

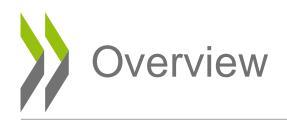
Carbon Market Platform 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Dialogue Rome, Italy 28 September 2017

# DESIGNING CARBON PRICING INSTRUMENTS FOR AMBITIOUS CLIMATE POLICY

Andrew Prag

**OECD Environment Directorate** 





- Carbon pricing and climate ambition: a broader view
- Constraints on carbon pricing and strategies for overcoming them
  - Specific to carbon pricing design
  - Broader political constraints
- Levels of international co-operation on carbon pricing



## Carbon pricing and climate ambition: a broader view

- Carbon pricing as a tool to support transformational change (beyond marginal abatement)
- Can carbon pricing be implemented in a way that improves political conditions, therefore allowing for more of itself?
  - Good policy design (including exemptions / freebies)
  - Effectively communicating benefits of pricing
  - Removing policy misalignments
  - Constructive international collaboration
- Separate discussion to ambition of NDCs, rules on cooperative approaches, environmental integrity



## Benefits of carbon pricing are clear and well known...

- Efficient, cost-effective and business-friendly way to integrate the core externality
- Raises revenue for governments
- Ultimately comprehensive but can be eased in gradually
- Provides benefits to other local and regional objectives such as improving air quality

### ... So if carbon pricing is so great why have we not got more of it?



## Barriers and political constraints to carbon pricing

Competitiveness

Concerns for economic growth, jobs and industrial competitiveness

Households

Carbon Entanglement

Misalignments

Government Capacity



## Combining growth and climate policies makes economic sense





## Barriers and political constraints to carbon pricing

Competitiveness

Concerns for economic growth, jobs and industrial competitiveness

Households

Concerns about energy bills for households and consumers

Carbon Entanglement Government and financial system dependence on fossil fuel revenue

Misalignments

Broader policy misalignments counteracting carbon prices

Government Capacity

Limited government capacity for inter-ministry implementation



## Barriers and political constraints to carbon pricing

Competitiveness

Households

Carbon Entanglement

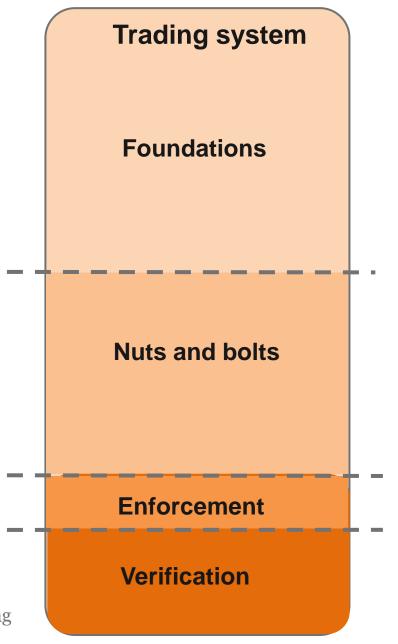
Misalignments

Government Capacity

Barriers specific to carbon pricing design

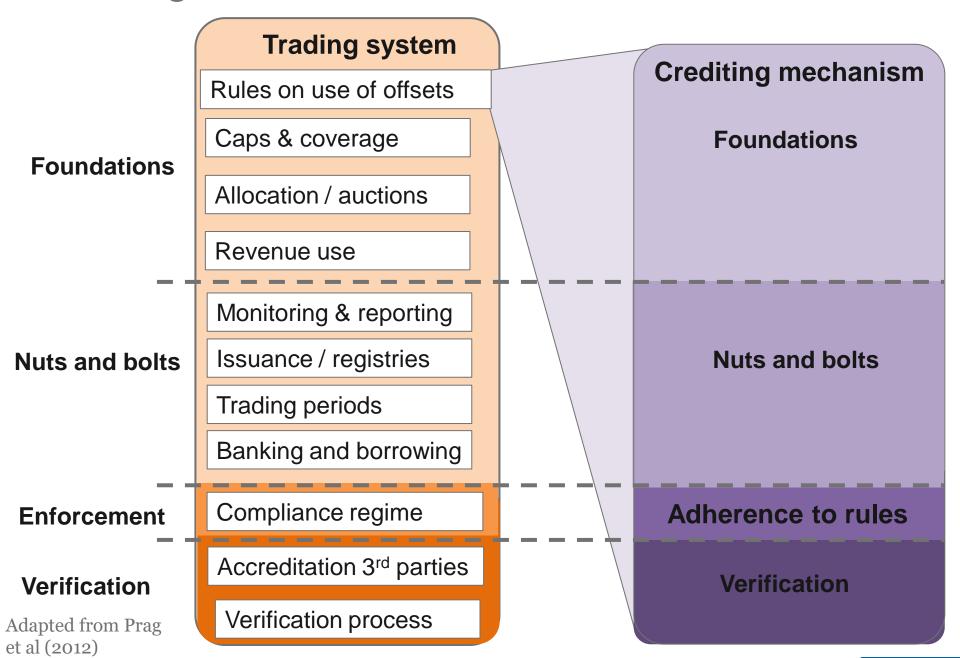
Barriers related to broader policy and governance

### Design elements of market mechanisms



Adapted from Prag et al (2012)

### Design elements of market mechanisms





### Strategies for overcoming those barriers

### Competitiveness

- International price convergence
- Design foundations for gradual ramp-up
- Transparent and limited free allocation

#### Households

- Targeted tax exemptions
- Revenue recycling to affected households
- Complementary energy efficiency policies

### Carbon Entanglement

- Diversifying public revenue sources
- Better financial valuation of climate risk
- Market creation through public procurement

### Misalignments

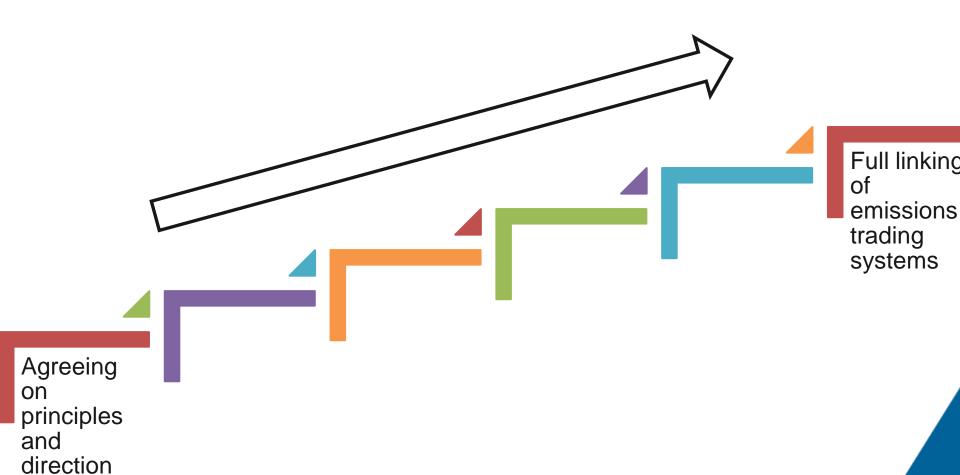
- Realigning fiscal incentives
- Fossil fuel subsidies
- Electricity markets, many others

#### Government Capacity

- Best practice sharingTechnical assistance
- International revenue use



## Levels of international co-operation on carbon pricing





## Levels of international co-operation on carbon pricing

Principles of pricing...also commitment to rising prices?

Agreeing on principles and direction

Eg.
Commitments
to fossil-fuel
subsidy
removal

Agreeing to remove misaligned policies Indirect

linking via

standards

common

offset

Step-wise discussions:
Parameters for price
corridors?
Phasing out free allocation?
Co-ordinating taxes and
trading?

Coordination "nuts and bolts" design (MRV etc) Bilateral, clubs or through Article 6 mechanisms?

> Full linking of emissions trading systems

Use of revenues for international activities

**Price** 

convergence

through co-

ordination of

"foundations"

Technical assistance and capacity building



### Questions for discussion

- What role for the Carbon Market Platform in helping to overcome political constraints?
- Which carbon pricing designs are most effective in raising ambition in which country circumstances?
- How can the Carbon Market Platform facilitate better coordination on carbon pricing policies?



### THANK YOU

http://www.oecd.org/env/cc

Andrew.Prag@iea.org

Simon.Buckle@oecd.org

