Resolution of VC Forum 2013

Two days’ Vice Chancellors Forum on ‘Universities in the Islamic World: Challenges of Internationalization’, met at Islamabad on September 23-24, 2013 and adopted by consensus, the following Resolution:

Takes cognizance of the fact that COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), in collaboration with Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of Pakistan, the Islamic Educational & Cultural Organization, and Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World convened the first ever meeting of the Vice Chancellors of the Islamic World on June 11-12, 2012, which was participated by over 130 Vice Chancellors of the Islamic World. This event provided an excellent opportunity to the participating universities to develop linkages with other participating universities;

Expresses appreciation to the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of Pakistan, Islamic Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization, Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, and COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad Pakistan for convening the 2nd Meeting of the Vice Chancellors Forum (VC Forum 2013);

Appreciating that VC Forum 2013 would provide a platform to the University Leaders for fostering collegiality, strengthening cooperation, and encouraging dialogue among the member universities. This would facilitate discussion, analysis thereby contributing to the formulation of strategies on major challenges of internationalization faced by the Islamic World in modern times;

Taking note of the Agenda for the VC Forum 2013, which includes (i) establishment of VC Forum as a legal entity having a permanent secretariat, (ii) creation of Islamic Universities Pool of Scholarship (iii) creating a Joint Research and Development Fund (iv) instituting Personal Mobility Program for facilitating travel and inter-action among researchers and scholars (v) institutionalizing ranking among universities of the VC Forum, and (vi) setting up of Inter-disciplinary Centre(s) of Excellence;

Commending the input and commitment of the participating delegates for their deliberations in the various sessions of the VC Forum 2013;

Recommending the establishment of a permanent Secretariat of the VC Forum for convening future meetings of VC Forum and ensuring greater integration and cooperation among the universities of the Islamic World in general and through the following course of action in particular:

1. To maintain a continuous liaison with members of the VC Forum for promoting the cause of higher education in the Islamic World;
2. Make efforts for the creation of a Joint Research and Development Fund by reaching out to the relevant institutions and organizations in the Islamic World and relevant international
institutions for promoting research and higher learning in the universities of the Islamic World;

3. Facilitate mobility of experts, scholars and students of the Islamic World for sharing the expertise and academic facilities available in other universities of the Islamic World through the provision of financial assistance, travel grants, scholarships and developing institutional arrangements for achieving this objective;

4. Inter-act with the members of the VC Forum for establishing Centers of Excellence in various areas; and

5. Institutionalizing ranking among universities of the Islamic World.

Commending further the member states of OIC and the members of VC Forum for their consistent support and cooperation in convening 2nd meeting of the VC Forum held at Islamabad on September 23-24, 2013; and

Expressing appreciation to the hosts for the excellent arrangements for arranging the VC Forum 2013, and the hospitality extended to the delegates during their stay in Islamabad.