

## National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST)

### Brief Chronology

Year	Major Events	Action/Follow Up
<p>March 1984</p> <p>1984-1988</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Approval of National Science and Technology Policy</li> <li>❑ Establishment of the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST) to be chaired by President/Chief Executive and with the mandate to provide S&amp;T Policy Guidelines and Directions.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><i>Preparations for 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the NCST were undertaken. In this regard, MoST faced problems in getting proper feedback from various stakeholders. The agenda and working paper were prepared and meeting scheduled in August 1988.</i></p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Formal notification for the establishment of NCST issued on 31-03-1984 with MoST as its secretariat.</li> </ul>
<p>March 1989</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto(late) chaired the 1st meeting of NCST on 22-03-1989. Major decisions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Setting up of Executive Committee of NCST (ECNCST)</li> <li>○ S&amp;T Councils may be established in the provinces</li> <li>○ Development of Linkages between Defence and Civil R&amp;D System in Pakistan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Committee constituted on 05-04-1989 to coordinate and review implementation of policy decisions taken by NCST.</li> <li>● S&amp;T Councils established by the Govt. of the Punjab, NWFP and Baluchistan in 1989, 1990 and 1989 respectively. Government of Sindh established S&amp;T Department in 1994, later transferred to P&amp;D Department.</li> <li>● <b>Action by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defense Production Division</li> <li>- Cabinet Division</li> <li>- Economic Affairs Division.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Status not formally communicated to NCST Secretariat</i></p>

<p>April 1989 to November 1989</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continuation of High-level S&amp;T programmes of MoST for another five years</li> <li>○ Incentives to R&amp;D scientists and technologists i.e. cash award for Rs. 10,000/-</li> </ul> <p>□ Mr. Jahangir Badar, Minister for S&amp;T, chaired the 1st meeting of ECNCST (04-07-1989). Major decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Nomination of Scientists/Technologists/Industrialists to be on 3-year tenure basis.</li> <li>○ The constitution of Inter-ministerial committee to prepare a draft Technology Policy</li> </ul> <p>□ Senator Javed Jabbar, Minister for S&amp;T, chaired the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of ECNCST (26-11-1989). Major decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All major projects to allocate 2% of their budget for R&amp;D</li> </ul> <p>○ Study to assess and plan for required high-level S&amp;T manpower in the country</p> <p>○ Undertake import substitution programmes for local manufacturing of basic chemicals and equipment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Programmes terminated after 1994.</li> <li>● Implemented by MoST for only one year.</li> <li>● Recommendation not taken up at the NCST level. Currently two years tenure is exercised.</li> <li>● Committee constituted with secretary MoST as its convener. Modalities of Policy were discussed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of ECNCST.</li> <li>● <b>Action by:</b> MoST/JSA(P&amp;D)</li> <li>● In the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECNCST meeting it was decided to propose that a separate column for R&amp;D requirement may be introduced in PC-1 forms. However the proposal could not be materialized.</li> <li>● <b>Action by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Education</li> <li>- UGC</li> <li>- MoST</li> </ul> <i>Status not formally communicated to NCST Secretariat</i> </li> <li>● <b>Action by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCSIR</li> <li>- STEDEC</li> </ul> <i>Status not formally communicated to NCST Secretariat</i> </li> </ul>
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1990-1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National S&amp;T Standing Committees to prepare portfolio of R&amp;D projects for consideration of ECNCST in the following fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Conservation and Environment</li> <li>Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering</li> <li>Natural Conservation and Environment</li> <li>Space Science and Engineering</li> <li>Industrial Engineering and Design</li> <li>Renewable Energy</li> <li>New Materials</li> <li>Oceanographic</li> <li>Laser and Fiber Optics</li> <li>Electronics</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>Follow-up of implementation of the decisions of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of NCST and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings of ECNCST. The Agenda for 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of NCST was prepared by MoST in consultation with the stakeholders.</i></p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Committees on <u>Electronics, Biotechnology &amp; Genetic Engineering</u> and <u>Oceanography</u> constituted.</li> <li>● Reports on Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering; Laser and Fiber Optics; and Informatics were discussed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of ECNCST. No other report of standing committee is available.</li> </ul>
December 1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs, chaired the 3rd meeting of ECNCST (02-12-1992). Major decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Retaining income generated through the sale of PCSIR technologies, products and services.</li> <li>○ Working committee comprising various user agencies and relevant R&amp;D organizations be created in various sectors to identify R&amp;D needs of Trade, Industry and government institutions.</li> <li>○ Biotech Institute and CAMB to arrange joint International seminars.</li> <li>○ Creation of facilities for opto-electronics R&amp;D with the collaboration of NIE, PAEC, Ministry of Communication and Institute of optics.</li> <li>○ Strengthening of existing facilities of glass research in PCSIR.</li> <li>○ PASTIC should be developed into National Network for information.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PCSIR and NIE were asked to lay down the details of execution plan. <i>No record of any subsequent activity is available.</i></li> <li>● <b>Action by:</b> MoST. <i>No record of any subsequent activity is available.</i></li> <li>● Biotech Institute (now NIBGE) and CAMB are holding international seminars separately</li> <li>● <b>Action by:</b> MoST <i>Status not formally communicated to NCST Secretariat</i></li> <li>● <b>Action by:</b> PCSIR <i>Status not formally communicated to NCST Secretariat</i></li> <li>● Decision implemented; only as a recommendation of 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of NCST</li> </ul>

1993-1997	<p><i>The MoST decided to update the agenda and include some more items in it. However, the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of NCST could not held due to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Problems in receiving proper proposals from stakeholders</i></li> <li>○ <i>Delays in consensus building on the agenda</i></li> <li>○ <i>Time taken in nomination of scientists, technologists and industrialists by the PM as members of NCST and ECNCST</i></li> </ul> <p><i>In 1997, the Secretariat of NCST was shifted to Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MoST</li> <li>- MoIT &amp; TC</li> <li>- MoE</li> <li>- HEC</li> <li>- and related S&amp;T/R&amp;D organizations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1997-2000	<p><i>PCST and MoST in consultation with and participation of different stakeholders finalized agenda for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of NCST.</i></p>	
May 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ President Pervez Musharaf chaired the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of NCST. Decisions were taken in the following thrust areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Human Resource Development</li> <li>○ R&amp;D Infrastructure Development</li> <li>○ Information Technology</li> <li>○ R&amp;D projects of Economic importance</li> <li>○ Technology Development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
September 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Dr. Atta ur Rehman, Minister for S&amp;T, chaired the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of ECNCST. In the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The implementation Status of decisions of 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of NCST was reviewed.</li> <li>○ The agenda for the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of NCST was reviewed and amended.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
October. 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Dr. Atta ur Rehman, Minister of S&amp;T, chaired the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of ECNCST. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ECNCST finalized and approved agenda for the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of NCST.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

November 2001	<p>□ President Pervez Musharraf chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of NCST. Decisions relating to following agenda items were taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Making provisions in the constitution of Pakistan for support for S&amp;T development</li> <li>○ Enhancing allocations for S&amp;T in the Ten-year Perspective Development Plan 2001-2011</li> <li>○ Establishment of Venture Capital Companies (VCC)</li> <li>○ Acquisition of a Vessel for Multidisciplinary Oceanographic Research for N.I.O.</li> </ul> <p><b>Telecommunications &amp; IT Initiatives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pakistan Satellite Programmes</li> <li>○ Government Telecommunication Backbone Optical Fiber Infrastructure</li> <li>○ Undersea Optical Fiber Second Route to Connect to International Cables</li> <li>○ Government Intranet and Communications</li> <li>○ Satellite Hub for Strategic, Rapid Deployable Civilian Government Voice and Data Communication</li> <li>○ Frequency Spectrum Management</li> <li>○ E-Government Programmes for Pakistan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Action by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MoST</li> <li>- National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB)</li> </ul> <p><i>Current status not formally communicated to NCST Secretariat</i></p> </li> <li>● <b>Implemented</b></li> <li>● <b>Action by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Finance</li> <li>- SECP</li> </ul> <p><i>Current status not formally communicated to NCST Secretariat</i></p> </li> <li>● <b>Action by:</b> NIO. <i>The matter is still in progress.</i></li> <li>● <b>Action by:</b> MoIT &amp; TC <i>Current status not formally communicated to NCST Secretariat</i></li> </ul>
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2002-2003	<p><i>Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of NCST.</i></p>	
2003 - till date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Minister for S&amp;T discussed with the PM the matters regarding holding 4th meeting of NCST.</i></li> <li>○ <i>PM desired that the agenda should be really meaningful.</i></li> <li>○ <i>PCST wrote several times to different stakeholders for viable agenda proposals.</i></li> <li>○ <i>PCST received only limited agenda proposals appropriate for 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of NCST.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Agenda for the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of ECNCST is being drawn up with available information. The problem of poor response from various stakeholders will also be highlighted. Guidelines for the future role of ECNCST/NCST will be sought.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Most of the decisions of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings of NCST have been implemented / or are being implemented through a number of projects by MoST, MoE, MoIT &amp; TC, HEC, Universities, and related R&amp;D organizations.</li> <li>● Unfortunately none of these projects, as originally envisaged, was routed through the NCST Secretariat.</li> <li>● Subsequent efforts to assess the implementation status of these projects by the NCST Secretariat were met with limited or practically no response.</li> <li>● Under these circumstances, a policy decision regarding the status of NCST/ECNCST has become critical.</li> <li>● In this connection an agenda for the sixth meeting of ECNCST is being prepared with information currently available with NCST Secretariat.</li> </ul>