

Declaration on Carbon Pricing in the Americas

Governance guidelines

1. Background

The Carbon Pricing in the Americas Platform (CPA) is a cooperation, information-sharing, knowledge-building and networking platform that arose from the Paris Declaration on Carbon Pricing in the Americas endorsed by national and subnational governments in the Americas in December 2017.

The CPA was officially launched in April 2018.

The Paris Declaration has since been replaced by the 2021 Glasgow Declaration on Carbon Pricing in the Americas, which CPA members have all endorsed.

2. Mission

The CPA aims at:

- Promoting the adoption and implementation of carbon pricing policy instruments and carbon markets in the Americas, with a view of facilitating a just transition for sectors and workers particularly impacted by the shift towards a low-carbon economy;
- Fostering a dialogue and sharing information, expertise, experiences, lessons-learned and best practices between governments in the Americas that wish to implement or pursue carbon pricing policy instruments and carbon markets as efficient economic and environmental instruments for ambitious climate action;
- Increasing collaboration and synergies between national and subnational governments of the Americas on all matters related to carbon-pricing in order to ensure real progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with the overall vision and commitments set out in the Declaration;
- Encouraging the design, convergence, alignment and linking of cost-effective and result-oriented carbon pricing policy instruments and carbon markets in order to increase their efficiency.

3. Participants

3.1 Participants in the CPA fall into one of the following three status categories:

- 1) **Member:** A national and subnational government from the Americas that officially endorses the Glasgow Declaration on carbon pricing in the Americas or any subsequent substitute declaration (hereafter “the Declaration”), endorsed by Members, if any, and agree to take on the commitments contained therein;
- 2) **Partner:** Supporting international or intergovernmental body, academic institution or non-for-profit organization that shares the spirit and vision of the Declaration and that is in a position to offer relevant expertise to members or resources, financial or otherwise, to the CPA;
- 3) **Observer:** A national and subnational government from the Americas that shares the spirit and vision of the Declaration, but that is not yet ready to endorse the Declaration and agree to take on the commitments contained therein.

3.2 To be admitted as a new participant in the CPA, a candidate should contact the co-chairs and explain why its candidacy in the chosen status category should be approved by providing relevant documentation supporting its request. The co-chairs will then circulate the request to all

current CPA members for a period of one month, in order to rule out potential objections. If no objection is heard, the candidate will become a CPA participant in the chosen category. If there is an objection, current Members will take a vote at the next scheduled meeting whereby a three-quarter majority of members present, in person or remotely, will have to approve the candidate's request to confirm admittance.

- 3.3 After two years as an observer, a national or subnational government has to apply to either become a member or renew its observer status by following the procedure in paragraph.
- 3.4 A participant may, at any time, request a change to its participation status or end its participation in the CPA by informing the co-chairs in writing.
- 3.5 Only members have the right to vote.
- 3.6 CPA participants are expected to participate in CPA meetings and events.
- 3.7 CPA participants are encouraged to provide financial or in-kind voluntary contributions to support CPA activities.

4. Co-chairs

- 4.1 The operations and activities of the CPA are led by two co-chairs.
- 4.2 Co-chairs serve two-year, staggered, terms, which members may renew.
- 4.3 Each co-chair position is held by a member government and implemented in a personal capacity by an employee of the member government.
- 4.4 In the interest of balance and fair representation, each co-chair comes from one of the two relevant regions: 1. North America (Canada and the United States) and 2. Latin America and the Caribbean. Members from each relevant region select the co-chair for their region by consensus, or, if no consensus can be found, by a majority vote.
- 4.5 Members of the CPA select one new co-chair each year.
- 4.6 If, for any reason, a co-chair from a particular region is no longer able to undertake the assigned role, the members from that region shall nominate an interim co-chair by consensus to fill the position until the end of its term or, if no consensus can be found, by majority vote.
- 4.7 If no suitable replacement can be found in the short-term, the outgoing co-chair's responsibilities will be borne by the remaining co-chair until the next election.
- 4.8 The role of the co-chairs, in consultation and coordination with Members and Partners, is to:

Leadership tasks

- 4.8.1 Advance the CPA's mission and promote the Declaration, including the overall vision and the commitments contained therein;
- 4.8.2 Oversee and provide guidance on the strategic direction of the CPA;
- 4.8.3 Represent all Members on matters relating to the Declaration and the CPA, which includes, inter alia, participating in international fora, extending invitations to endorse the Declaration, outreaching and recruiting new CPA participants.
- 4.8.4 Call members to vote at meetings, as appropriate.

Administrative tasks

- 4.8.5 Organize and preside over CPA meetings, including its General Assembly;
- 4.8.6 Organize and preside over other CPA activities, such as events and training courses, on topics of interest to members;

- 4.8.7 Set the agenda and suggest a meeting mode or venue for the meetings and activities;
 - 4.8.8 Propose the establishment of working groups or committees;
 - 4.8.9 Maintain and update the CPA website;
 - 4.8.10 Draft, send and coordinate internal and external communications;
 - 4.8.11 Find financing for CPA activities, including its website and secretariat, and propose a budget, as appropriate;
 - 4.8.12 Draft annual reports and work plans regarding CPA operations, meetings and activities for approval by Members.
- 4.9 Co-chairs may delegate, while maintaining responsibility for, some of their administrative tasks to an outside secretariat with the approval of members.

5. Meetings

- 5.1 CPA meetings should be convened at least once every four months, either in person or remotely. Typically, at least one in-person meeting should occur each year, preferably the General Assembly.
- 5.2 All CPA participants are invited to attend meetings, but parts of meetings may be closed to members only to address CPA business. Guests from international or intergovernmental bodies, national or subnational governments, not-for-profit organizations, businesses, financial institutions or civil society may also attend a meeting at the invitation of co-chairs.
- 5.3 Quorum consists of CPA participants present at the meeting, either in-person or remotely.
- 5.4 Members should strive to adopt any resolution or make any decision at meetings, including the General Assembly, by consensus. However, a member may call for a vote if it has the support of another member. Should a vote have to take place, a simple majority vote of members present at the meeting, in person or remotely, will be required, except for admittance as a CPA participant (see paragraph 3.2 above).
- 5.5 The co-chairs provide a notice of the time, agenda, mode of participation (in-person or remotely) and venue, if appropriate, for each meeting not fewer than ten days in advance of the day on which the meeting is to be held.
- 5.6 The General Assembly should be held each year, preferably on the margins of a major global climate-related meeting, such as the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or a similar event or meeting.
- 5.7 Preferably at the first CPA meeting of each calendar year, the co-chairs identify and present options of meetings or events on the margins of which the Annual General Assembly may take place in the incoming calendar year.
- 5.8 The co-chairs will present a work plan (for the upcoming year) at the last meeting of each year and a draft annual report (of the previous year) at the first meeting of each year for consideration and adoption by all members.
- 5.9 The purpose of the General Assembly is essentially to:
 - Take stock of, and present outcomes from, CPA's operations, meetings and activities during the previous year;
 - Identify challenges, solutions and next steps for the implementation of the Declaration as well as the operation and efficiency of the CPA;
 - Elect co-chairs;

- Adopt and make amendments to, when needed, the governance guidelines.