The Policy Group is responsible for carrying out the following functions of the CSLF:

- Identify key legal, regulatory, financial, public perception, institutional-related or other issues associated with the achievement of improved technological capacity.
- Identify potential issues relating to the treatment of intellectual property.
- Establish guidelines for the collaborations and reporting of results.
- Assess regularly the progress of collaborative projects and, following reports from the Technical Group, make recommendations on the direction of such projects.
- Ensure that CSLF activities complement ongoing international cooperation in this area.
- Consider approaches to address issues associated with the above functions.

Other responsibilities include:

- Review all projects for consistency with the CSLF Charter.
- Consider recommendations of the Technical Group for appropriate action.
- Annually review the overall program of the Policy and Technical Groups and each of their activities.
- Periodically review the Terms of Reference and Procedures.