



Carbon Pricing

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Global Picture

Problem – We need to cut global GHG emissions drastically to mitigate climate change

- Limiting global warming to 2°C or 1.5°C requires cutting global carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) 25 or 50 percent below 2019 levels by 2030
- Last window to keep alive 1.5-2°C is about to close—current pledges only achieve 11%
- Asian countries have pivotal role
- Obstacles to scaling up global mitigation
 - Ambition: Too many parties (195) and too many parameters (one pledge per party)
 - Unilateral policy action: competitiveness and uncertainty about other's actions



A Global Deal to Complement the Paris Agreement is Needed

Facilitating Elements

Coordination

Start with small group of major emitters, including developing and developed countries

Flexibility

Allow for country preferences in choice of mitigation policies, forms of finance and technology choices; protection for vulnerable groups

Equity

Stricter emissions policies in advanced countries; assistance to developing countries and affected regions



A Global Deal



Key Outcomes

Mitigation



Emissions reductions consistent with 1.5-2C Paris temperature

Climate Finance and Technology

Develop flows needed for investment in mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. Support innovation and availability of technology for clean energy transition and resilience

Role of Carbon Pricing

Carbon Pricing

Central role in mitigation policy

Across-the-board incentives, cost-effective, revenue, co-benefits

Basic design details are important

- Cover power, industry, transport building
- Predictable and progressively rising price
- Use revenues productively

Administration

- Carbon taxes: build off fuel tax collection
- ETS: requires new capacity for monitoring emissions and trading markets
 - > May not be practical if limited capacity or thin trading markets

Comparison between Carbon Taxes and ETS

Design issue	Instrument	
	Carbon tax	ETS
Administration	Administration is more straightforward (for example, as extension of fuel taxes)	May not be practical for capacity constrained countries
Price certainty	Specify tax rate trajectory	Price volatility but price floor or cap adjustments can limit price volatility
Emission reduction	Emissions uncertain but tax rate can be periodically adjusted	Certainty over emissions levels
Revenue generation	Revenue usually accrues to finance ministry	Free permit allocation may help with acceptability but lowers revenue
Political economy	Can be politically challenging to implement new taxes; use of revenues and communications critical	Can be more politically acceptable than taxes, especially under free allocation

Carbon Pricing Has Key Role and is Proliferating

Explicit carbon pricing schemes (2022, national subnational and regional)



Sources: WBG (2023); IMF Staff; National sources

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Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform can also mitigate climate change



- Fossil fuel subsidies (explicit and implicit subsidies) keep energy prices low at a fiscal cost and are large globally
- These subsidies can be reformed to yield revenues that could be used for better targeted social spending, reductions in inefficient taxes and productive investments.

Reinforcing Sectoral Instruments

- Needed because of acceptability constraints on pricing
- Feebates (or analog—tradable emission rate standards)
 - Revenue neutral sliding scale of fees/rebates for products/activities with >/< average CO₂ rates
- Attractions
 - Cost effectively promote all responses for reducing emissions intensity (though no demand response)
 - ► Avoid a fiscal cost
 - ▶ No tax burden on average household/firm

Pricing Beyond Fossil Fuel CO₂

Energy Sector

- Vehicles (commonly integrated into registration fees)
- Power generation/industry (limits increase in prices/production costs)
- Buildings (encourage renovations, clean heating, efficient appliances)
- Industry (limits competitiveness/leakage concerns)

Broader Sectors

- Forestry
 - Landowners: fee = CO_2 price × (baseline carbon storage current storage)
 - ▶ But needs well-defined property rights, monitoring of forest carbon storage
- Extractives (methane)
 - Methane taxes integrated into fiscal regimes
 - Based on self-monitoring of emissions (e.g., Norway)
 - Or tax suppliers using default emission rates with rebates for cleaner firms

Impacts of Pricing IMF-WB Climate Policy Assessment Tool (CPAT)

The Climate Policy Assessment Tool (CPAT)

- A spreadsheet-based 'model of models' for over 200 countries, being developed jointly by IMF & World Bank
- Allows for estimating the effects of climate mitigation policies carbon pricing and fossil fuel subsidy reform:
 - impact on energy & emissions prices, consumption, global pollutants (GHGs), local pollutants (PM2.5, NOx, etc.)
 - macroeconomic impacts GDP, revenues, trade balance
 - distributional impacts effects of policies including revenue recycling across on households (across income distribution and urban vs. rural) and firms
 - development co-benefits reductions in mortality & morbidity from improved in air quality and road safety, reduced congestion
- Helps policymakers assess impacts and design, compare, and implement policies to achieve their climate mitigation targets (Paris Agreement NDCs) and development goals (SDGs) jointly



Impacts of Carbon Pricing: Emission Reduction



CO₂ Reductions for \$75/50/25 Carbon Prices (According to Development Level)

Source. IMF staff using CPAT.

Note. Estimates are for a \$75/50/25 carbon price for advanced/emerging high-income/low-income economies. Right panel is for direct emissions. Buildings includes fossil fuel CO2 emissions from residences, services, agriculture, and forestry but emissions from industrial buildings are included under industry.

Impacts of Carbon Pricing: Welfare and Fiscal



Costs and Domestic Environmental Co-Benefits

Revenue Impacts



♦Net

■ Pure mitigation costs ■ Domestic environmental co-benefits ◇ Net

Carbon pricing can be progressive and support the poorest with revenue recycling Household Burdens from Carbon Pricing, 2030

- Recycling:
 - Targeted assistance (e.g., social safety nets).
 - Other revenues for broad tax cuts/SDG investments.
- Non-pricing approaches: firstround households burdens much smaller.
 - But no revenues to alter distributional impacts.

Source: IMF staff using CPAT.



Panel 1. United States (\$75 carbon tax)



Other and indirect PIT threshold increases Labor tax reduction Net change

Panel 3. Turkey (\$50 carbon tax)



Cash transfers

Labor tax reduction

Other and indirect

Net change



Panel 4. Argentina (\$50 carbon tax)



Conclusions

- Carbon pricing is the most efficient way of climate mitigation:
 - ► Price signal critical for mobilizing climate finance
 - ► Revenues easily exceed public investment needs → Carbon pricing improves fiscal balances (Gaspar et al. 2024)

Reducing fossil fuel subsidies can mitigate climate

Carbon pricing should be reinforced with sectoral instruments

Appendices





CLIMATE

NOTES

Carbon Taxes or Emissions Trading Systems? Instrument Choice and Design

IMF STAFF CLIMATE NOTE 2022/006

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