

25 March 2013

English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
Legal Subcommittee  
Fifty-second session  
8-19 April 2013

**Request for observer status with the United Nations  
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: application  
of the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and  
Technology (ISNET)**

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. At its thirty-third session, in 1990, the Committee considered guidelines for granting observer status with the Committee to international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The possible criteria suggested by the Outer Space Affairs Division to the Committee at that time were the following:

(a) As part of its programme, the organization should be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

(b) The aims and purposes of the organization should be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) The organization should be a recognized international organization and should have an established headquarters, an executive officer, and a constitution, a copy of which is deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In the case of a non-governmental organization, it should be a non-profit organization.

2. While the Committee's decision did not specifically include the elements referred to in 1(c) above, it has been the practice of the Committee, since its decision in 1990, to have before it the constitution or statutes of the organization or entity requesting observer status.

3. On 11 February 2013 the Office for Outer Space Affairs received an application for observer status with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer



Space from the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET). The following related correspondence received from ISNET is attached to this document:

- (a) Letter from ISNET describing its mission and objectives and stating its intention to become a permanent observer of the Committee;
  - (b) Letter from a Ministerial Standing Committee (COMSTECH) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, supporting the application of ISNET; and
  - (c) Rules of Procedure for ISNET.
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# INTER-ISLAMIC NETWORK ON SPACE SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY ( ISNET )

RÉSEAU INTER-ISLAMIQUE  
DES SCIENCES SPATIALES  
ET DE LA TECHNOLOGIE

الشبكة البينية الإسلامية حول  
علوم و تكنولوجيا الفضاء

No. ISNET-35(2)/06



3 January 2013


**Ms. Mazlan Othman**  
Director  
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA)  
Room E-0952  
United Nations Office at Vienna  
Vienna International Centre  
A-1400 Vienna  
Austria

Dear Ms. Othman,

1. Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences & Technology (ISNET) is an inter-governmental organisation. It is a non-political and non-profit autonomous body having international legal status. ISNET came into existence as a result of an action plan that was formulated by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to accelerate the pace of development of science and technology in Islamic states. The action plan called for cooperation and collaboration between and among OIC member states in different fields of science and technology thereby paving the way for shared and simultaneous scientific progress. This led to a decision by the Third Meeting of the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) to set up, initially, six Inter Islamic Networks in different modern science and technology fields. Two months later, in Jan 1987, the decision was endorsed by the Fifth Islamic Summit held in Kuwait. Realising the vital role of space sciences, space technology and applications towards achieving socio-economic and sustainable development, ISNET was formed in September 1987 as one of the six aforesaid Inter Islamic Networks. Since then, the Network has been tasked with the long-term function to promote space sciences, space technology and applications for peaceful purposes in OIC member countries and to foster meaningful international cooperation among them. Currently, ISNET has a membership of 15 countries, which includes Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.
2. The objectives of ISNET, as mandated by OIC, are to: exchange information, share experiences and maintain continuing dialogue on the developments in space sciences and technology; set up and maintain a data bank on the developments in the subject area of use of the member states taking into account national interests of the subscribing countries; collaborate and cooperate in the areas of common interest with a view to help each other in building up the national capability of the member states in the development of the economic production sector relevant to space sciences, space applications and space technology; and, to initiate joint projects of Research and Development, help member states in the training of quality manpower and render consultancy and advisory services.
3. The Network's activities are designed to achieve the stated objectives. These include organisation of seminars and symposia on space-related subjects; conduct of short specialised training courses on satellite applications; and coordination of advisory services on space-related proposals.
4. So far, 50 training courses on satellite technology applications, and 20 seminars and expert meetings on space-related topics have been organised in Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia. Financial support for many of the events was provided by COMSTECH, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). Around 2,500 scientists and researchers have attended ISNET seminars and training courses.
5. ISNET functions under the umbrella of OIC and regularly submits reports of its activities. The Governing Body of ISNET consists of President, representatives from member countries and COMSTECH. This is the supreme decision-making council entrusted with the responsibility of approving annual activity programme and budget. The Executive Council comprises representatives of three member countries elected for a term of four years.
6. ISNET's objectives and programme elements are in harmony with the mission of the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In order to stay abreast with the latest space-related developments, identify training opportunities for capacity-building of member countries, and to align its activities with the mission and objectives of COPUOS in utilising the benefits of peaceful uses of outer space for sustainable development, ISNET seeks the status of Permanent Observer to UN COPUOS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

  
**Arshad H Siraj**  
Executive Director



# COMSTECH

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

الكومستيك  
منظمة التعاون الإسلامي  
اللجنة الدائمة حول التعاون العلمي والتكنولوجي

# COMSTECH

ORGANISATION DE LA COOPERATION ISLAMIQUE  
COMITE PERMANENT DE LA COOPERATION  
SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE

Ref. No. 3(17)/13-COMSTECH

Monday, 28 January 2013

Ms. Mazlan Othman

Director

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA)

Room E-0952, United Nations Office at Vienna

Vienna International Centre

A-1400 Vienna

Austria

OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE  
AFFAIRS (COSA) / UNOV

Office of the Director

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Dear Ms. Othman,

COMSTECH is a Ministerial Standing Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Science and Technology. It has fifty-seven Member States and it is largest Inter-governmental Organization on Science and Technology outside the United Nations. To support Science and Technology infrastructure in the OIC region, COMSTECH is engaged in a variety of activities including establishment of institutions that help build capacity in COMSTECH member states. Creation of COMSTECH Inter Islamic Networks in various fields of science and scientific endeavour is one of the major programs of COMSTECH. Thus, COMSTECH has established Science Networks in Turkey, Jordan, Iran, UAE, Egypt, Malaysia, and Pakistan.

One of the COMSTECH's most active networks that have fifteen countries as its members is located in Karachi, Pakistan. It has been named as Inter Islamic Network on Space Science and Technology (ISNET) because it deals with Space Sciences. Functions of ISNET and its further details are very well recorded in a letter from its Executive Director to you. ISNET is doing very useful work and in Space Sciences by supporting education, research and other space related activities in its fifteen member states. While endorsing ISNET's request on behalf of COMSTECH, I strongly recommend that ISNET may be awarded status of permanent observer to the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

Warm regards.

Dr. Mohammed Ali Mahesar  
Assistant Coordinator General

## **STATUTES FOR THE INTER-ISLAMIC NETWORK ON SPACE SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY**

### **PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS a need has been felt for increased effectiveness and for meeting the objectives set forth by COMSTECH.

And whereas it is considered expedient to revise the existing arrangements.

NOW THEREFORE, the following Statute is adopted for the Inter Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology.

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 1: NAME**

The name of the Network shall be Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology abbreviated as ISNET.

#### **Article 2: DEFINITIONS**

In this Statute, unless there is anything repugnant to the subject or context:

- (a) **“President”** means President of the Network;
- (b) **“OIC”** means Organisation of Islamic Conference;
- (c) **“COMSTECH”** means the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation
- (d) **“Host Government”** means the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which offered to host the network
- (e) **“Governing Body”** means the General Assembly of representatives of the member states as per Article 7;
- (f) **“Executive Council”** means the Council appointed under Article 8;
- (g) **“Member State”** means any OIC Member State which is a member of the Network;
- (h) **“Representative”** means the top professional scientist nominated by and representing a Member State;

- (i) **“Network”** means the Inter Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET)

**Article 3: STATUS**

The Network shall be an Inter-Governmental Organisation under the umbrella of COMSTECH which will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the working of the Network. It shall be a non-political and non-profit making autonomous body having international legal status.

**Article 4: OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Network are:

- 1) To exchange information, share experiences and maintain continuing dialogue on the developments in space sciences and technology.
- 2) To set up and maintain a data bank on the developments in the subject area of use of the Member States taking into account national interests of the subscribing countries.
- 3) To collaborate and cooperate in the areas of common interest with a view to help each other in building up the national capability of the Member States in the development of the economic production sector relevant to space sciences, space applications and space technology.
- 4) To initiate joint projects of Research and Development, help Member States in the training of quality manpower and render consultancy and advisory services.

**Article 5: MEMBERSHIP**

OIC Member States having or planning to have facilities for undertaking R&D work and desirous of participating in the activities of the Network will be elected by the Governing Body Members of the Network.

**5.1. Functions of the Network Member Countries**

The functions of a member country include:

- a) Nominating of an R&D institution active in space research and applications as a focal point such that this institution can stimulate the activities of the Network. These national institutions may organise the activities within their countries and assist in better achievement of ISNET goals.

- b) Providing financial contributions to cover the membership fee of the focal institutions in the Network.

## **5.2. Functions of the Network Member Institutions**

Member Institutions of the Network are institutions designated by their Government or those appointed by the Governing Body for the explicit purpose of cooperating with other Members of the Network in its specific fields of activity. Each Member of the Network has specific functions to be carried out. These functions include:

- a) To participate in defining joint R&D projects and other Network activities and to actively take part in implementation of the R&D projects and other activities.
- b) To provide membership share of the financial resources required for joint R&D projects.
- c) To provide membership share of the financial resources required for operations and expenses of the Network Headquarters.
- d) To provide to other Member Institutions training at their facilities covering local expenses.
- e) To host workshops, seminars, visiting scientists and general meetings as may, from time to time, be decided by the Executive Council.
- f) To provide information needed by the Network Headquarters.
- g) To maintain close links with R&D institutions at the national level having similar activities.
- h) To report to the Network Headquarters on joint activities carried out by Member Institution.
- i) To report to their Governments on the activities carried out by the Network.

## **Article 6: ORGANS OF THE NETWORK**

Organs of the Network shall be the following:

- a) Governing Body
- b) Executive Council
- c) Network Headquarters

**Article 7: GOVERNING BODY**

1. Governing Body of the Network shall comprise:
  - a) Representatives of Member States of the Network
  - b) A representative of COMSTECH
2. The Governing Body shall be the supreme decision making body of the Network and shall in particular:
  - a) elect members of Executive Council of the Network on one Member State-one-vote basis.
  - b) accept a Member of the Network;
  - c) consider and approve reports for submission to COMSTECH and Host Government; and
  - d) ratify programme and budget of the Network
3. On the recommendation of its President, the Governing Body shall approve the appointment of an Executive Director of the Network.
4. Governing Body shall meet at least once in every two years at a place and on a date to be appointed by the Executive Council. A notice of at least four months shall be given for holding a meeting of the Government Body.
5. A special session of Governing Body may be called by the President of the Network upon the request from at least two member states of the Network.

**Article 8: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

1. Executive Council shall comprise:
  - a) President of the Network as its ex-officio chairman;
  - b) Representatives of three member states; excluding the President as its ex-officio chairman.
2. Executive Director of the Network will act as its Secretary.
3. Members of Executive Council, other than the President, shall hold office for a period of four years.
4. Executive Council shall:



- a) frame regulations for the proper management of the Network including financial and administrative regulations, provided that such regulations are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Statute and the Rules of Procedure;
- b) formulate the programme, proposals and action plans for the Network and submit those to the Governing Body for consideration and approval; and
- c) prepare and submit annual reports to the Governing Body for its approval and for submission to the COMSTECH and the host government.

**Article 9: NETWORK HEADQUARTERS**

**9.1 General**

- a) The headquarters of the Network shall be in Pakistan at Karachi, or any other location considered appropriate by the host organisation SUPARCO and approved by Government of Pakistan.
- b) Host government shall provide the Network Headquarters facilities essential for effective coordination between member states and the mechanism for implementing programmes of the Network towards realization of its objectives.

**9.2 Functions of the Network President**

The President shall:

- a) take all measures necessary to ensure functioning of the Network Headquarters;
- b) ensure proper execution of the programmes and realization of its objectives;
- c) maintain close liaison with members of the Executive Council and focal institutions;
- d) maintain regular contacts with Member States and solicit cooperative programmes;
- e) monitor the activities of collaborative projects among members;
- f) nominate an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the Governing Body;

- g) secure financial resources for operation of the Network and to support its activities.

### 9.3 **Functions of Executive Director**

Executive Director shall:

- a) participate in meetings of Executive Council and Governing Body without the right to vote;
- b) prepare, in consultation with the President, all documents and reports of the Network for consideration of Executive Committee and Governing Body;
- c) be competent to receive contributions/donations for the Network providing these are in accordance with the procedures approved by the Governing Body and that these are reported to the Executive Council at its very next meeting;
- d) initiate by-laws, rules and procedures for operation of the Headquarters and the Network;
- e) make effort to expand membership of the Network;
- f) maintain close contacts with R&D institutions of the host country in the fields of the Network;
- g) prepare annual and progress reports of the Network.

### **Article 10: FINANCES**

1. The finances for running the Network shall be the responsibility of the host government with contributions from member states of the Network as decided by the Fifth Islamic Summit (Kuwait, January 1987) in its Resolution No.2/5-E (IS).
2. Additional financial resources may consist of:
  - a) Grants from COMSTECH;
  - b) Grants from OIC, and its subsidiary organs and institutions;
  - c) Donations and subsidies received from other organisations including international agencies, banks, individuals, etc.
  - d) Income generated through publications, consultations, etc.

**Article 11: BUDGET**

Budget shall be prepared for every two years on behalf of Executive Council and approved by Governing Body. It shall be effective as of 1<sup>st</sup> January of a calendar year and end on 31<sup>st</sup> December of the following year.

**Article 12: LANGUAGE**

The working language of the Network shall be the official languages of the OIC (Arabic, English and French). However, the scientific and technical information of the Network may be processed and/or accessed in the language of its availability.

**Article 13: IMMUNITIES & PRIVILEGES**

The Network and its officials shall have the same immunities and privileges as are available to the OIC and its constituent bodies.

**Article 14: AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES**

Amendments to the Statutes may be proposed by any representative of a member state. Statutes may be amended by Governing Body by majority of votes.

**Article 15: RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Governing Body may make its own Rules of Procedure.

## **RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR INTER-ISLAMIC NETWORK ON SPACE SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY (ISNET)**

### **Rule-1: LEGAL STATUS OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

These Rules of Procedure shall be a modality for implementation of the Statutes of Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology.

### **Rule-2: DEFINITIONS**

1. In these rules, unless there is anything contrary to the subject or context:
  - a) "OIC" means Organisation of Islamic Conference Countries;
  - b) "COMSTECH" means OIC Ministerial Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation;
  - c) "MEMBER STATE" means any OIC member country which is a Member of the Network;
  - d) "MEMBER" means duly authorised representative of the Member State;
  - e) "GOVERNING BODY" means the General Assembly of the representative of the member countries as per Rule 6;
  - f) "CHAIRMAN" of the Governing Body means the President of the Network or member of the Governing Body chairing its meeting;
  - g) "PRESIDENT" means President of the Network; President is also the Head of the Network and Chief Executive of the Network's Focal Host Institution;
  - h) "EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE" means the Committee appointed under Rule-7;
  - i) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" means the Chief Executive of the Network Headquarters as appointed by the Governing Body according to the provision of Rule 6
  
2. The terms and expressions used shall have the same meanings as are assigned to them in the Statutes of Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences & Technology (ISNET).

**Rule-3: GOVERNING BODY MEETING (GBM)**

1. Regular Governing Body Meeting (GBM) shall be convened at least once every two years, unless it is otherwise decided. ISNET Headquarters shall inform member states of dates, venue and the agenda at least 90 days before the session.

2. Governing Body upon invitation, may also be attended without the right of vote by:

- a) observer members in the OIC
- b) subsidiary organs, specialised and affiliated institutions of OIC; and
- c) representatives of international organizations, specialized institutions and agencies related to activities of COMSTECH/ISNET.

**Rule-4: VENUE OF THE MEETING**

Governing Body Meeting shall be held, in principle, on the territory of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

**Rule-5: QUORUM**

The quorum for the GBMs including its special sessions shall consist of one-third of the member states.

**Rule-6: BUREAU**

There shall be a Bureau to steer the proceedings and business sessions of Governing Body. The Bureau shall consist of the following members, namely:

- a) The Chairman of the Governing Body
- b) A Rapporteur to be elected by the Governing Assembly, and
- c) Executive Director, ISNET

**Rule-7: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

1. Draft agenda for a regular meeting shall be drawn up by ISNET Headquarters and communicated to invitees at least ninety (90) days before the opening of the meeting.

2. Any member state may request for inclusion of an item in the agenda of a GBM.. Such a request should be accompanied by the necessary documentation relating to the objectives, topics and various aspects of the issue involved and should reach the member states normally at least forty-five days before the date fixed for the GBM. Any member

state may oppose the discussion of any item on the agenda when the above conditions are not fulfilled.

3. Any member state may move an amendment to an item on the agenda during a session and propose an item of urgent nature for inclusion on the agenda by consensus.

**Rule-8: SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

1. Drafts of proposals, resolutions, motions or amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Bureau of the session which shall communicate the text to representatives of the member states and other invitees attending the GBM, provided that the Chairman allows discussion of a draft or a proposal, the text of which was not distributed in advance.

2. Drafts of proposals, resolutions, motions or amendments may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting but any other representative may again submit a draft or proposal so withdrawn.

**Rule-9: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS**

1. Resolutions of Governing Body shall be adopted by consensus or by a two-third majority vote of the member states present and voting; and

2. For procedural issues, adoption of decisions shall require approval of simple majority of the member states present and voting.

**Rule-10: TIME LIMIT OF SPEAKERS**

The Chairman may, with the approval of Governing Body, decide to set a time limit on every speaker and when a representative exceeds the time limit so fixed, the Chairman shall call him to order immediately unless the Governing Body agrees to give him some more time.

**Rule-11: SUSPENSION AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION**

A representative of any member state may, in the course of debate, propose suspension or adjournment of the session. The motion may immediately be put to vote by Chairman and decision be taken accordingly.

**Rule-12: PUBLICATION OF REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS**

The reports and resolutions, etc. adopted at a GBM shall be published in the official languages of the Network and shall be communicated to member states not later than ninety days after the closing date of the session.

**Rule-13: FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Executive Council shall meet once every year and also immediately before a regular session of the GBM. It can also convene extraordinary sessions at the invitation of the President of the Network.

**Rule-14: QUORUM OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The quorum for the meetings of the Executive Council shall be three including the President of the Network.

**Rule-15: DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Decisions of the Executive Council shall be taken by simple majority of the members present and voting.

**Rule-16: OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

1. The official languages of ISNET shall be Arabic, English and French.
2. All documents presented to ISNET/COMSTECH for consideration, shall, as far as possible, be in the official languages.
3. Any representative may address the meeting in a language other than official languages of the Organization provided that he ensures and arranges interpretation of the official languages of the Organization.

**Rule-17: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

For issues and matters not covered by these Rules, the Rules of Procedure of COMSTECH or OIC shall apply and where an issue or matter is not covered by the Rules of Procedure of those organizations, such issue or matter shall be regulated in such manner as the Chairman may decide.

**Rule-18: APPROVAL AND COMING INTO FORCE**

The present Rules of Procedures shall be approved by Governing Body. It shall come into force on the date of its approval.

**Rule-19: AMENDMENT**

These Rules of Procedure may be amended. The amendment shall be adopted by Governing Body by simple majority of the member states present and voting. It shall come into force upon its adoption.