



How Does the Vancouver Declaration Fit with Existing Climate Policy?

Existing climate policies and institutions address important but distinct pieces of the carbon dioxide removal (CDR) challenge. What has been missing is an international network that joins these pieces together and mobilizes governments work together to deploy CDR at scale.

This is where the Vancouver Declaration fits. It does not duplicate other efforts or treaties (the Declaration itself is not a treaty), but instead connects and enhances them, offering a practical complement: a better way for governments to compare approaches, learn from peers, and focus together on shared questions around CDR infrastructure, standards, procurement, finance, regulation, public administration, and more. In doing so, it helps governments get more out of existing CDR efforts. At the same time, the Vancouver process is not a national government-only endeavor. Effective CDR deployment will depend on close collaboration with subnational authorities, researchers, civil society, and the private sector. The Vancouver process provides a neutral, goal-oriented space to integrate these perspectives and work together to ensure the global CDR policies we deploy are informed, coordinated, safe, effective, and equitable.

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.

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; or create a centralized authority with decision-making power over national actions.

The Declaration process is a secretariat-governed forum developed by CDRANet, an international network of several hundred experts spanning climate science, policy, industry, and civil society. 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.

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| Initiative | Focuses on CDR? | Mobilizes governments? | Comprehensive?* | Primary function | What Vancouver adds |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| Paris Agreement / NDCs | No | Partly | No | Sets national climate goals and reporting frameworks | Provides a practical venue for implementing CDR-related commitments through real policy coordination |
| Article 6.4 mechanism | Partly | No | No | Establishes rules for carbon crediting and international transfers | Adds a non-market coordination layer for governments regardless of whether crediting is used |
| COP / UNFCCC processes | No | No | No | Negotiation, diplomacy, and consensus-building | Enables sustained, working-level collaboration beyond formal negotiation settings |
| Mission Innovation (overall) | No | Partly | No | Accelerates clean energy innovation across sectors | Narrows focus to CDR governance and deployment rather than cross-sector innovation |
| Mission Innovation – CDR Mission | Yes | Partly | No | Advances CDR RD&D and early deployment | Extends beyond innovation into public policy design, procurement, and administration |
| Climate High-Level Champions | No | No | No | Mobilizes non-state actors and political ambition | Translates high-level ambition into operational government collaboration |
| Carbon Management Challenge | No | Partly | No | Accelerates carbon management projects and investment | Focuses on public-sector frameworks needed to support and scale these efforts |
| UNEP | No | Partly | No | Provides policy support, assessments, and capacity-building | Offers a dedicated intergovernmental collaboration forum to complement UNEP's role |
| IPCC | Partly | No | No | Assesses climate science and mitigation pathways | Converts scientific conclusions into coordinated policy action among governments |
| GONE (Group of Negative Emitters) | Yes | No | No | Coordinates buyers and suppliers of high-quality CDR; supports market development and standards | Provides a much broader government-led forum to help align policy and action globally |
| Research / NGO ecosystem | Partly | No | No | Produces analysis, advocacy, and technical insight | Provides a neutral government-led venue to operationalize this knowledge |
| Vancouver Declaration | Yes | Yes | Yes | Peer-to-peer government coordination on CDR policy and implementation | – |

* Covers the full range of CDR challenges (RD&D, governance, MRV, finance, infrastructure, communication, civil society coordination, more)