



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Ghana Innovation and Startups Bill, 2023

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**A BILL ENTITLED
THE GHANA INNOVATION AND STARTUPS ACT, 2024**

AN ACT to establish the Ghana Innovation and Startups Agency and to set up an incentive framework for creating and developing Startups in Ghana to promote creativity, innovation, and the use of new technologies in achieving substantial added value and competitiveness at the international, regional, and national levels.

PASSED by Parliament and assented to by the President:

Application of the Act

1. This Act applies to any such matter relating to the development and/or promotion of Startups in Ghana. It will establish the broad framework for defining Startups and promoting their development through the introduction of various incentive schemes and programs for that purpose.
2. Despite subsection (1), this Act shall not be interpreted to restrict compliance with the requirement of any other enactment that seeks to promote business growth, development, and profitability.

Section 1: Definition and Creation of a Startup

1. For the purposes of this law, Startup is defined as any legal entity established in accordance with the legislation in force, having obtained the Startup Certification in accordance with the conditions laid down in this Law.
2. The Startup certification or label is granted to the company which fulfills the following conditions:
 1. Using **Innovation** and **Technology** in their business model to develop, produce, commercialize, and scale sustainable solutions to pertinent economic challenges.
 2. Its human resources should not exceed 50.
 3. Its total balance sheet and annual turnover may not exceed 100 base points (a base point is GHC 10,000.00)
 4. It is in its early stages with a high potential for growth, scalability, and social impact (job creation, environment)
 5. Headquartered in Ghana.
3. The Startup certificate gives the company the right to receive the benefits of this law for as long as it is valid. The company can only have the certificate for up to eight years from when it was issued

Ghana Innovation and Startups Agency

Section 2: Establishment of the Ghana Innovation and Startups Agency

- 1) There is established by this Act, the Ghana Innovation and Startups Agency as a corporate body.
- 2) For the performance of the functions of the Agency, the Agency may acquire and hold property, dispose of property and enter into a contract or any other related transaction.
- 3) Where there is a hindrance to the acquisition of land, the land may be acquired for the Agency under the Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036), and the Agency shall bear the cost.

Section 3: Objectives of the Agency

The objectives of the Agency are to:

- 1) promote and develop innovative startups in the country;
- 2) oversee and coordinate an enabling environment for the startup ecosystem;
- 3) strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of startups;
- 4) Facilitate and advocate for the participation of startups in industrial transformation for local level development technology transfer and linkages to local value chains.

Section 4: Functions of the Agency

The functions of the Agency are to:

- a) Granting official approval for applications seeking certification as Startups.
- b) Engaging investors and participants within the ecosystem to extend support to local startups, utilizing the benefits delineated within this Act, in addition to other applicable provisions.
- c) Monitoring the effects and consequences arising from the support and incentives provided to startups under this legislation.
- d) Managing, disbursing, and recovering funds from the Ghana Innovation and Startup Fund.
- e) Sourcing funding to sustain the operational requirements of the Agency.
- f) Ensuring the proper administration of benefits bestowed upon startups.
- g) Monitoring and assessing the operations and performance of startups concerning financial assistance received from the Ghana Startup and Innovation Fund.
- h) Implementing Government policies and related programs pertaining to startups, with the objective of fostering their development and efficient functioning.
- i) Designing and executing programs to promote a conducive environment for startup operations and innovation.
- j) Educating the general public regarding the role and contributions of startups towards national progress.
- k) Establishing a service delivery network to provide assistance to startups.
- l) Facilitating access for startups to financial and non-financial resources, including credit facilities, professional services, machinery, equipment, and raw material inputs from domestic and international sources.

- m) Conducting research activities and compiling relevant data pertaining to startups to ensure the adoption of best practices and the development of innovative products for startups.
- n) Facilitating technology transfer and training initiatives, including skills training programs for startups.
- o) Supporting the establishment and growth of business associations, cooperatives, and any other organizations beneficial to the advancement of startups.
- p) Promoting the establishment of requisite infrastructure necessary for the effective implementation of policies and programs concerning startups.
- q) Monitoring the performance of startups within the framework of Government policy.
- r) Compiling, maintaining, and safeguarding a register of startups.
- s) Collaborating with national and international organizations to enhance the development of startups.
- t) Carrying out any other ancillary function in furtherance of the objectives of the Agency.

Governance of Agency

Section 5: Composition of the Board

- a) This Act establishes a Governing Board consisting of representatives nominated by the following organisations/institutions. The Board shall include at least three women among its members.
 - 1) Chairperson
 - 2) The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Innovation and Startups Agency
 - 3) Ghana Venture Capital Trust Fund
 - 4) Ghana Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs
 - 5) Ghana Hubs Network
 - 6) Association of Ghana Startups
 - 7) Ghana Standards Authority
 - 8) Office of the Registrar of Businesses
 - 9) Ghana Digital Centers Limited
 - 10) Ministry responsible for Finance and Economic planning
 - 11) Ministry responsible for Communications and Digitalisation
 - 12) Ministry responsible for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
 - 13) Ministry Responsible for Trade and Industry

- b) Upon nomination by their various organizations, all board members shall be appointed by the president in accordance with article 70 of the Constitution.

Section 6: Functions of the Board

The Board shall

1. Formulate policies aimed at attaining the objectives of the Agency.
2. Grant approval for the strategic plan, governing documentation, and financial plan/budget.
3. Approve the organizational structure and, if necessary, initiate change management.
4. Supervise and assess the administration of the startup benefits as stipulated in the Act.
5. In collaboration with the Minister responsible for Communications and digitalisation, develop policies to determine various matters, including:
 - 1) Appointment of an independent innovation fund manager.
 - a) Establishment of an investment committee to oversee the fund manager's activities,
 - b) Conditions for allocating funds from the Ghana Innovation and Startups Fund to eligible Startups under this Act.
 - c) Determination of the maximum monetary amount that may be awarded to an applicant.
 - d) Establishing appropriate management procedures to ensure the accountability of the Ghana Innovation and Startups Fund
6. Undertake any other necessary functions incidental to the achievement of the Agency's objectives.

Section 7: Tenure of Office Board Members

- 1) Board members shall serve a term of five years.
- 2) Upon the completion of their term, board members are eligible for reappointment.
- 3) No board member may serve more than two consecutive terms.
- 4) A member of the Board may at any time resign from office in writing addressed to the Board Chairperson.
- 5) A member who is absent from Four consecutive meetings of the Board without a sufficient cause shall cease to be a member of the Board.
- 6) The Board may, by letter addressed to the President, request to revoke a member's appointment.
- 7) Where there is a vacancy under subsection (2) or (3); or by reason of the death of a member, the Board shall notify the President through the Minister responsible for communications and digitalisation of the vacancy, and the President shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

Section 8. Meetings of the Board

- 1) The Board shall meet at least once every three months for the dispatch of business at the times and in the places determined by the chairperson.
- 2) The chairperson shall, at the request in writing of not less than one-third of the membership of the Board, convene an extraordinary meeting of the Board at the place and time determined by the chairperson.

- 3) The quorum at a meeting of the Board shall be six (6) members of the Board or a greater number determined by the Board in respect of an important matter.
- 4) The chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Board and in the absence of the chairperson, a member of the Board elected by the members present from among their number shall preside.
- 5) Matters before the Board shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting, and in the event of an equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.
- 6) The Board may co-opt a person to attend a Board meeting, but that person shall not vote on a matter for decision at the meeting.

Section 9: Establishment of committees

- (1) The Board may establish committees consisting of members of the Board or non-members or both to perform a function.
- (2) A committee of the Board may be chaired by a member of the Board.
- (3) The provisions on disclosure of interest apply to members of committees of the Board.

Section 10: Disclosure of interest

- (1) A member of the Board who has an interest in a matter for consideration
 - (a) shall disclose the nature of the interest, and the disclosure shall form part of the record of the consideration of the matter; and
 - (b) shall not participate in the deliberations of the Board in respect of that matter.
- (2) A member ceases to be a member of the Board if that member has an interest on a matter before the Board and
 - (a) fails to disclose that interest; or
 - (b) participates in the deliberations of the Board in respect of the matter.

Section 11: Allowances

Members of the Board and members of a committee of the Board shall be paid the allowances in accordance with the approved allowance payments structures by the Minister responsible for Finance

Section 12: Ministerial Advice

The Minister responsible for communication and digitalisation may advise **the Board on policy matters.**

Administrative Provisions

Section 13: Appointment of Chief Executive Officer

1. The President shall, in accordance with article 195 of the Constitution, appoint a Chief Executive Officer for the Agency.
2. The Chief Executive Officer shall hold office on the terms and conditions specified in the letter of appointment.

Section 14: Functions of the Chief Executive Officer

1. The Chief Executive Officer is
 - 1) responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Agency, and
 - 2) answerable to the Board in the performance of functions under this Act.
2. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the execution of strategic plans and operations of the Agency.
3. The Chief Executive Officer may delegate a function to an officer of the Agency but shall not be relieved of the ultimate responsibility for the performance of the delegated function.

Section 15: Appointment of Deputy Chief Executive Officer

- A. The President shall, in accordance with article 195 of the Constitution, appoint a Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the Agency.
- B. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer shall hold office on the terms and conditions specified in the letter of appointment.

Section 16: Functions of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer shall assist the Chief Executive Officer in the performance of functions under this Act and perform any other functions assigned by the Chief Executive Officer or the Board.

Section 17: Appointment of other staff

1. The Chief Executive officer with the approval of the board shall appoint directors.
2. The CEO shall appoint other staff of the Agency that are necessary for the efficient and effective performance of the functions of the Agency.
3. The Agency may, for the effective performance of the functions of the Agency, engage the services of consultants and experts on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer.

Section 18: Regional Desks office of the Agency

1. The Board may, on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer, establish regional desk leveraging resources of ecosystem partners.
2. A regional desk of the Agency shall be headed by a Regional cluster coordinator, as the case may be, who shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the cluster.

Section 19: Departments of the Agency

The Board may establish departments of the Agency that are necessary for the efficient and effective performance of the functions of the Agency.

Section 20: Internal Audit Unit

1. The Agency shall have an Internal Audit Unit in accordance with section 83 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).
2. The Internal Audit Unit shall be headed by an Internal Auditor who shall be appointed in accordance with the Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658).
3. The Internal Auditor is responsible for the internal audit of the Agency.
4. The Internal Auditor shall, subject to subsections (3) and (4) of section 16 of the Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658), at intervals of three months
 - a. prepare and submit to the Board a report on the internal audit carried out during the period of three months immediately preceding the preparation of the report; and
 - b. make recommendations in each report with respect to matters which appear to the Internal Auditor as necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the Agency.
5. The Internal Auditor shall, in accordance with subsection (4) of section 16 of the Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658), submit a copy of each report prepared under this section to;
 - a. the Minister responsible for communication and digitalisation;
 - b. the Auditor-General; and
 - c. the chairperson of the Board.

Financials Provisions

Section 21: Sources of money of the Agency

The sources of money of the Agency include

- 1) Money approved by Parliament;
- 2) Seed money allocated by the Government for the development of startups;
- 3) Internally generated funds;
- 4) Donations and grants approved by the Minister responsible for Finance/; and
- 5) Loans.

Section 22: Bank account for the Agency

The money for the Agency shall be paid into a bank account opened for that purpose with the approval of the Controller and Accountant-General.

Section 23: Expenses of the Agency

The administrative expenses of the Agency shall be charged on the funds of the Agency.

Section 24: Borrowing powers

Subject to article 181 of the Constitution, section 76 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) and any other relevant enactment, the Agency may obtain loans and any other credit facility on the guarantee of Government from such banks and institutions as the Minister responsible for communication and digitalisation, in consultation with the Minister responsible for Finance, may determine.

Section 25:Accounts and audit

1. The Board shall keep books of accounts, records and returns of accounts and other documents relevant to the accounts in the form approved by the Auditor-General.
2. The Board shall, at the end of each financial year, submit the accounts of the Agency to the Auditor-General for audit.
3. The Auditor-General shall, within six months after the end of the immediately preceding financial year, audit the accounts of the Agency and submit the report to Parliament and forward a copy of the audit report to the Minister responsible for communication and digitalisation and the Board.
4. The financial year of the Agency is the same as the financial year of the Government.

Section 26: Reporting

1. The Board shall, within thirty days after the receipt of the audit report, submit an

annual report to the Minister responsible for communications and digitalisation, covering the activities and operations of the Agency for the year to which the annual report relates.

2. The annual report shall include the report of the Auditor-General.
3. The Minister shall, within thirty days after the receipt of the annual report, submit the report to Parliament with a statement that the Minister considers necessary.
4. The Board shall submit to the Minister any other report which the Minister may require in writing.
5. The Board shall publish the reports of the Agency in a medium of communication that the Board may determine.

Section 27: Ghana Innovation and Startup Fund.

It is established by this Act, the **Ghana Innovation and Startup Fund**.

(1) Objectives of Fund

- 1) The object of the Fund is to provide funding for the Startups.
- 2) To achieve the object of the Fund under subsection (1), money from the Fund shall be applied to relevant activities as stated in 1
- 3) Without limiting subsection (2), money from the Fund shall be applied
 - (i) to address gaps in funding startups
 - (ii) for the development of startups and
 - (iii) to undertake any other activity ancillary to the object of the Fund as the Board may determine.

(2) Sources of Money for the Fund: The Innovation and Startup fund shall be funded as follows:

- a) Seed funding from the Government
- b) Relevant contributions from the extractive sectors
- c) Private investment, e.g., angel investors, corporate ventures, venture capital
- d) Monies accrued to the fund from its investment interest
- e) Development partners and relevant global funds
- f) Donations, grants, gifts and other voluntary contributions
- g) Fundraising activities
- h) Any other money that is approved by the Minister responsible for Finance.

(3) Ghana Innovation and Startup Fund Board

This Ministry responsible for Finance shall establish a Board for the Ghana Innovation and Startup Fund consisting of the following at least 2 of them must be female;

- 1) Chairperson of the Board
- 2) CEO of Ghana Innovation and Startup Agency
- 3) Representative of the Ministry of Finance (not below the rank of a director)
- 4) Two Representatives of the Entrepreneurship and Startups Ecosystem Enablers
- 5) The Fund manager
- 6) Two other private individuals with investment and fund management experience

b) Upon nomination by their various organizations, all board members shall be appointed by the president in accordance with article 70 of the Constitution.

(4) Functions of GISA Fund Board

(1) The Board shall oversee the administration and disbursement of the Fund in accordance with the objectives outlined in Section 3 of this Act.

(2) The Board shall:

(a) Develop strategic guidelines and procedures for the allocation and disbursement of funds to startups, ensuring these align with national economic goals and the specific objectives of the Fund.

(b) Evaluate and approve funding applications submitted by startups, assessing their potential impact, feasibility, and alignment with the Fund's objectives.

(c) Monitor and assess the performance of funded startups, ensuring that the funds are utilised for the intended purposes and that the startups achieve the set milestones.

(d) Ensure transparency and accountability in all financial transactions and management practices related to the Fund.

(e) Mobilize additional resources for the Fund through partnerships with domestic and international investors, development partners, and other relevant stakeholders.

(f) Organize capacity-building programs for startups to enhance their operational skills, business acumen, and overall sustainability.

(g) Report annually to the Ministry responsible for Finance on the activities and performance of the Fund, including detailed financial statements and assessments of funded projects.

(h) Perform any other functions that are ancillary to the primary objectives of the Fund or as may be prescribed by the relevant Ministries or legislative authorities.

(3) In performing its functions, the Board shall adhere to fairness and non-discrimination principles and prioritise initiatives that promise substantial economic impact.

(4) The Board is empowered to form committees to efficiently address specific challenges and opportunities the startup ecosystem presents.

(5) The Board shall ensure the representation and participation of women and other underrepresented groups in all activities of the Fund, promoting diversity and inclusion within the startup ecosystem.

(5) Bank account for the Fund

Money for the Fund shall be paid into a bank account opened by the Fund's Board.

(6) Management of the Fund

- 1) An independent fund management team will be set up to manage the fund with oversight from the Fund's Board.
- 2) For subsection (1), the management of the fund shall
 - i. Pursue policies to achieve the objective of the Fund.
 - ii. Ensure accountability of the Fund by defining appropriate procedures for the management and disbursement of the Fund.
 - iii. Carry out activities to generate money for the Fund, and
 - iv. Perform any other functions ancillary to the objects of the Fund.

Startup Benefits

Section 28: Tax Exemption

- (1) Startups certified under this law are entitled to specific tax incentives for eight years as defined in the legislative instrument.
- (2) Startups that receive exemptions must complete a tax education program through the agency.

Section 29: Access to the Fund

- (3) Startups certified under this law may access the Ghana Innovation and Startup Fund for innovation, growth or scaling.

Section 30: Investments

- (1) Investors who invest in the Ghana Innovation and Startup Fund shall be
 - (a) exempted from tax on income and profits reinvested in the underwriting of the initial capital or increased capital of Startups, the capital subscription of venture capital companies and other investment bodies, and in the capital participation of Startups.
 - (b) Exempted from the capital gains tax on the profits from the securities sale relating to the Startup's shares.
 - (c) Investments may also include in-kind investments in office space, staffing, and technical assistance.
 - (d) Investors who invest in the fund or a startup are also entitled to loss carry forward.
- (2) Foreign investors interested in investing in Ghanaian Startups may be eligible for a reduced investment threshold requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Section 31: Access to Market

(1) Public Procurement:

- (a) Direct contracting: 20% of government contracts are allocated to companies with the Startup certification.
 - (i) Within this allocation, 15% of contracts shall be allocated to women-owned businesses, 20% to people with disabilities, and 30% (regardless of gender and disability) to environmentally innovative, sustainable businesses.
 - (ii) Preference will be given to joint ventures and Startup partnerships.
- (b) Sub-contracting with private companies:

- (i) In line with existing laws and provisions, Startups, including youth-led Startups and those led by persons with disabilities (PWD) are eligible to apply for 20% of all government of Ghana-funded projects awarded to private companies
 - (ii) Particular preference and other related incentives will be given to companies that sub-contract a portion of their projects to Startups including women-owned businesses and environmentally sustainable businesses.
- (c) The implementing agency shall collaborate with the Public Procurement Agency to ensure that Startups applying for the above programs are assessed, validated and matched to private companies where required.
- (d) A Procurement Support Scheme shall provide technical training to all eligible Startups and certified incubators and hubs to increase awareness and understanding of the procurement process. This will be offered by the implementing agency.

(2) International Trade:

- (a) Startups representing Ghana at international trade shows and fairs may receive travel support and expedited passport processing. Funding for this support will be tied to the Startup Fund.
- (b) The agency may assign staff or liaise with other responsible agencies to work with embassies and private processing firms to support the visa application process for Startups participating in recognized and credible international trade shows and fairs.

(3) Export Promotion Program:

- (a) Startups will be eligible for curated capacity-building programs on export requirements and procedures, sales negotiations, marketing, pricing strategy, international certifications, trade finance, supply-chain management, etc. Programs will be coordinated by the implementing agency in collaboration with its partners, such as the Ghana Export Promotion Authority, Exim bank, Donor partners, and others.

Section 32: Insolvency and Bankruptcy

- (1) Fast-Track Procedure for Bankruptcy:** Startups experiencing and/or considering bankruptcy proceedings/insolvency will be required to complete an assessment coordinated by the implementing agency to:
- A. Assess alternative options for insolvency (e.g. liquidation of assets, mergers and acquisitions, etc)
 - B. Should insolvency be determined as the required action, a fast-track procedure

will be initiated through the Startup Desk and the office of the Registrar of Companies. The Startup Desk will provide or support legal support in coordination with the Ghana Association of Restructuring and Insolvency Advisors (GARIA), the Office of the Registrar of Companies and relevant institutions.

Section 33: Employment

(1) Employee Hiring Assistance:

- a) Startups shall be entitled to funding to hire staff to be sourced from the Startup Fund.
- b) Startups are eligible to receive National Service and other similar programs personnel.

(2) Recipients of the above programs will be required to report on the status of the employees through periodic reporting required for companies with the Startup Certification.

Section 34: Intellectual Property, Research & Development

(1) **Technical Support for Intellectual Property:** Startups are eligible for training in intellectual property requirements, R&D support, and mentorship through the Startup Desk and implementing agencies of the Ministry responsible for digitalisation. This may include the provision of a designated liaison at the Attorney General's office and designated officers within the Startup Desk.

(2) **Fee assistance:** Startups are also eligible to receive

- (a) Financial support for direct and indirect costs of intellectual property registration for Startups at the national level. This includes the direct and indirect costs of international intellectual property registration within the limits of available resources and in compliance. The exact fee will be determined after a preliminary evaluation and following the solicitation of the opinion of the agency in charge of intellectual property (Copyright Office for copyright and related rights and the Industrial Property Office for patents, industrial designs, trademarks, geographical indications, and the layout-designs (topographies) of integrated circuits, etc.).
- (b) Waivers on fees for certification of products at the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) and the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA).

Section 35: Business Support and Capacity Building

- (1) Regulation of Business Support Providers:** Providers of business support services (incubators, accelerators, development partners, academic institutions, etc.) who wish to be eligible to support Startups provided for within this law must be approved or certified by the agency.

 - (a) Requirements for eligibility shall be specified by the agency's board and shall include requirements for business curricula, office spaces, accessibility for persons with disabilities, etc.
 - (b) Qualifying providers shall receive a certification to this effect.
- (2) Business Support Training & Services:**

 1. Startups are eligible to access free business support and capacity building through services at the Business Development Centers, Incubators, Accelerators, Development Partners and other Ecosystem Enablers. Approved incubators, accelerators and ecosystem enablers who provide services to startups will be paid through the Startup Fund.
- (3) Research & Development Support:** The Agency will offer research and development support in the following areas

 - (a) **Market Intelligence Database and Consultation:** Designated staff within the implementing agency to support aggregating locally available market data across sectors in collaboration with Statistics Agencies, Ministries and Private sector partners. Research staff may also commission additional research in these areas.
 - (b) **Technical Research** – Research staff will work with the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and its agencies and partners (e.g., Ghana Innovation Research & Commercialization Center, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, GRATIS, the Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana Standards Authority and others to assist in the evaluation process.) to determine appropriate support required for Startups.
 - (c) As described above, startups will be eligible for financial assistance to support research and development through the Startup Fund's Innovation component.
- (4) Tax Education**

Startups that receive exemptions must complete a tax education program through the agency.

Section 36: Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning

- (1) **Startup Monitoring:** Startups receiving benefits, according to this law, will be monitored by the Agency.
- (2) **Startup Platform:** The agency will be responsible for coordinating quarterly meetings with the startup ecosystem to share updates and receive feedback on reforms and initiatives. This may be organised at the national, regional, or district levels.
- (3) **Evaluation:** An impact evaluation of the Agency's interventions shall be conducted by a third party every five years.

Section 37: Reporting

- (4) **Startup Reporting:** According to this law, Startups receiving benefits must submit semi-annual reports on criteria assessed during selection to the agency.
- (5) **Annual Report Requirement on the State of Startups:**
 - a) The agency shall be responsible for preparing and publishing an annual report on the status of the Startup Ecosystem.
 - b) This report shall assess the progress of ongoing initiatives aimed at supporting startups.
- (6) **Development of Metrics:**
 - a) The agency shall develop and define critical metrics to measure the performance of the Startup Ecosystem.
 - b) These metrics shall be tracked consistently to ensure accurate and meaningful analysis of trends and outcomes.

Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires

“**Minister**” means the Minister responsible for communication and digitalisation.

“**Procurement Support Scheme**” means

“**Startup**” means a legal entity with a greater percentage Ghanaian ownership, established in accordance with law, having obtained the Startup Certification in accordance with the conditions laid down in this Act

“**Startup Ecosystem**” means

Date of Gazette

