



C2G2 PRIORITY THREE: Governance of Carbon Removal Technologies

“To encourage policy discussions and agreements about atmospheric carbon removal at national as well as global levels.”

- Mitigation is not enough to stay below 1.5–2°C temperature rise. Atmospheric carbon removal is also needed to achieve the Paris goals and minimize a temperature overshoot. Very few policymakers are aware of, let alone have accepted, this sobering reality.
- There is only the barest beginnings of a policy discussion amongst Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is the appropriate global institution and process for the consideration of this issue.
- There is no international agreement that standardizes how carbon removals are to be measured and reported on; no comprehensive framework for regulating carbon removal technologies to minimize land-use trade-off; or for enabling a scale-up of these technologies to meet global temperature goals while also realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Governance of carbon removal technologies is needed to ensure public accountability, oversight and a transparent discussion of their benefits, risks, and trade-offs (particularly on land-use issues).
- Governance can play a critical enabling function by providing the public policy incentives needed for the private sector to scale-up selected technologies. To that end, governance could include some type of market mechanisms (carbon price, tax incentives, subsidies) at the sub-national, national and/or international level to support the transformative scale-up of carbon removal efforts.
- In sum, the large-scale application of carbon removal technologies involves balancing a global benefit with local/regional trade-offs and risks. It is critical that global governance mechanisms address trans-boundary issues and locate carbon removal within the overall context of not only the Paris Agreement but also the Sustainable Development Goals.

Objectives

- **Broaden the number of individuals and organizations globally who understand the need for governance of carbon removal technologies.** C2G2 will inform and regularly consult with selected politically influential actors, including senior leaders in the UNFCCC and other UN and intergovernmental bodies, governments, and non-state actors, including faith groups, think tanks, environmental and development NGOs and climate negotiators.

- **Form a global network of senior politicians and policy-makers**, UNFCCC and other UN officials, government officials and civil society organizations at the sub-national, national and global levels to discuss the creation of governance for carbon removal technologies. This could include policies at the national and sub-national level to incentivize a rapid scale-up of appropriate technologies, along with an internationally agreed system for ensuring transparent accountability and a common method for monitoring, reporting and verifying removals.
- **Create a “community of practice”** on carbon removals with government, business and civil society participation.
- **Increase knowledge at the regional and sub-national levels on how appropriate enabling governance of carbon removal technologies (policy incentives, tax policies, etc.) could scale up their use in both the private and public sectors.** These efforts could serve as policy models for national governments when considering if and how to govern and incorporate carbon removal technologies in their NDCs and long-term strategies.