ICROA Forum on increased voluntary action under the Paris Agreement

Frankfurt, Germany
23rd May 2018
Purpose and objective

A Forum for participants in the voluntary market to:

- Get an update on initiatives enabling voluntary action under the Paris Agreement
- Identify requirements for resilient growth and impact
- Establish a platform for information sharing and collaboration
What is ICROA?

The International Carbon Reduction and Offset Alliance (ICROA) is an international industry association housed within IETA.

- ICROA's primary aim is to deliver quality assurance in carbon management and offsetting, through adherence to the ICROA **Code of Best Practice**.
- ICROA ensures **credibility and quality** for corporates using voluntary carbon credits to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
- ICROA provides a **unified voice for the voluntary carbon market**.
Our Members are leading global service providers
Securing a role for voluntary action in a post-Paris world

• We are positioning voluntary action as a means to raise ambition under the Paris Agreement

• We have developed guidance which sets out 3 models for how the market could function under the Paris Agreement

• Our longer-term ambition is for our guidance to be widely supported and actioned by Parties and the private sector
To inform and ensure alignment between the emerging arrangements under the Paris Agreement, we offer the following four guiding principles for voluntary action which:

1. Should be complementary to policy and regulation under the Paris Agreement and focused on raising ambition

2. Needs to be encouraged, recognised and rewarded to realise its full potential

3. Must be reported openly and transparently to ensure the highest possible standards of integrity

4. Needs sound governance, particularly because it operates outside of compliance systems
Non-NDC crediting model

**Description**
- Voluntary market mechanisms continue in non-NDC parts of economies where non-state actors generate voluntary credits.
- This model would be similar to the current voluntary carbon market arrangements.

**Pros**
- Extension of current practices
- Attracts finance to uncovered sectors, delivering emission reductions which otherwise would not occur
- Could support the transition to economy-wide NDCs

**Cons**
- Restricts credit generation supply pipeline
- Unlikely to be sustainable in the long term, due to requirement to move towards economy-wide NDCs
Financing Emission Reductions model

Description
- Emission reductions financed by non-state actors contribute to the host country’s NDC
- Buyers can make finance related claims
- This model could potentially apply to any NDC, economy-wide or non-economy-wide

Pros
- Simple solution to the double counting challenge
- Helps deliver the NDC targets

Cons
- This approach could not be used for carbon neutrality purposes
- Buyers could not make claims related to the emission reductions, but only the financing

EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE NDC
NDC
NON-STATE ACTOR

ICROA property - 2018 - All rights reserved
NDC crediting model

**Description**
- Article 6.4 units are generated in NDCs and exported from the host country, according to Article 6 accounting rules
- The units are voluntarily purchased and retired by non-state actors
- Emission reductions do not contribute to the delivery of any Party’s NDC

**Pros**
- Enables voluntary offsetting within the Paris Agreement architecture
- Buyers can make environmental claims, such as carbon neutrality
- Emission reductions go beyond NDCs, thus helping to close the ambition gap

**Cons**
- Requires Parties to allow the development of Article 6.4 projects, and for the units to be exported to non-state actors
An international voluntary market account will help manage the added complexity from the implementation of the NDCs.

It could act as a central data source to show which companies are taking voluntary action, and how much and what type of units they are retiring.

It could build on present day examples such as the CDM registry, or the NAZCA platform.

It could also help manage claims made by non-state actors taking voluntary action.
Conclusions

• ICROA is working to **secure a role for voluntary action in a post Paris world**, and we are positioning it as a means to raise ambition.

• We need the UNFCCC and Parties to **develop robust rules for Article 6** to allow the international transfer of mitigation outcomes with high environmental integrity.

• This will go a long way to support continued voluntary action, but it won’t **deliver private sector investment in mitigation at the necessary scale**.

• For this, we will need **meaningful incentives, excellent governance, and efficient processes**.

• This is the key area of focus for ICROA, and we need to **work with other organisations** to secure a role for voluntary action under the Paris Agreement.
What are the most important requirements of Article 6 and NDC development required to enable voluntary action to flourish?

Interventions:

• Frank Wolke: Head, Emissions Reduction Projects section, UBA

• Jeff Swartz: Director Climate Policy & Carbon Markets, South Pole Group
## 2 of 3 - Delivering emission reductions

**What are the most important requirements to enable supply?**

Interventions:

- Philipp Hauser: Board Member, Project Developer Forum
- Jochen Gassner: CEO, First Climate
### 3 of 3 - Scaling voluntary action

**What are the most important requirements to scale demand?**

Interventions:

- David Antonioli: CEO, Verra
- Edward Hanrahan: CEO, ClimateCare
Roundtable discussion
This portal can be accessed here on the ICROA website:
https://www.icroa.org/Voluntary-Market-Portal
Thank you

Antoine Diemert
Programme Director
International Carbon Reduction
and Offset Alliance (ICROA)

IETA Secretariat
Tel: +41 (0) 2273 70500
Mail: diemert@ieta.org
www.icroa.org