

INCyTU

*Oficina de Información Científica y Tecnológica
para el Congreso de la Unión* (Office for Information
on Science and Technology for the General Congress
of the United Mexican States)

Dr. José Franco

Director



About INCyTU

- **INCyTU** is a new Office for Information on Science and Technology for the Mexican Congress, which is a bicameral assembly comprising the Senate of the Republic and the Chamber of Deputies.
- This initiative is currently under construction, and we have hired already three research advisers (with a PhD) and a Legislative Affairs Officer (with a MA).
- The mission of this office is to provide accurate and balanced information -based on evidences- on issues related to S&T, and it follows the methodology of POST, from the United Kingdom.

Objectives

- **INCyTU** will be a source of information, analysis, and advice on all topics of S&T, ranging from physical and biological sciences, to social sciences and technology.
- The tasks of the office will include:
 - To interpret, analyze, and anticipate S&T issues of interest for legislative work.
 - Set out the facts and identify where agreements and disagreements exist on these issues.
 - Analyze current trends of S&T that may have impact, or require future public policies.

Products

- The work will be focused on producing the following products:
 - Four to six page notes and analysis of topical issues
 - Detailed technology assessments
 - Briefings to select committees
 - Events to bring together senators and deputies with the academic community



Status of science-policy connections in Mexico

General Council of Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation

President of Mexico



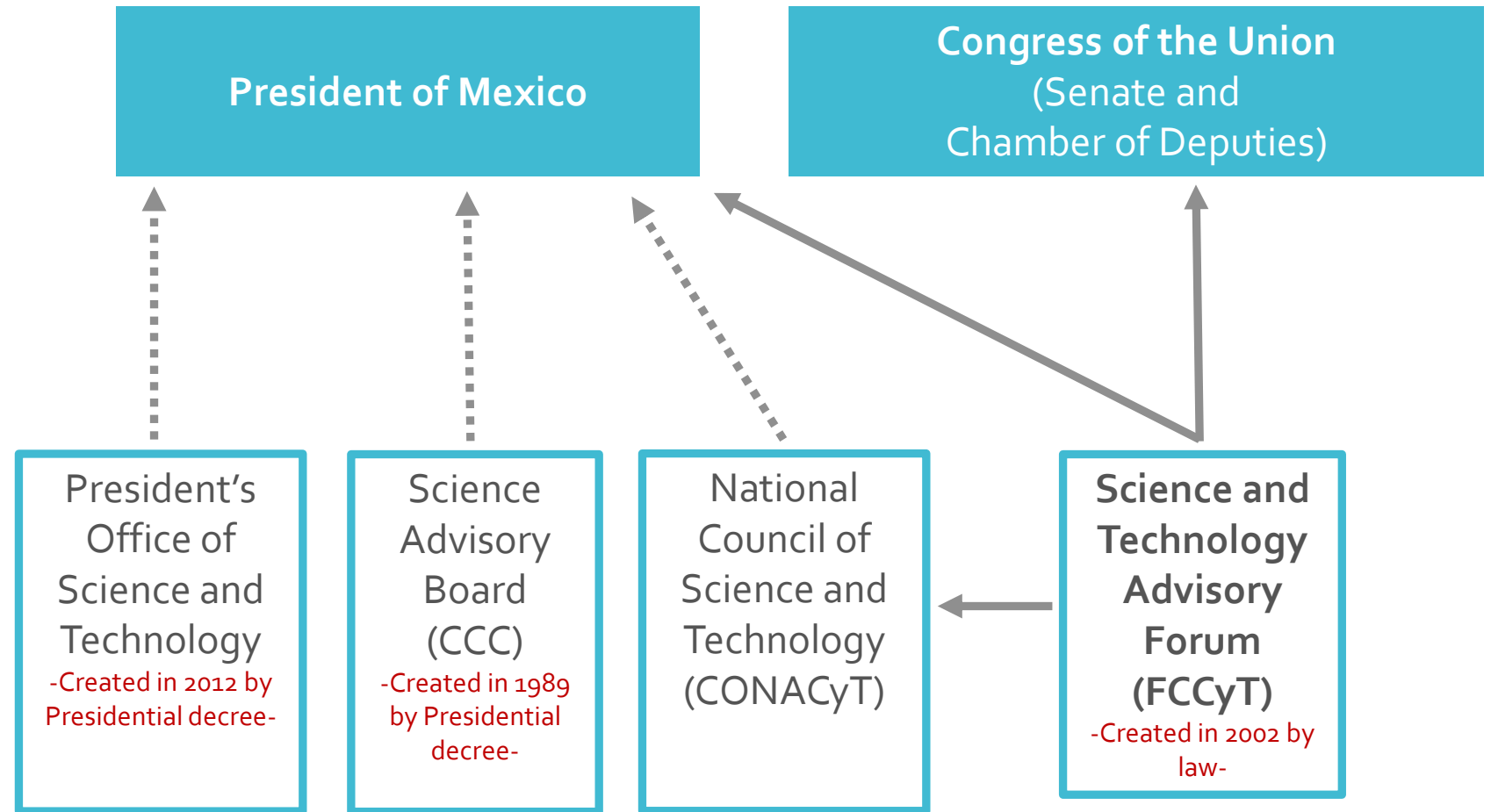
State Secretaries

1. Foreign Affairs
2. Finances
3. Environment and Natural Resources
4. Energy
5. Economy
6. Agriculture
7. Fisheries and Food
8. Rural & Urban Planning
9. Public Education
10. Health

ST&I Institutions

1. CONACyT
2. S&T Advisory Forum (FCCyT)
3. Mexican Academy of Sciences (AMC)
4. National Confe of S&T (REDNACECYT)
5. System of Public Research Centers
6. Association of Universities (ANUIES)
7. Two permanent guests proposed by the President
8. Productive sector

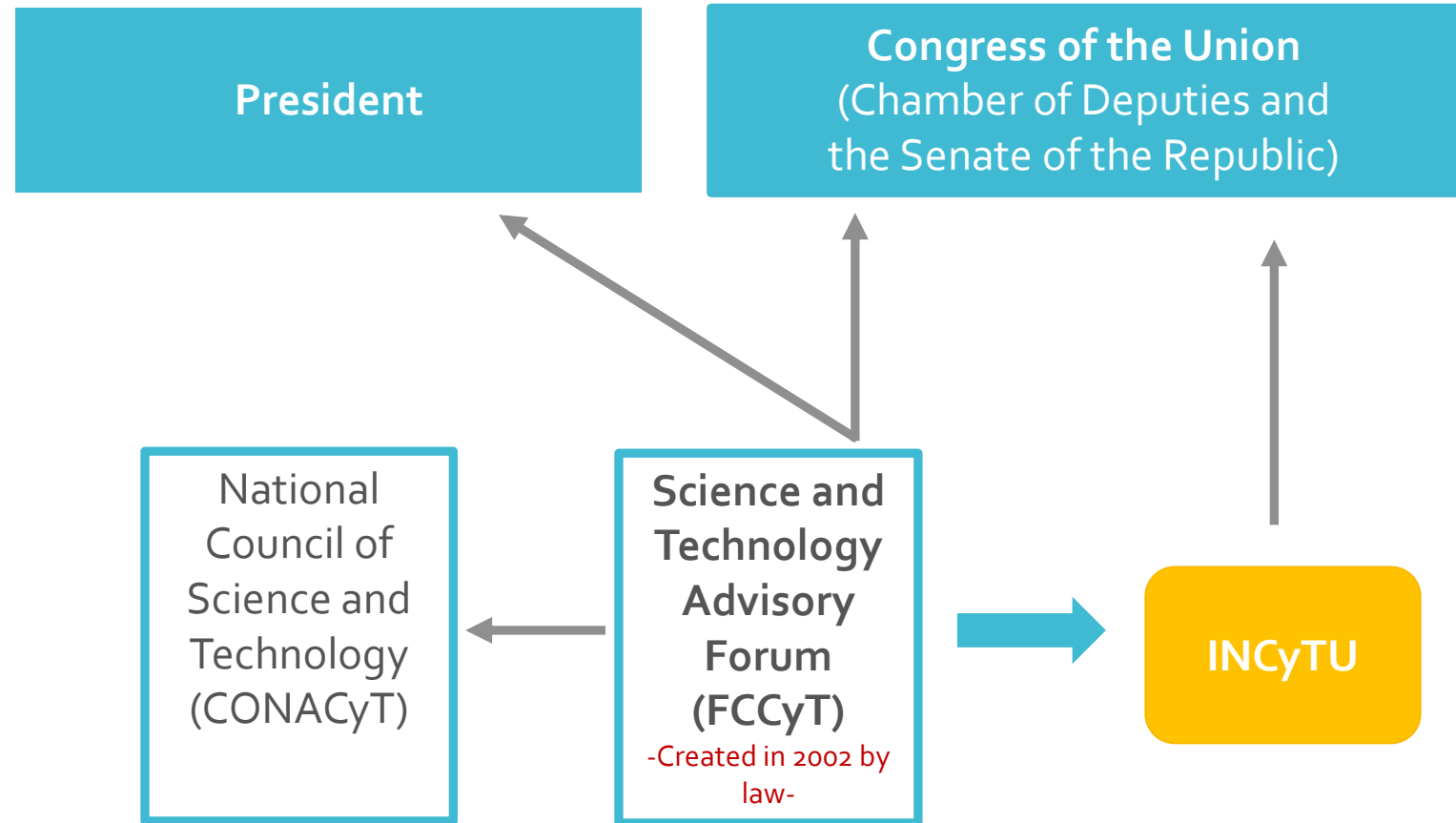
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Collaboration with POST

- **October 2014** – POST visited Mexico and gave information about the importance of POST.
- **June 2015** – FCCyT and the S&T Commission of the Mexican Senate visited London and signed a MoU with POST.
- **November 2015** - A Scientific Adviser from POST visited Mexico to share their best practices and experiences in Technology Assessment (TA).
- **February 2016** - The Office for Information on Science and Technology for the Congress of the Union (INCyTU by its Spanish acronym) started operations.



Possible obstacles and enablers

- **Possible obstacles:**
 - Resistance from lawmakers because “science is very complex and it only matters to some experts”.
 - Science “has no impact on the socio-economic life”.
 - Scientific knowledge might be against political interests.
 - Advising lawmakers is considered useless by scientist.
 - Currently, there are no mechanisms to recruit doctoral students for short stays.
- **Enablers:**
 - The relationship between Academia and the Congress has recently improved substantially.
 - Policy-makers and legislators are more conscious that science can be really helpful in making better decisions.

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