

In the name of Allah (S.w.T)

(Draft) Statute of
COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Virtual Universities (CINVU)

Following the OIC Charter, expressing the necessity of cooperation between the Member States, and according to the Article 15 of Resolution of the 14th General Assembly Meeting of COMSTECH held on 11st – 13rd January 2011 at Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and in order to strengthen the relationship and to improve the scientific, educational, academic research and technological collaborations among the Islamic countries, the COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Virtual Universities (CINVU) was suggested to be established to support the educational and research networks based on ICT technology and knowledge engineering, promoting joint venture and collaboration culture and expedition of cooperation and sympathy among entrepreneurs and Muslim scientists, scholars, students and researches of Islamic countries through laying the required groundwork.

The Government of Islamic Republic of Iran as the Host Country of the CINVU has accepted to provide the required administrative, financial and scientific support to make CINVU a viable and successful institution of the COMSTECH.

ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS

The name of the Network shall be "COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Virtual Universities" abbreviated as CINVU.

For this document, unless specified otherwise, the following terms and conditions shall have the meanings ascribed to them as:

- 1.1. "**Associated Member**" means all originations, institutions, universities, centers, and/or NGOs in OIC Countries which their activities are related to the CINVU and are satisfied with the membership conditions according to Article 6 of this Statute without having voting right.
- 1.2. "**OIC**" stands for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
- 1.3. "**COMSTECH**" stands for the ministerial standing Committee for Scientific and Technological cooperation.
- 1.4. "**Virtual Universities**" refers to all the universities, including online, electronic, open, distance and virtual universities, which are based on technological and IT based infrastructures and knowledge engineering and management.
- 1.5. "**General Assembly**" means the General Assembly of the CINVU Member Representatives of the Member States as per Article 8 of this Statute.
- 1.6. "**Executive Committee**" consists of at least five CINVU Member States representatives in accordance with Article 10.
- 1.7. "**Member State**" means any OIC Member State which is a member of the CINVU.
- 1.8. "**Representative**" means a person/legal entity introduced by OIC Member States to the Executive Committee.

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- 1.9. **"Host Country"** means the Country of Islamic Republic of Iran that host the headquarters, offices and secretary premises of **CINUVU** Network.
- 1.10. **"MSRT"** means the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of the Government of I.R. of Iran.
- 1.11. **"Secretary General"**, means the Secretary General of **CINUVU** Network.

ARTICLE 2: LEGAL STATUS OF CINUVU

- 2.1. This network is an independent, intergovernmental organization (**IGO**) consisting of virtual universities of Islamic countries;
- 2.2. **CINUVU** is working under the umbrella of **COMSTECH**;
- 2.3. This organization is established with the aim of the realization, monitoring and evaluation of objectives described in article 4;
- 2.4. The operations of the headquarters and any of the office(s) of the **CINUVU** will be governed under the laws applicable in each of the respective countries in which such offices are located.

ARTICLE 3: HEADQUARTER OF THE CINUVU

3. Headquarter of the **CINUVU** is located in the I.R. of Iran, Tehran.

ARTICLE 4: OBJECTIVES OF CINUVU

The objectives of the **CINUVU** are as follow:

- 4.1. to establish concepts of quality and strategic management patterns in the field of higher education among Muslim countries particularly the **OIC** member states;
- 4.2. to promote the status and role of online, open, distance and virtual universities in national, regional and international development projects of Muslim countries particularly the **OIC** member states;
- 4.3. to provide collaboration bases to utilize the benefits of synergy of Islamic countries' universities, scientific, educational and research centers in Muslim countries particularly the **OIC** member states;
- 4.4. to organize shared research projects at all levels in and out of network;
- 4.5. to promote the level of scientific, educational and research achievements of Muslim countries;
- 4.6. To develop knowledge and science based research network;
- 4.7. to create strong national and international markets in order to provide educational and research services for virtual universities through promoting linkages and reinforcing networks Muslim countries particularly the **OIC** member states.

ARTICLE 5: FUNCTIONS OF CINUVU

The duties and functions of the **CINUVU** are as follow:

- 5.1. to provide educational and research facilities for virtual cyber space which has flexible educational goals, options, and choices of appropriate time and place for education and with virtual capability of developing suitable educational and research materials and optimal instructional tools inside and outside the network;

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- 5.2. to renovate, renew and reconstruct the old, ineffective and inefficient traditional educational and research systems;
- 5.3. to provide infrastructure for producing multimedia and web-based educational and research contents, such as audio video products, multimedia virtual laboratories for cooperation inside and outside the Network;
- 5.4. to provide backgrounds to transfer the existing experiences (information, technology, human resources, etc.) in the field of educational, technologies, educational and research tools and accessories technologies, among Muslim countries particularly the **OIC** member states;
- 5.5. to support feasibility studies and SWOT analysis of the educational and research projects in the **OIC** countries and to develop virtual universities;
- 5.6. to facilitate the procedures of exchanging students, scholars, and academic members among Islamic countries with the aim of promoting educational and scientific researchers' knowledge and experiences in their fields of study;
- 5.7. to define and support intellectual property system of educational products, contents and knowledge, among **OIC** members states;
- 5.8. to support specialized conferences, workshops and training courses in the field of educational system development and skilled manpower as well as the researches mechanisms;
- 5.9. to support the development and updating data in the field of education and research, data banks and human resources involved (e.g. elites, scholars, students etc.);
- 5.10. to evaluate and authenticate the documents issued by virtual universities and to continually monitor and evaluate development and ranking of virtual universities in order to optimize cooperation in education and research Muslim countries particularly the **OIC** member states.

ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP OF CINUVU

- 6.1. All **OIC** member states asking to join this network are entitled to accept and adhere to this statute;
- 6.2. The Membership will be accepted when the membership fee is paid by the concerned member state;
- 6.3. Membership fee in each year will be determined by **CINUVU** executive committee;
- 6.4. There are four types of the **CINUVU** memberships:
 - 6.4.1. **Full members:** All **OIC** member states with active open, distance and virtual university which qualify membership's conditions;
 - 6.4.2. **Associated members:** All **OIC** member states with open, distance and virtual university which qualify membership's conditions;
 - 6.4.3. **Temporary members:** All countries with open, distance and virtual university which collaborate and interact with the **CINUVU** in some specified projects and goals. And all Islamic countries which have no open, distance and virtual university but are interested in benefiting from such a technology in their conventional universities;
 - 6.4.4. **Observer members:** All countries with open, distance and virtual university and other international educational and research institutes which will be honorary members of the network after the approval of the executive committee.

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- 6.5. The conditions of the active virtual universities will be mentioned on another code which will be approved by executive committee;
- 6.6. Membership will be relinquished in the following cases:
 - 6.6.1. When requested by the member states in black and white;
 - 6.6.2. When no annual membership fee is paid;
 - 6.6.3. When **CINUVU** executive committee requests and the General Assembly approves;
 - 6.6.4. When the Secretary General of the **CINUVU** requests and the Executive Committee approves.

ARTICLE 7: STRUCTURE OF CINUVU

The main structure of the **CINUVU** shall be composed of the following:

- 7.1. The General Assembly;
- 7.2. The Secretary General;
- 7.3. The Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 8: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CINUVU

The General Assembly of the **CINUVU** is the supreme policy-making organ of the **CINUVU**. It consists of the followings:

- 8.1. The representatives of **CINUVU** member state;
- 8.2. A representative of **COMSTECH**;
- 8.3. Secretary-General of **CINUVU**.

ARTICLE 9: FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 9.1. The duties and functions of general assembly are:
 - 9.1.1. to elect members of executive committee;
 - 9.1.2. to examine and approve the **CINUVU** policies submitted by the Secretary General and agreed by the executive committee;
 - 9.1.3. to examine and approve **CINUVU** regulations submitted by the Secretary General and agreed by the executive committee;
 - 9.1.4. to examine and approve **CINUVU** annual reports submitted by the Secretary General and agreed by the Executive Committee;
 - 9.1.5. to examine and approve the official reports submitted by the Secretary General and agreed by the executive committee and then to present them to the **COMSTECH** and host country;
 - 9.1.6. to evaluate and approve the membership of applicant countries with reference to the conditions of membership in article 6;
 - 9.1.7. to hold the General Assembly sessions on the request of the Secretary General and agreement of executive committee.
- 9.2. To hold General Assembly at least once a year at a place and on a date, suggested by executive committee and approved by the General Assembly;
- 9.3. to hold special meeting of the General Assembly due to the request of at least two members of executive committee;

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9.4. Only the full members of the CINVU have the right to vote in the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 10: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CINVU

- 10.1. The Executive Committee consists of the least five representatives of member states;
- 10.2. Internal instructions of executive committee will be suggested by Secretary General and approval of executive committee;
- 10.3. executive committee members are elected for a period of 5 years;
- 10.4. executive committee members can join different committees;
- 10.5. the president of executive committee shall:
 - 10.5.1. manage executive committee meetings;
 - 10.5.2. maintain close cooperation with the Secretary General and members of executive committee for the realization of the CINVU goals and plans.

ARTICLE 11: FUNCTIONS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 11.1. The functions and duties of executive committee are:
 - 11.1.1. to define and ratify CINVU policies, plans rules and regulations submitted by the Secretary General;
 - 11.1.2. to review and approve CINVU annual programs, activates and budget submitted by the Secretary General;
 - 11.1.3. to implement proper strategies to optimize the efficient management of CINVU in line with the CINVU statute and related rules and regulations;
 - 11.1.4. to monitor and supervise the CINVU programs and executive affairs;
 - 11.1.5. to collaborate with the Secretary General for holding the General Assembly;
 - 11.1.6. to collaborate with the Secretary General to decide on where to hold the GA out of the nominated candidates;
 - 11.1.7. to establish where necessary technical committees for special problems;
 - 11.1.8. to approve the individual or affiliated membership applications submitted by the Secretary General;
 - 11.1.9. to ratify the annual financial report submitted by the CINVU Secretary General;
 - 11.1.10. to elect the president of executive committee for holding its sessions.
- 11.2. The CINVU Secretary General or his nominated representative shall attend in all executive committee sessions;
- 11.3. The executive committee shall be held once a year in CINVU host country or in one of the member states which has volunteered.

ARTICLE 12: The SECRETARY GENERAL OF CINVU

- 12.1. The CINVU Secretary General will be appointed by the host country and approved by the General Assembly for a period of 4 years;
- 12.2. The Secretary General shall ensure smooth operation of the CINVU;
- 12.3. The Secretary General may be re-appointed for one more four years term;

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12.4. The **CINUVU** shall be chaired, headed and managed by the **CINUVU** Secretary General;

12.5. If the Secretary General resigns, the president of the executive committee will temporarily act until the new Secretary General is appointed by the host country and approved by executive committee.

ARTICLE 13: FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF CINUVU

The functions and duties to be carried out by the **CINUVU** Secretary General are as follow:

13.1. to manage the **CINUVU**.

13.2. to present annual **CINUVU** reports consideration of executive committee and submission to the General Assembly.

13.3. to present annual **CINUVU** reports to executive committee and General Assembly.

13.4. to submit the reports of the General Assembly to **COMSTECH**.

13.5. to submit **CINUVU** annual report to the General Assembly.

13.6. to communicate with member states for collecting their membership fee and monetary contributions due to approved instructions of the General Assembly and to send the result of such communications to executive committee.

13.7. to initiate **CINUVU** rules and regulation procedures and executive plans for consideration and ratification in executive committee.

13.8. to extend membership of the **CINUVU** members.

13.9. to establish, maintain and expand close relationship with the universities, educational and R&D institutions of the host country and member states in the fields of the **CINUVU** activities.

13.10. to attract necessary funds according to article 14.

13.11. to manage and administer the **CINUVU** staff and determine their salaries that shall come into force on adoption by executive committee

ARTICLE 14: FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF CINUVU

14.1. It is the responsibility of member states to provide financial resources for running **CINUVU**;

14.2. Further funds may be sought from:

14.2.1. The **COMSTECH**;

14.2.2. **OIC** and its institutions and related organizations;

14.2.3. The host country of the **CINUVU**;

14.2.4. Annual subscriptions and periodic contributions by member states;

14.2.5. International agencies;

14.2.6. Private donations and other organizations including international agencies, banks, individuals, etc;

14.2.7. Income from services and income generated through publications, consultations, training courses, educations, educational and R&D services, conferences, seminars, workshops, etc;

14.2.8. Any other source approved by executive committee.

ARTICLE 15: ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET OF CINUVU

15.1. The annual work program and budget of **CINUVU** shall be prepared by the Secretary General and submitted to executive committee for review and approval.

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15.2. Fiscal year of **CINVU** will start according to the host country regulations.

ARTICLE 16: OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF CINVU

16. The official languages of **CINVU** is English, members states can use the **OIC** official languages for their internal activities (i.e. Arabic, English and French).

ARTICLE 17: IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES OF CINVU

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

ARTICLE 18: STATUTE AND PROCEDURES OF CINVU

18.1. Financial, administrative, statutes and legal procedures of **CINVU** shall be prepared by the Secretary General and ratified by executive committee;

18.2. Member states may send their suggestions to the **CINVU** Secretary General for consideration and ratification in executive committee-

ARTICLE 19: AMENDMENT OF CINVU STATUTE

19. This Statute may be amended when required and recommended by **CINVU** Secretary General and agreed by executive committee. Such amendment shall be reviewed and approved by the two third of the majority of General Assembly.

ARTICLE 20: FINAL ARTICLE

20. This Statute consists of the 20 articles signed by all member states.

REPRESENTATIVE OF <u>COMSTECH</u> Signature.....	REPRESENTATIVE FROM MSRT, IRAN Signature.....
SECRETARY GENERAL, <u>CINVU</u>..... Signature	MEMBER STATE Signature
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