



BRIEFING NOTE: THE VANCOUVER DECLARATION

Purpose

To create a voluntary, non-binding forum where national and subnational governments can build their capacity to work together on carbon dioxide removal (CDR).

Background

Climate models developed by IPCC researchers have long noted that CDR will be required—alongside deep emissions reductions—to stabilize our global temperatures. To-date, we have relied on the marketplace to scale CDR to the size needed to achieve the IPCC’s recommendations.

However, this approach has failed. We now recognize that significant government involvement will be required, as has been the case for every major infrastructure development project throughout history (think roads, electrification, and sanitation systems).

For this challenging task, new intergovernmental policy mechanisms for CDR will need to be developed. Existing policies only address CDR indirectly, primarily through accounting rules or market-based mechanisms. There is no instrument focused on facilitating the development of government-to-government CDR policy, standards, capacity-building, and institutional readiness.

What is the Vancouver Declaration?

The Vancouver Declaration on Carbon Dioxide Removal is a voluntary, non-binding soft-law instrument designed to:

- Support dialogue among governments on CDR policy and governance structures;
- Encourage information-sharing and capacity-building on issues such as standards, best practices, regulation and investment;
- Promote coordination across governments, jurisdictions, and regions; and
- Complement existing national and international climate frameworks without replacing them.

What the Declaration does not do

The Declaration is enabling rather than prescriptive, and is designed to lower barriers to engagement on a complex and emerging policy domain. The Declaration does *not*:

- Create legal obligations;
- Require legislative approval;
- Mandate specific technologies, targets, timelines, or funding commitments;
- Establish a negotiating forum or require consensus decision-making;
- Prejudge the role, scale, or suitability of specific CDR approaches; or
- Create a centralized authority with decision-making power over national actions.

Relation to the Policy Framework

The Declaration is accompanied by a Vancouver Declaration *Policy Framework*, which offers a preliminary, non-binding outline of potential areas for coordination across research, finance, markets, governance, and implementation. The Policy Framework:

- Is not part of what governments sign;
- Serves as a living reference document, not an agreed plan; and
- Will evolve over time through voluntary engagement, experience, and dialogue.

Endorsement of the Declaration does not imply endorsement of the Policy Framework or participation in any specific activity.

Who developed it?

The Declaration has been developed by CDRANet, an international network of several hundred experts spanning climate science, policy, industry, and civil society. Contributors include individuals with experience in IPCC assessment processes, national climate agencies, and international organizations.

The CDRANet initiative has been convened by the Science Communication Institute, a US-based non-profit organization acting as a neutral, non-advocacy convener in support of international policy dialogue.

What does participation involve?

Participation in the Vancouver process is intentionally flexible, modular, and scalable. Governments can engage at different levels and through different pathways, including:

- **Policy and governance dialogue:** Information-sharing on regulatory approaches, safeguards, and institutional design;
- **Science and research coordination:** Engagement on assessment needs, monitoring approaches, and knowledge gaps;
- **Technology-specific collaboration:** Voluntary engagement focused on particular CDR approaches (e.g., direct air capture, biomass-based removal, mineralization, ocean-based methods), without implying endorsement of any pathway;
- **Markets and finance readiness:** Dialogue on standards, accounting, procurement, and investment frameworks; and
- **Regional or sectoral initiatives:** Participation in regionally relevant or sector-specific coordination efforts.

Participation in any pathway is optional and does not imply participation in others. As well, signing the Declaration is not required, and signing does not

require participation in specific initiatives, technologies, or policy positions.

Current engagement

The Vancouver Declaration is currently being reviewed by many national and subnational governments. Outreach efforts began in December of 2025. Engagement updates will be reported on the CDRANet website at cdranet.org.

Future engagement

An interim secretariat will oversee 2026 conversations between participants, expected to begin in mid-June, and advised by several prominent climate policy organizations. A permanent secretariat will be established later in the year, as described elsewhere in this briefing kit.

The Declaration will be the centerpiece of future conferences to be coordinated by CDRANet, likely on an annual basis, in order to continue building and reporting on international and intergovernmental collaboration and capacity on CDR.

Next steps

Interested governments are invited to:

- Appoint a representative who can serve as a point of contact for further discussions on the Vancouver Declaration and surrounding process; and/or
- Take any other steps that align with government needs and interests, including formally endorsing the Declaration (signing), offering to help support the Vancouver Secretariat, or other actions; and/or
- Request additional materials or a personal briefing.

Contact

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