Vice Minister Carolina Torrealba thanked STIC members during a June 12 meeting for the Council’s first-year report and the six proposals it contained for enhancing capacity in innovation, technology transfer, and education and workforce development. VM Torrealba called for the Council and the Ministry to “capitalize on a common agenda” and outlined several priorities: 1) STIC support for the Ministry’s effort to increase the participation of women and girls in science and technology-related fields; 2) Learning from the U.S. experience promoting technology transfer as driver for economic growth; and 3) Sharing lessons learned related to the role of the defense sector in supporting research and development.

Baxter Hunt, U.S. Embassy Charge d’Affaires, congratulated Torrealba and reaffirmed science cooperation as a pillar of the U.S.-Chile relationship. He committed support for the Ministry’s agenda on behalf of STIC and described several initiatives, including the Embassy Science Fellow program to accelerate the application of U.S.-based education models for science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM), and a program called U.S.-Chile Collaboratory aimed at enhancing the innovation ecosystem.

In line with the Council’s first-year report, the U.S. Embassy recruited an expert in technology transfer through the State Department Embassy Science Fellow (ESF) program. Dr. Ghidewon Arefe, an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at DOD, initiated his two-month fellowship with a presentation to the Council on how a technology transfer regulatory framework spurs innovation. Dr. Arefe pointed to the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (www.federallabs.org) as a U.S. platform that connects entrepreneurs to funding and lab resources.

Dr. Arefe’s engagement with Chilean government authorities included meetings with technical leads at the Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation, the National Economic Development Agency (CORFO), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In these meetings, he explained that from the U.S. perspective technology transfer programs are not measured by the return on investment to the government but by the total value created. Studies reveal that for every US$1 spent on technology transfer programs, a total of US$9 in value is generated for the broader economy.

Vice Minister Carolina Torrealba thanked STIC members during a June 12 meeting for the Council’s first-year report and the six proposals it contained for enhancing capacity in innovation, technology transfer, and education and workforce development. VM Torrealba called for the Council and the Ministry to “capitalize on a common agenda” and outlined several priorities: 1) STIC support for the Ministry’s effort to increase the participation of women and girls in science and technology-related fields; 2) Learning from the U.S. experience promoting technology transfer as driver for economic growth; and 3) Sharing lessons learned related to the role of the defense sector in supporting research and development.

Baxter Hunt, U.S. Embassy Charge d’Affaires, congratulated Torrealba and reaffirmed science cooperation as a pillar of the U.S.-Chile relationship. He committed support for the Ministry’s agenda on behalf of STIC and described several initiatives, including the Embassy Science Fellow program to accelerate the application of U.S.-based education models for science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM), and a program called U.S.-Chile Collaboratory aimed at enhancing the innovation ecosystem.
During her October 16-20 visit to Chile, NSF Director Dr. France Cordova and Science Minister Andrés Couve signed a Joint Declaration of Collaboration and Cooperation to enhance information sharing on facilities for scientific research and talent development.

Chile and the United States enjoy mutually beneficial cooperation on science, technology, and innovation. This was one of the key messages delivered by NSF Director Dr. France Cordova during her October 16-20 visit to Chile, which included meetings with Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, Science Minister Dr. Andrés Couve, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Carolina Valdivia, National Commission for Science and Technology (CONICYT) President Marianne Krause, and the members of the U.S.-Chile Council on Science, Technology, and Innovation.

The highlight of Dr. Cordova's visit was the signing of a Joint Declaration of Collaboration and Cooperation between the NSF and the Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation to strengthen cooperation in facilities for scientific research and innovation. The NSF has a long history of supporting Chile’s efforts to build world class science facilities and become a global science leader. At the signing ceremony, Dr. Cordova emphasized the importance of Chile’s unique territorial features that facilitate world class scientific research, adding that the agreement "continues a tradition that inspires tremendous results in fields ranging from astronomy to oceanography and polar science."

In response to a priority identified by the Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation, the Council convened on August 19, a high-level panel discussion entitled "The Armed Forces as a Relevant Actor in the Development of Science and Technology". The goal of the panel discussion was to facilitate an exchange of lessons learned related to the role of the defense sector in promoting science, technology, and innovation.

In opening remarks, Charge d'Affaires Baxter Hunt highlighted that in the U.S. experience, the defense sector is key catalyst for technology transfer that has led to the creation of new industries and boosted economic growth. Presenting on behalf of the United States, Dr. Patricia Gruber, Technical Director of the Office of Naval Research Global (ONRG) provided specific examples of how the Department of Defense invests in innovation, including through its contribution to research laboratories where new technologies are developed.

Science Minister Dr. Andrés Couvé presented the Ministry’s vision for cooperation with the defense sector and pointed to cooperation on science infrastructure such as the research vessel Cabo de Hornos as a key area for cooperation with the defense sector. Vice Admiral (R) Cristián de la Maza, Undersecretary of Defense, then contributed his views on the contribution of the defense sector to the national system of science, technology, knowledge and innovation.

One of the concrete outcomes of this event was DIPRIDA’s decision to host, with support from ONRG, a "Hacking for Defense" competition open to academia, innovators, and start-ups, among others. During this event, which will take place in March 2020, participants will work together in teams to propose solutions to a technology gap facing the Navy, and to invent a prototype. The winning team will be announced during Exponaval 2020 and will receive a monetary prize to support development of the new technology.

The Council convened on August 19 a panel discussion entitled “The Armed Forces as a Relevant Actor in the Development of Science and Technology” to share experiences regarding how the defense sector can help drive innovation-based economic growth.