

**A
Bill**

to ensure the development of scientific and technological ecosystem through development of *zones* to accelerate technology development in the country.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide institutional and legislative support for the technology sector with internationally competitive and export oriented structures and *ecosystems*, to attract foreign direct investment, develop collaboration ecosystem connecting academia, research and technology industry, to initiate innovation in production systems and products, to increase the standards and quality of technology goods and services, to increase productivity and decrease the costs of production through high-tech interventions, intensive innovation and futuristic entrepreneurship, to enable job creation, to commercialise technological knowledge and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto,

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. Short title, extent and commencement. — (1) This *Act* shall be called the **Special Technology Zones Authority Act, 2021**.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions. — In this *Act*, unless the context otherwise requires, —

(a) “**Administrator**” means the Administrator as described under section 26;

(b) “**Authority**” means the Special Technology Zones Authority established under section 3;

(c) “**Board**” means the Board of Governors constituted under section 6;

(d) “**Chairperson**” means the Chairperson of the Authority appointed by the Prime Minister, pursuant to the provisions of this Act, who is entrusted with whole or substantially whole of the powers of the management of affairs of the Authority in accordance with the Act;

(e) “**Capital Goods**” means the goods including but not limited to materials, plant, machinery, hardware, equipment and software, devices, instruments, accessories, attachments, building materials, materials and any other equipment required to perform functions of the Authority, zones, zone developers and zone enterprises, whether or not manufactured locally, for use in the zones, set up under the Special Technology Zones Authority Act, 2021;

- (f) **“co-zone developer”** means a Partner of the zone developer for the establishment, development, operation or management of zone;
- (g) **“Division Concerned”** means the Cabinet Division;
- (h) **“Development Agreement”** means a duly approved agreement between Authority and a zone developer, agreed to and endorsed by the Approvals Committee that authorizes zone developer to develop and establish a zone or a part thereof;
- (i) **“Master Plan”** means an overarching planning document providing conceptual, spatial, landscape, infrastructure, facilities etc. plan, which is used to structure the land and development of infrastructure and facilities for facilitating the smooth functioning of the zones;
- (j) **“Member”** means Member of the Authority;
- (k) **“One Window Facility”** means a physical or an information and communication technology (ICT) facility, comprising of relevant entities of Federal, Provincial or Local Governments, for facilitation of the zone developer and zone enterprises to lodge standardized information and documents with a single-entry point to fulfill the requirements under the Act, rules or regulations including the establishment, development, execution, operations, functioning and management of zones;
- (l) **“Person”** includes any registered association of persons, consortium, a body corporate formed or incorporated by or under any law in force, company, corporation, society, modaraba, Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), Government, trust, partnership, or any juridical personality and includes the zone developer and zone enterprise;
- (m) **“Prescribed”** means prescribed by rules or regulations made and notified under this Act;
- (n) **“Regulations”** means regulations prescribed under this Act;
- (o) **“Research and Development”** includes regular activities carried out with the purpose of obtaining new knowledge that shall enable the development of science and technology or creating new equipment, systems, products, services, processes, applications, and tools etc., using the available information and resources, including training and development, software production or improving those that are available;
- (p) **“Rules”** means rules prescribed under this Act;

- (q) *“Special Technology zones Appellate Tribunal” means the Special Technology zones Appellate Tribunal constituted under this Act;*
- (r) *“Technology Sector” includes one or more technology sectors prescribed by the Authority under the rules;*
- (s) *“zone developer” means a public, private or a public-private Person responsible for development, operation or management of the whole, or a part of the whole special technology zone, and licensed by the Authority as such, and includes a co-zone developer;*
- (t) *“zone enterprise” means any public, private, or public-private Person developing, operating and managing a technological enterprise within the zone and licensed as such by the Authority;*
- (u) *“zone” means a particular type or class of zone, which may be geographical or virtual, new or existing or expansion of an existing zone, as approved and notified by the Authority under the rules, including, but not limited to special technology zones, information technology parks, high-tech industrial areas, software technology parks, hardware technology parks, technology export zones, free technology zones, science and technology parks, information technology zones, science and technology zones, R&D zones, opportunity zones, innovation zones, technology development zones, knowledge parks, smart cities, knowledge cities, technology incubation zones or any sector zones, which are developed for the development, promotion and proliferation of technology, particularly all the latest cutting edge technologies and may require technological intervention such as biotech, chemical technologies, agritech, fintech, robotics, nanotech, edtech, etc. and other zones with any combination or combinations of the aforesaid fields.*

3. Establishment of the Authority. — (1) On the commencement of this Act, there shall stand established an Authority to be called the Special Technology Zones Authority in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) *The Authority shall comprise of the Chairperson and up to eight (8) Members to be appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Act.*

Provided that the Chairperson with the consent of the Board may increase or decrease the number of Members, from time to time, as may be considered appropriate.

(3) *The Chairperson shall be appointed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one or more similar terms.*

(4) *The Members shall be appointed and removed in accordance with the regulations.*

(5) *The Chairperson shall preferably be from the private sector and shall be eligible for such remunerations and benefits as determined by the Prime Minister.*

(6) *The Chairperson of the Authority may resign from his office by writing in his hand addressed to the Prime Minister, or may be removed from his office if, on an inquiry by the Prime Minister, he is found unable to perform the functions of his office because of mental or physical disability or he is found guilty by a court of any serious crime of moral turpitude.*

(7) *The Authority may create, sanction and approve posts, from time to time as per regulations, and prescribe by regulations the qualifications, experience and terms and conditions for appointment of the Chairperson, Members, Executive Directors and other officers and staff of the Authority.*

(8) *The Authority shall meet at such time and place and in such manner, as may be prescribed by regulations.*

(i) *Three Members shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Authority requiring a decision by the Authority.*

Provided that until regulations are made in this behalf, such meetings shall be convened by the Chairperson.

(9) *No act or proceeding of the Authority shall be invalid by reason only of the existence of a vacancy in, or defect in, the constitution of the Authority.*

(10) *The powers and functions of the Authority as provided in the Act shall be exercised in the name of the Authority by the Authority, comprising of Chairperson and the Members, which shall act through the Chairperson who shall be the chief executive of the Authority. In performance of his functions under the Act, the Chairperson may act either directly or through the Members.*

(11) *The principal office of the Authority shall be in Islamabad and it may set up offices at such place or places within or outside Pakistan as may be required.*

(12) *The Authority shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power, to purchase, acquire, sell, lease, sub-lease, sub-let, license and hold moveable and immoveable property, and shall by said name sue and be sued.*

(13) *The Authority shall have the power to constitute as many committees, councils and associations and establish companies, nationally and internationally, to achieve its goals, as it may deem fit.*

4. Powers of the Authority. — (1) Subject to the provisions of this *Act*, the Authority may take such measures and exercise such powers as may be required for performance of its functions.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by sub-section (1), the Authority shall *have exclusive power and authority* —

(a) for planning, policy formulation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of *zones* which may be assigned to it, approved by it, *notified by it* or developed by it from time to time;