

ISO Net Zero Guidelines

A global basis for net zero action

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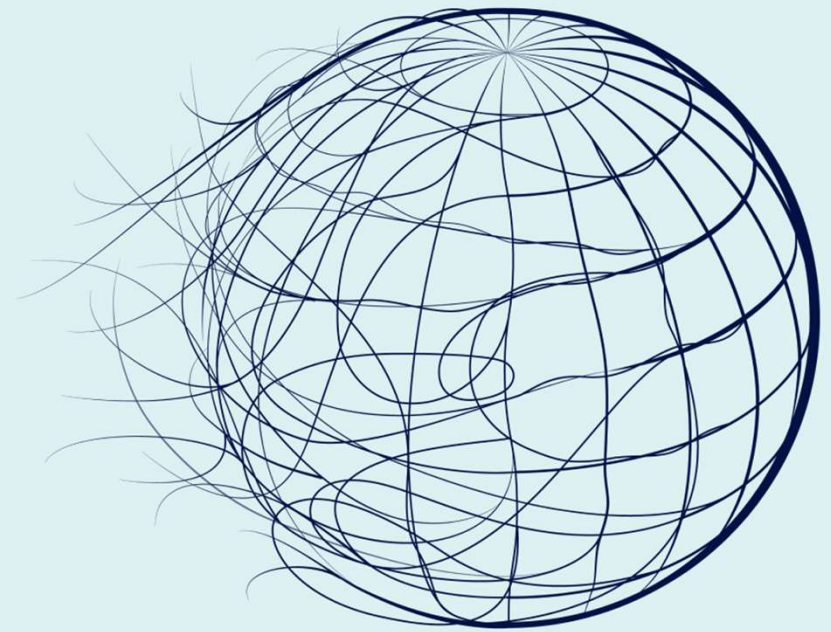


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United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

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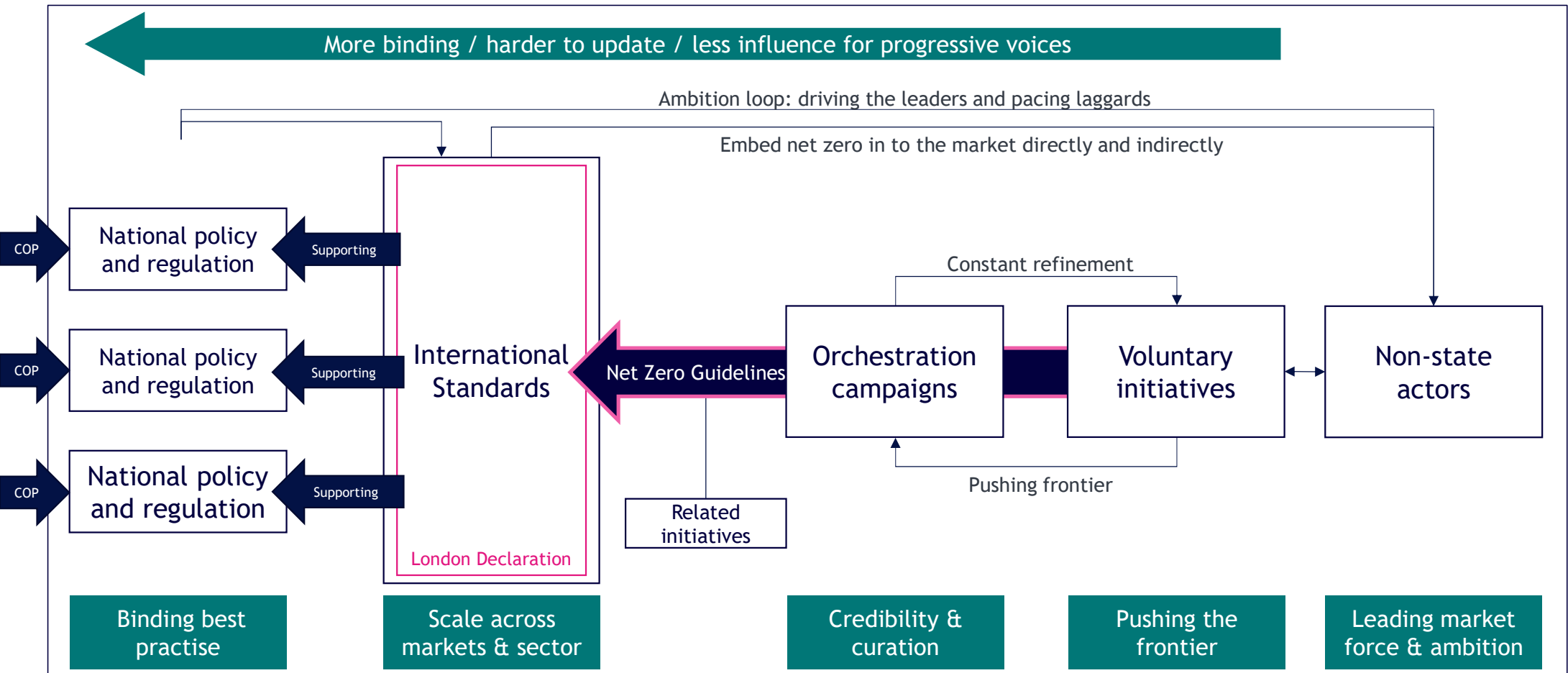
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What are the ISO Net Zero Guidelines?

- A core reference text for credible net zero action to bring clarity to what good looks like
- Draws on the existing landscape of major net zero standards and initiatives
- Can be used by any organization in any jurisdiction
- Aimed to support national, regional, city and individual organizations to accelerate their net zero action



Why were the ISO Net Zero Guidelines developed?



Greenwashing and net zero integrity



The UN called for greater action on the problem of ‘greenwashing’ in climate action and appointed a High-Level Expert Group to investigate this.



In the absence of a clear framework of standards and regulation for net zero, misleading and inaccurate claims have become widespread.



The UN published its *Integrity Matters* report at COP27 which set out recommendations for what must be done to restore integrity to net zero



The ISO Net Zero Guidelines is not just about bringing clarity to net zero action, but also helping to bring clarity to what it is not.

What do the ISO Net Zero Guidelines cover?

7 elements of net zero action



The ISO Net Zero Guidelines provide guidance and recommendations **on every stage of a net zero journey** for all organization types

What do the ISO Net Zero Guidelines say?

On Governance, Leadership and Responsibilities

Public commitment

Prioritizing net zero

**Incorporating net zero into
core governance documents**

**Appointing competent
members to leadership
positions to take responsibility
and oversight**

**Aligning internal processes and
public lobbying**

**Aligning executive and board
compensation with meeting
targets**

What do the ISO Net Zero Guidelines say?

Key topics

Fossil fuels

Transition away from dependence on fossil fuels and apply policies to phase out

Greenhouse gases

All greenhouse gases should be accounted for in your net zero strategy, not just carbon dioxide

Interim targets

Your net zero strategy must have interim targets set at least every 5 years.

Scope 3 emissions

All Scope 3 emissions should be accounted for in interim and long-term targets

Use of offsets

Only removal-based offsets can be used in a net zero strategy

Removals

Removals should be high quality with permanent or sufficiently long-term storage comparable to the lifetime of the GHG emissions to maintain the net zero balance.

What do the ISO Net Zero Guidelines say?

Key topics

Residual emissions

Only the emissions remaining (5-10%) after deep emissions reductions are completed can be counterbalanced using offsets

Fair share

Those with greater historical responsibility and resources should make a proportionately greater contribution and support others to take action.

Nature and biodiversity

Mitigation actions should take into account the need to preserve or enhance ecosystems and biodiversity.

Net zero claims

To claim net zero, only residual emissions should remain, and these should be counterbalanced by removals.

Avoided emissions

Avoided emissions cannot be counted towards your net zero target. Organizations should act as solution providers to others.

Reporting

Leadership should be directly accountable for monitoring and reporting processes. Reporting should be at least annual, include what offsets were used and disclose limitations of data.

How do I begin using the ISO Net Zero Guidelines?



Download the ISO Net Zero Guidelines from iso.org/netzero



Review your net zero strategy against the ISO Net Zero Guidelines recommendations to identify gaps



Use the ISO Net Zero Guidelines recommendations to revise your strategy in line with the global consensus on the gaps you have identified



As needed, consult the standards and initiatives that the ISO Net Zero Guidelines signposts for further methodology

Download the ISO Net Zero Guidelines at iso.org/netzero



Just getting started? Use the Net Zero Guidelines as starting point to understand the key elements of a net zero strategy.



Already taking structured action? Refer to the Net Zero Guidelines as an interpretation guide to understand the different elements of an ambitious net zero strategy.



If your organization sets net zero guidance for others: Adopt the Net Zero Guidelines and use them as a reference text to ensure alignment between your guidance and global best practice and ambition.