participating Universities to interact and develop professional linkages among each other.

Expresses appreciation for the Ministry of Science & Technology and the Ministry of Federal Educational and Professional Training, Government of Pakistan; Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the Federation of Universities of the Islamic World; Higher Education Commission, Pakistan and the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad for convening the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Vice Chancellors' Forum on February 23-24, 2015;

Appreciating that the Forum would provide a platform to the University Leaders for fostering collegiality, strengthening cooperation and encouraging dialogue among the member Universities. This would facilitate discussion and analysis on major global challenges in education enabling them to consider taking appropriate measures for meeting such challenges through cooperation among the participating Universities;

Taking note of the agenda items for discussion in the Forum, namely (1) Fostering Links with the Community (ii) Instituting sustainable higher education systems (iii) Sharing of Knowledge and encouraging collaboration (iv) Promoting Higher Education, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (v) International Landscape: Understanding Role of University Leadership (vi) Comprehending Higher Education: New Visions for Future (vii) Realizing role of Higher Education in Economic Vitalization (viii) Mapping International Research Collaboration – Future Trends (ix) Ensuring Equality of Access and Role of Women in Higher Education and in Society (x) Partnering with Industry.

Commending the input and commitment of the participating delegates during their deliberations on the aforesaid agenda items;

Recommends adoption of the following measures:

1. To create a permanent entity of the VC Forum as an inter-governmental entity with its headquarters established at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Pakistan.

2. To maintain a regular liaison among the institutions of higher learning in the Islamic World and convening the meeting of this Forum for mutually sharing the development and progress on an annual basis.
3. To provide facilities for scholarships for students to benefit from the progress made in scientific and educational fields in various centers of excellence among the member countries;
4. To be cognizant of the challenges of globalization, particularly in the areas of educational and scientific research, for devising strategies and mutual course of action for cooperation in addressing those challenges;
5. To establish Virtual Centers of Excellence enabling the scholars and researchers of member countries to have easy access in sharing the pool of knowledge;
6. To promote exchange of students and faculty among the participating institutions of higher learning; and
7. To take steps and promote linkages between academia and industry.
8. Pakistani universities are offering 1,000 scholarships to the Islamic world. The scholarship will be for graduate level studies for those residing in an Islamic country. It includes waiver of tuition fee and ancillary expenses. The universities other than Pakistan are encouraged to offer scholarships for muslim ummah.
9. The Forum encourages the higher education institutions to help each other in technology transfer in order to strengthen the universities.

Commends further the member states of the OIC and the members of the Forum for their consistent support and cooperation in convening the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Forum at Islamabad on 23-24 February 2015;

Expresses appreciation for the Director General, ISESCO for his continued interest in the Forum and the hosts for making excellent arrangements in organizing the Forum and in extending hospitality to the delegates during their stay in Islamabad.

Resolved at Islamabad, Pakistan  
On Feb. 24, 2015

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