



**CLIMATE ACTION FOR  
ASSOCIATIONS.**

# Climate Policy Guidelines

# ABOUT CAFA.



The decarbonisation of businesses poses a significant challenge, and the membership sector is increasingly being called on to spearhead the necessary transition across the various industries and sectors they represent.

Trade associations and professional bodies globally are under mounting pressure from their members, communities, employees, customers, stakeholders, policymakers, and supply chains to take proactive climate leadership.

With the endorsement and support of the UNFCCC and as an official accelerator for the UN-backed Race to Zero campaign, CAFA is dedicated to assisting the membership sector in preparing for their future. We believe that membership organisations are pivotal in accelerating the achievement of universal net zero targets.

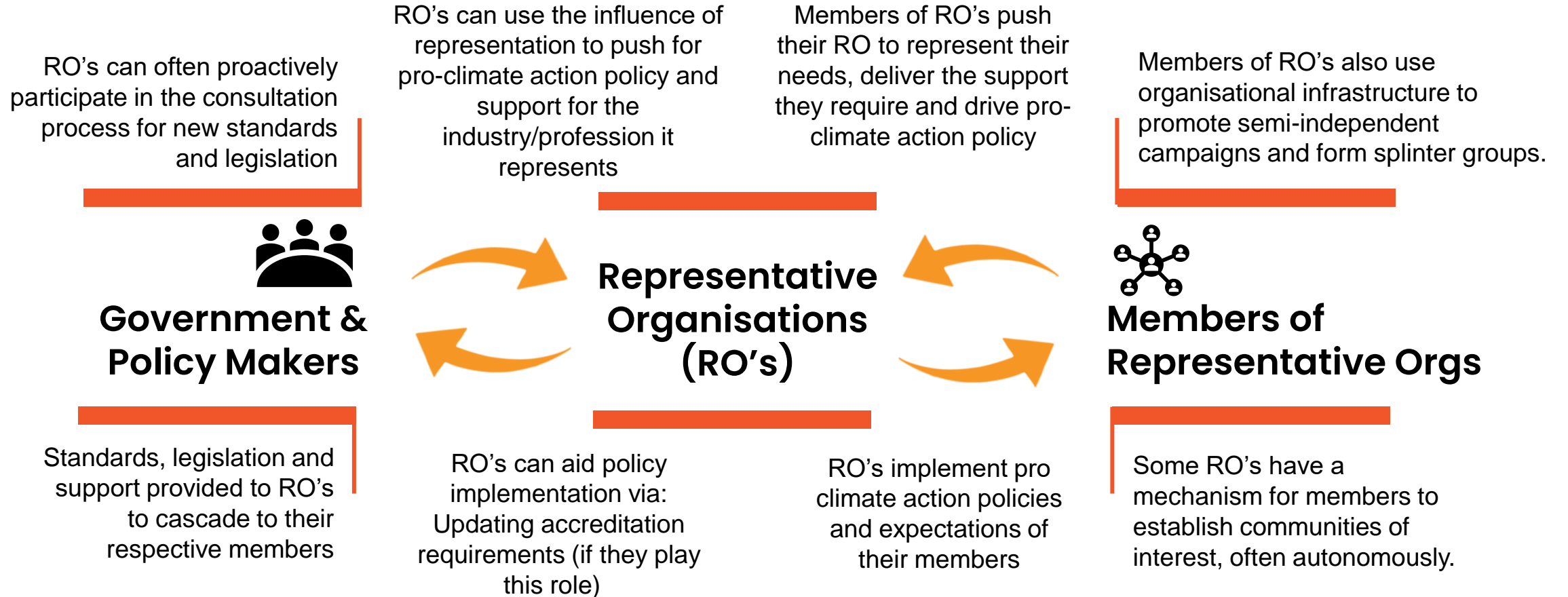
## AIM.

To harness the influence and reach of the membership sector to exponentially accelerate climate action and achieve net zero.

## WHO'S IT FOR? .

Key stakeholders, senior leadership and decision makers, in addition to the individual(s) responsible for carbon emission benchmarking and implementation of policies and procedures within your membership organisation.

# Membership bodies and representative organisations sit at a unique intersection of influence between their membership and the government.



**Climate Action for Associations (CAFA) calls out that membership organisations can and should take a far more ambitious position and proactively lead and shift industries and professions instead of placating their member organisations and/or bowing to pressure from government.**

**In CAFA's experience, more times than not, membership organisations are filled with intent and ambition, many with public good and social impact at the core of their business purpose.**

**However, many also face challenges in operationalizing ambition due to reasons such as the lack of capacity, skill, budget, resources, confidence, and data relating to the climate impact of their members, industry and value chain.**

**We have developed the following multi-stakeholder guiding points for your organization to consider while implementing your climate policies. These guidelines are in alignment with the ISO Net Zero Guidelines.**



# YOUR INTERNAL POLICY POSITION.

- Measure and report on your own internal baseline data and transition plan that is aligned with achieving net zero by 2050 (if not earlier)
- Demonstrate how the implementation of your own ambitious targets creates opportunities for others to follow
- Make your climate commitments clear by issuing and publicly publishing a formal letter or statement on your climate action position.
- Put the right internal structures in place (resources, supporting content, committees or working groups, governance and shareholder disclosures, an internal sustainability officer or champion)
- Implement policy for all employees, SMT, board/council and if relevant volunteers to persuade individual action as well as organisational level of change

# EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FROM YOUR MEMBERS.



**Reach out and proactively engage with your members/keep them up to date with regulations.**

- Proactively engage with and survey your members on their own climate, carbon position and sustainability needs. Collect data to understand their impact and position within the system and supply chain they operate within
- Ask your members to pledge commitment to undertake this journey/get started upon joining the association and encourage them to join the Race to Zero Campaign
- Agree on a process for 1.5 alignment with your current members
- Share knowledge, net zero business models, products and solutions to support your members and to develop cross-sector partnerships
- Build climate action into member engagement strategies including, support, skills, standards, education and training such as resources, content, hub, solutions to support members on the above
- Build 1.5 degree transition plan evidence/alignment into existing member renewal expectations, similar to a standards/CPD requirement style level of expectation
- Evidence/alignment into new member recruitment criteria
- Put in place mechanism to showcase and promote those members who are implementing ambitious targets to inspire others to follow
- Demand members to publish interim and long-term targets; how the organisation is engaging workers, the supply chain, the public and other interested parties. Be transparent about partnerships, manifesto and lobbying position

# YOUR EXTERNAL POLICY POSITION.

- Be clear on external policy change and industry requirements
- Contribute to investor, supplier, consumer and employee engagement and work with peers to transform the economic sectors in which you/your membership operates
- Those that represent business services and high emitting sectors should publicly disclose how its member engagements contribute to net zero and how you are tackling greenwashing across your industry/profession.
- Disclose existing or previous affiliations that may negatively impact pro-climate action position
- Ensure there is alignment between your policies and actions assignment should be assigned at the board level for oversight on climate change lobbying and activities
- Take part in initiatives engaging in climate issues to support and amplify emissions reduction efforts and counteract any efforts against climate action





[climateactionforassociations.org](https://climateactionforassociations.org)