

[AS PASSED BY THE MAJLIS-E-SHOORA (PARLIAMENT)]

A

Bill

to provide for establishment of the Pakistan Council for Science and Technology

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the establishment of Pakistan Council for Science and Technology to advise the Government on national policies on science, technology and innovation for building up a strong and self-reliant science and technology system and its effective working directed towards achievement of national goals and in particular the welfare of the people, economic growth and security of Pakistan;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. Short title, extent and commencement.— (1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Council for Science and Technology Act, 2017.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.— In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) "Board" means the Board of Governors of the Council;

(b) "Chairperson" means head of the Council;

(c) "Council" means Pakistan Council for Science and Technology;

(d) "Executive Committee" means Executive Committee of the Board constituted under section 11;

(e) "expert committee" means an expert committee of the Council constituted under section 14;

(f) "member" means a member of the Board;

(g) "prescribed" means prescribed by regulations made under this Act;

(h) "President" means President of the Board;

(i) "regulations" means regulations made under this Act;

(j) "Resolution" means the Resolution notified vide Notification No. 3(5)/82-NSC, dated the 16th June, 1987 for constitution of the devised council dissolved under section 22; and

(k) "Vice-President" means Vice-President of the Board.

3. Establishment of the Council.— (1) On commencement of this Act, there shall stand established a Council to be called as Pakistan Council for Science and Technology in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

(2) The Council shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, sell and hold property, and shall by the said name sue and be sued through Chairperson.

(3) The headquarters of the Council shall be at Islamabad and the Council may establish regional or sub-offices as required.

4. Functions of the Council.— The Council shall-

- (a) advise the Federal Government on all matters relating to the development of science and technology in Pakistan;
- (b) undertake policy research, organize study groups or task forces, formulate policy proposals, monitoring and evaluation of science, technology and innovation policy for achieving targets for the overall development of science and technology in the country;
- (c) identify priority areas for research and development keeping in view futuristic developments of science and technology;
- (d) constitute expert committees in various disciplines for preparation of reports on policies and issues of national importance in respect of science and technology;
- (e) collect, update statistics and maintain database on science and technology potentials of the country;
- (f) take measures for effective collaboration among academia, research and development organizations and industry for development of indigenous products or technologies;
- (g) **evaluation of national research and development activities including output of individuals and institutions and to grant research productivity awards or incentives thereof;**
- (h) promote collaboration among national and international organizations for capacity-building and **other policy initiatives in the field of** science and technology and to enter into memoranda of understanding, contracts etc., in accordance with the Rules of Business, 1973;
- (i) participate in national science and technology planning and development activities and providing advice on selection of projects;
- (j) act as Secretariat of the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST); and
- (k) perform any other functions as may be assigned to it by the Federal Government.

5. **Management.**— The management of the Council shall comprise-

- (a) Board of Governors;
- (b) Executive Committee; and
- (c) Chairperson.

6. **Board of Governors.**— The general control and superintendence of the affairs of the Council shall vest in the Board.

7. **Composition of the Board of Governors.**—(1) The Board of Governors shall consist of the following, namely:-

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| (a) Minister for Science and Technology | <i>President</i> |
| (b) Secretary, Science and Technology Division | <i>Vice-President</i> |
| (c) Secretary, Planning and Development Division or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Secretary | <i>Member</i> |
| (d) Secretary, Finance Division or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Secretary | <i>Member</i> |
| (e) Executive Director, Higher Education Commission | <i>Member</i> |
| (f) Secretary of the Division controlling subject-matter of education and training or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Secretary | <i>Member</i> |
| (g) President, Pakistan Academy of Sciences or his nominee | <i>Member</i> |
| (h) Chairman, Pakistan Engineering Council | <i>Member</i> |
| (i) Chairman, Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research | <i>Member</i> |
| (j) Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation | <i>Member</i> |
| (k) Representatives of Provincial Governments not below the rank of Provincial Secretary | <i>Members</i> |
| (l) Five eminent Scientists from academia, one each from four provinces and federal capital to be nominated by the Board | <i>Members</i> |
| (m) Two eminent industrialists to be nominated by the Federal Government | <i>Members</i> |
| (n) President, Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Islamabad | <i>Members</i> |
| (o) dealing officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary of the Division controlling the subject-matter of science and technology | <i>Member</i> |

- (p) **Two Parliamentarians, one each from Senate and National Assembly, preferably with scientific knowledge and background** *Members*
- (q) Chairperson, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology *Member*

(2) The Chairperson shall act as Secretary of the Board.

(3) The Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, increase or decrease the number of members of the Board.

(4) The Board may co-opt any other professional or expert.

8. Functions and powers of the Board. — (1) The Board shall-

- (a) review and approve annual, long-term plans, policies and programmes of the Council;
- (b) approve the annual development and non-development budget of the Council;
- (c) create or abolish posts of such officers and staff and engage such consultants or experts as it may consider necessary for efficient performance of the functions of the Council, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed;
- (d) make regulations for the efficient conduct of the affairs of the Council; and
- (e) recommend to the Government to terminate the tenure of the Chairperson before its expiry in case of unsatisfactory performance.

(2) The Board may, by general or special order in writing, direct that such of its powers shall, in such circumstances and under such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the order, be exercised, by the Executive Committee, Chairperson or an officer of the Council.

9. Term of office of members.— (1) Save as hereinafter provided, a member, other than an *ex officio* member, shall hold office for a period of three years from the date of his nomination and shall be eligible for re-nomination for a further period not exceeding another term.

(2) A person who becomes, or is nominated to be, a member by virtue of his holding an office or appointment shall cease to be a member when he ceases to hold that office or appointment.

(3) A member, other than an *ex officio* member, may at any time resign his membership by writing under his hand addressed to the Federal Government.