WHEN THE PARIS AGREEMENT entered into force on 4 November 2016, it sent a signal to the world that climate change is a global challenge that urgently needs to be addressed on several fronts and by multiple actors. The collective effort of all levels of government, with the participation of all stakeholders, is essential to achieving the goals laid out in the Agreement. Many jurisdictions have committed to collaborative initiatives outside of the Agreement to help increase their ambition, share best practices, and improve their capacity for climate action. The Declaration on Carbon Pricing in the Americas, which creates a platform for cooperation, is an example of collaboration among governments to enhance their commitment to fighting climate change and reaffirm their support for the Paris Agreement. The Declaration represents a landmark commitment toward the implementation of carbon pollution pricing policies in the Americas. It includes the participation of leading non-governmental institutions in providing resources and technical expertise to support the work programme and maximise climate action. Declaration members welcome the engagement of businesses, financial institutions, nongovernmental organisations, and civil society in developing and implementing durable, equitable, and effective carbon pollution pricing policies.

Putting a price on carbon pollution is widely recognised as one of the most effective, transparent, and efficient policy approaches to reducing GHG emissions. Carbon pollution pricing supports the transition to a low-carbon economy by helping polluters internalise the cost of their emissions, as well as driving innovation and adoption of clean technology, enabling fiscal reform, and promoting more sustainable development. A collaborative approach will amplify these benefits throughout the region, and will help create more effective and enduring carbon pollution pricing systems. Members’ collective commitment to put a price on carbon pollution helps to diminish concerns surrounding competitiveness and carbon leakage, while demonstrating to the world that the Americas are serious about reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

On 12 December 2017, at the One Planet Summit in Paris, France, the governments of Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, as well as the US states of California and Washington and Canadian provinces including Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and Québec, announced the creation of the Declaration on Carbon Pricing in the Americas (the Declaration). In the spring of 2018, the state of Sonora joined the Declaration, as the first subnational government from Mexico choosing to be part of this unique regional collaboration mechanism. The Declaration and platform for cooperation remain open for more jurisdictions to join. The Declaration represents a landmark commitment toward the implementation of carbon pollution pricing policies in the Americas. It includes the participation of leading non-governmental institutions in providing resources and technical expertise to support the work programme and maximise climate action. Declaration members welcome the engagement of businesses, financial institutions, nongovernmental organisations, and civil society in developing and implementing durable, equitable, and effective carbon pollution pricing policies.

Members to the Declaration recognise that climate change is a global threat and reaffirm their support for the Paris Agreement as a necessary step toward fighting it. The national and subnational government members declared their commitment to implement carbon pollution pricing as a central economic and environmental policy instrument for ambitious climate action.

Members commend the actions by jurisdictions across the Americas to introduce a price on carbon and to develop efforts to align or link markets. Their shared vision of regional cooperation includes encouraging: comparable criteria and standards for the measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) of GHG emissions and reductions; public and private investment decisions to deliver meaningful emission reductions; and development of common standards for environmental integrity. Members have committed to sharing lessons learned with the view of improving technical capacity to design and implement carbon pollution pricing in the public and private sector internationally and regionally.
The Declaration on Carbon Pricing in the Americas is an example of collaboration among governments to enhance their commitment to fighting climate change.

Members anticipate that the outcomes from this work will enable the timely and effective design of carbon pollution pricing systems in members’ jurisdictions, while inspiring more jurisdictions across the Americas to join the Declaration and accelerate their efforts to fight climate change. Of the eight new or enhanced carbon pollution pricing initiatives in place since early 2016, three-quarters of them are in the Americas. Members to the Declaration hope to see that number continue to rise across the continents in 2018 and onwards.

Members anticipate that the outcomes from this work will enable the timely and effective design of carbon pollution pricing systems in members’ jurisdictions, while inspiring more jurisdictions across the Americas to join the Declaration and accelerate their efforts to fight climate change. Of the eight new or enhanced carbon pollution pricing initiatives in place since early 2016, three-quarters of them are in the Americas. Members to the Declaration hope to see that number continue to rise across the continents in 2018 and onwards.

The Declaration sets a shared vision of regional cooperation on carbon pollution pricing in the Americas. In less than a year, members, partners, and endorsers of the Declaration have made significant progress towards achieving that vision – and there is no end in sight. Members welcome new partners to the platform in their efforts to implement cooperative carbon pollution pricing systems. Climate change is a global challenge that requires worldwide mitigation efforts. The Declaration on Carbon Pricing in the Americas takes climate action to the next level, by ramping up continental efforts to combat climate change and demonstrating that members are willing and ready to do their part to ensure a sustainable economy and environment for years to come. Through the Declaration, we keep the momentum alive and constant.

Members recognise that climate change is a global threat and reaffirm their support for the Paris Agreement as a necessary step towards addressing climate change.

Neydi Cruz is the Deputy Director-General of International Cooperation at SEMARNAT. She is one of the co-chairs of the Declaration on Carbon Pricing in the Americas. Angela Churie Kalihauge heads the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition at the World Bank; Dirk Forrister is the president and CEO of IETA; and Nathaniel Keohane is senior vice-president and head of the climate programme at Environmental Defense Fund. All three are involved with and support working groups under the Declaration.