

## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

### **Synthesis of MXene supported Co nanoparticle catalyst for efficient catalytic transfer hydrogenation of nitro compounds with formic acid**

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**Table S1** Co content and textural properties of the various catalysts.

Catalyst	Co content (%) <sup>a</sup>	$S_{\text{BET}}$ ( $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ ) <sup>b</sup>	$V_{\text{total}}$ ( $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ )
NC/MXene	-	313.1	0.25
2.6% Co/MXene	2.6	252.3	0.21
33.0% Co/MXene	33.0	84.8	0.15
3.4% Co/NC	3.4	515.7	0.31

<sup>a</sup>By ICP–AES method. <sup>b</sup>By BET method.

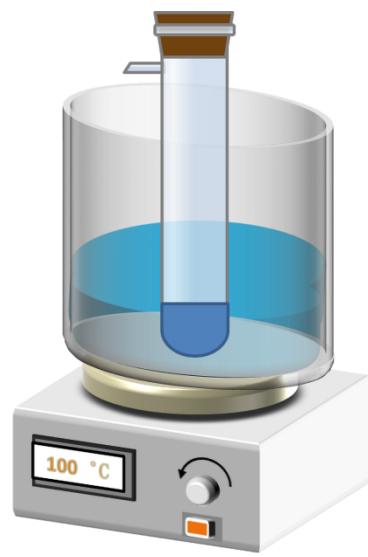
**Table S2** Element analysis results for the various samples analyzed by XPS.

Catalyst	Co (%)	C (%)	N (%)	O (%)	Ti (%)
NC/MXene	-	82.3	3.4	9.8	4.5
2.6% Co/MXene	0.5	82.5	10.4	6.4	0.2
33.0% Co/MXene	1.9	79.4	5.4	10.7	2.6
3.4% Co/NC	0.6	84.6	8.3	6.5	-

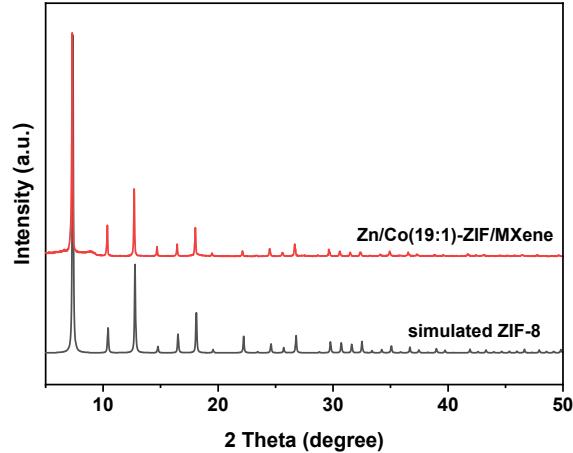
**Table S3** Catalytic performance of the various catalysts for the catalytic transfer hydrogenation of nitrobenzene with FA.

Entry	Catalyst	Conversion (%)	Selectivity (%)
1	Blank	0	-
2	2.6% Co/MXene	100.0	99.9
3	NC/MXene	4.0	100.0
4	33.0% Co/MXene	16.4	100.0
5	3.4% Co/NC	34.5	99.6
6	MXene	0.3	100.0
7	3.0% Co <sub>im</sub> /MXene	41.0	99.1
8	Co(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	0.3	100.0

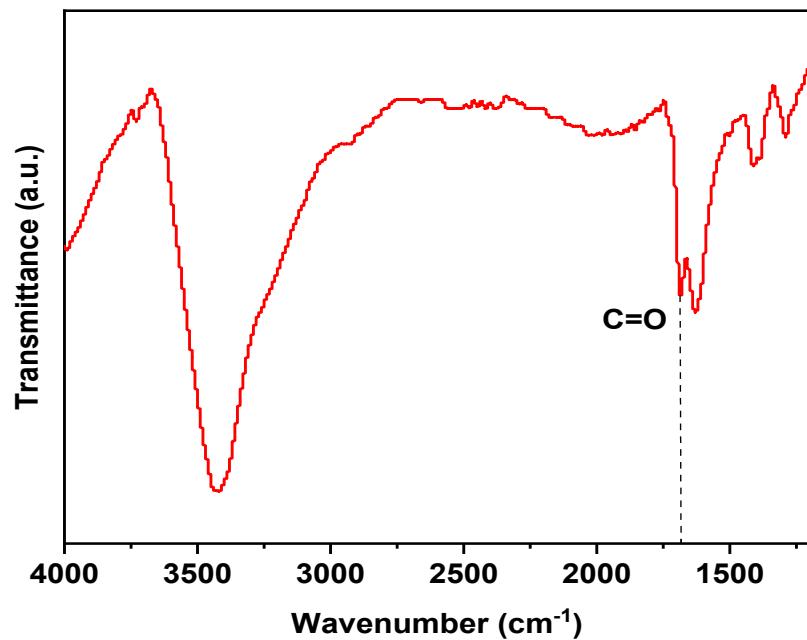
**Reaction conditions:** nitrobenzene (0.5 mmol), toluene (3 mL), catalyst (10 mg), time (4 h), temperature (100 °C), 10 equiv of HCOOH, N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.



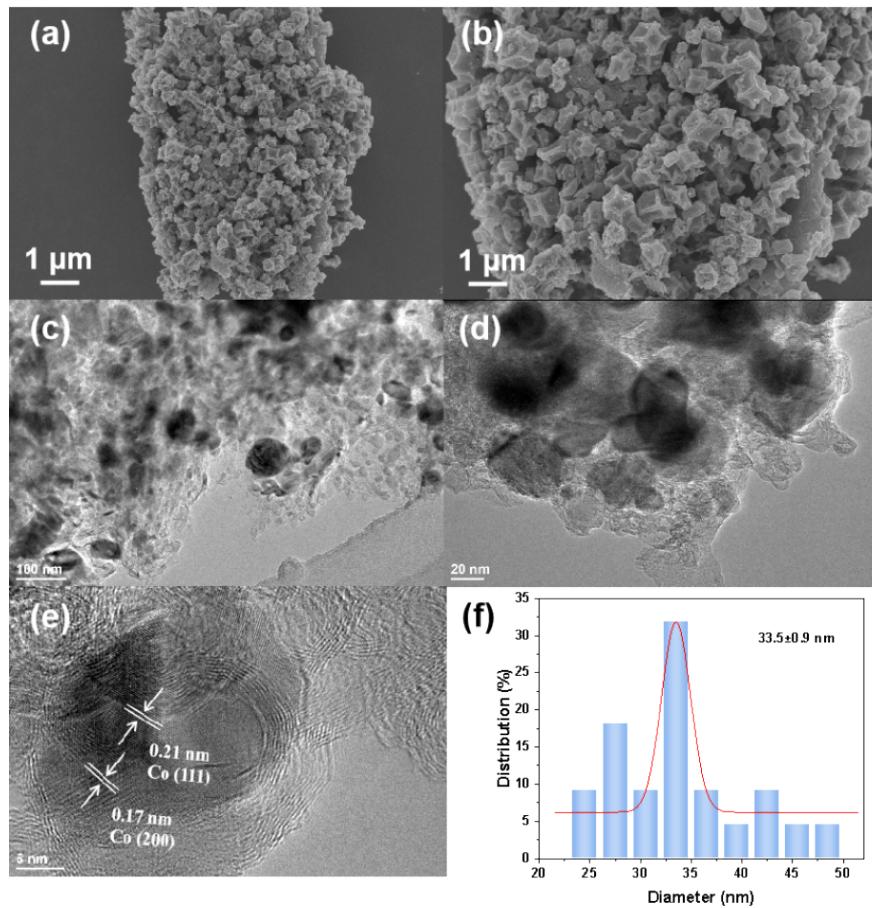
**Figure S1.** Schematic illustration of the experimental setup.



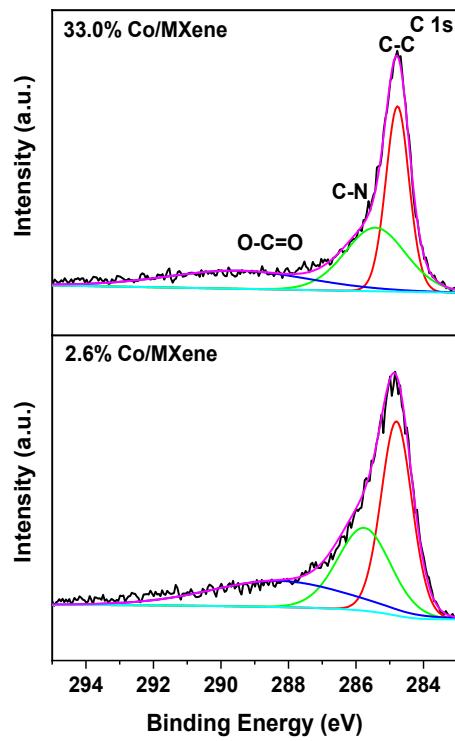
**Figure S2.** XRD patterns of simulated ZIF-8 and synthesized Zn/Co(19:1)-ZIF/MXene.



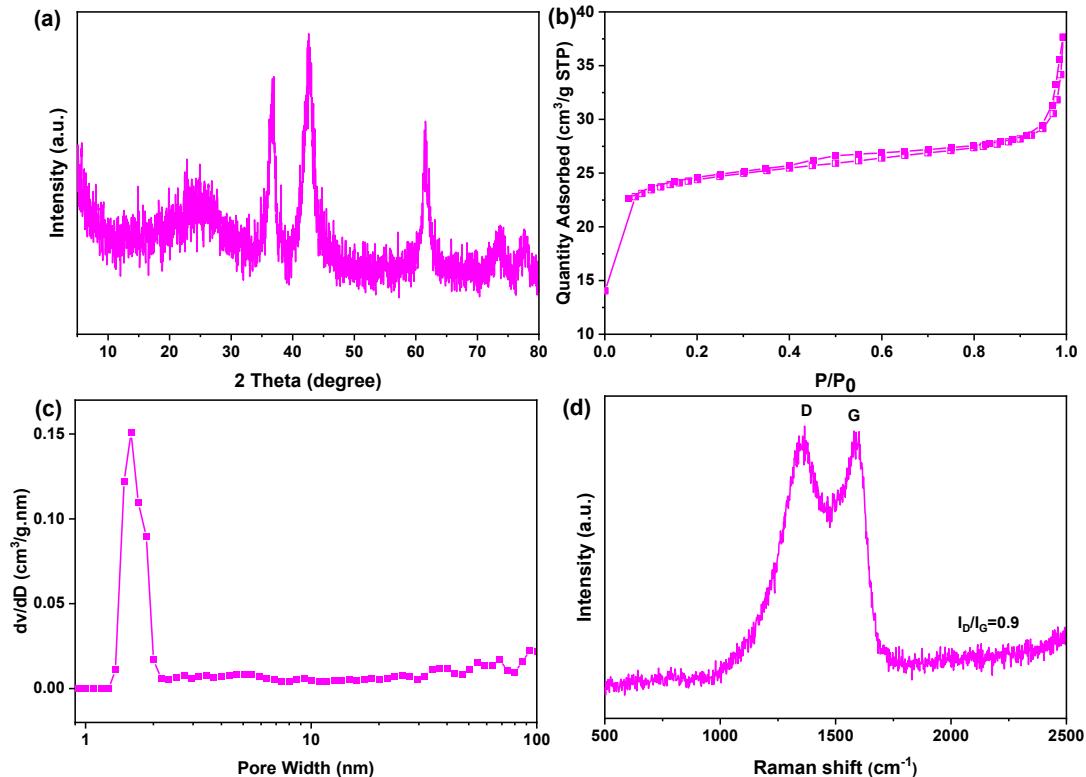
**Figure S3.** FT-IR spectrum of the carboxyl functionalized MXene.



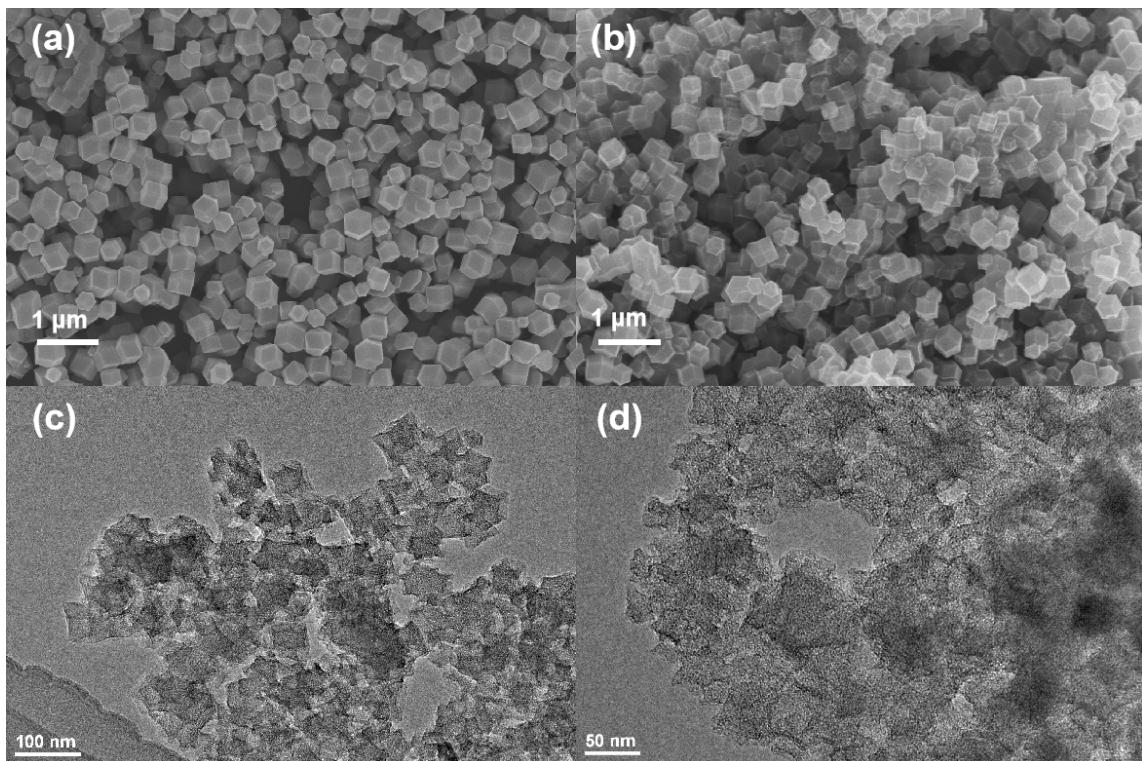
**Figure S4.** SEM and TEM images of 33.0% Co/MXene.



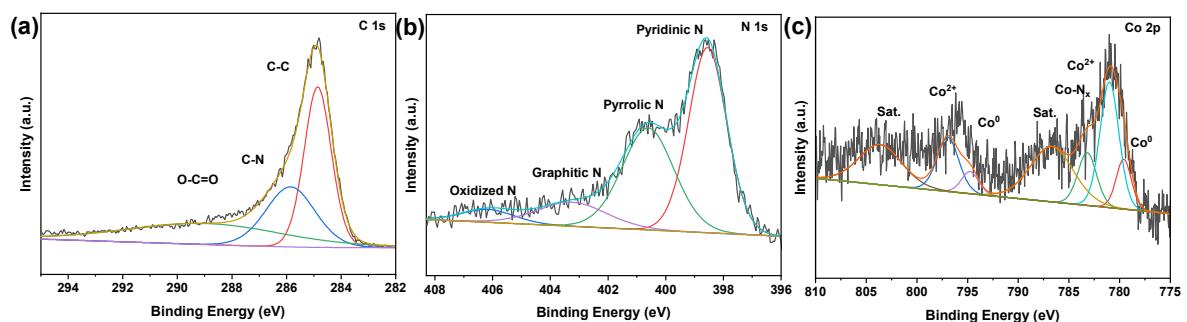
**Figure S5.** XPS spectra of C 1s region of 2.6% Co/MXene and 33.0% Co/MXene.



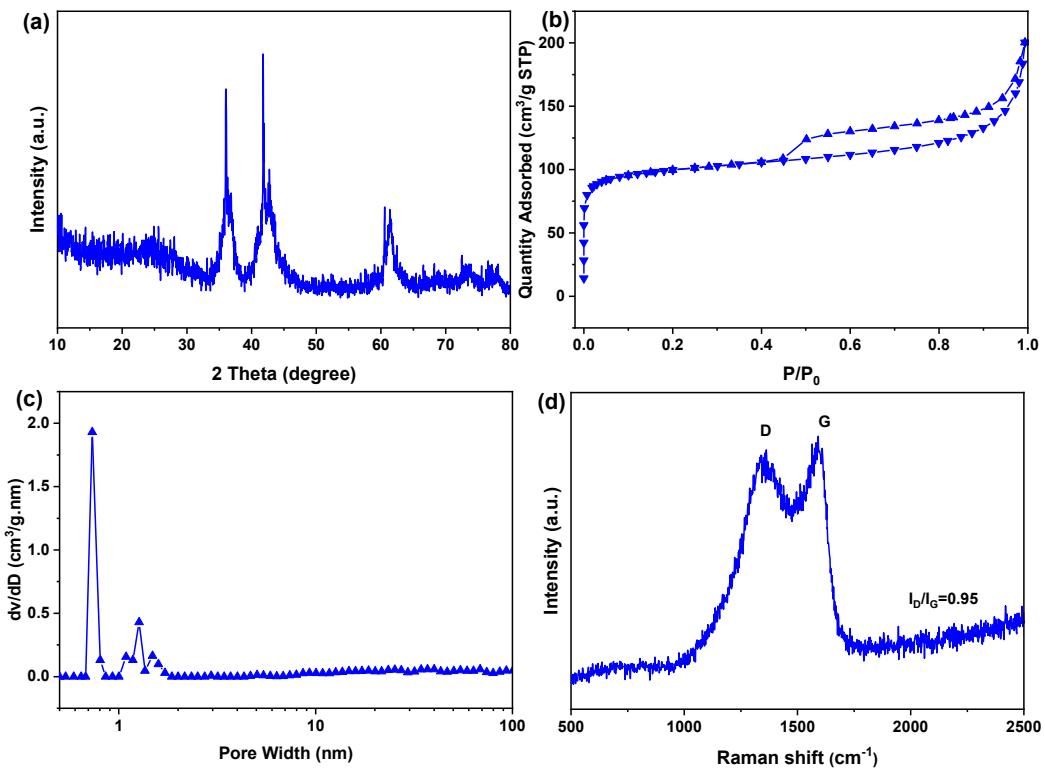
**Figure S6.** XRD pattern (a),  $N_2$  adsorption–desorption isotherms (b), pore size distribution curve (c), and Raman spectrum (d) of 3.4% Co/NC.



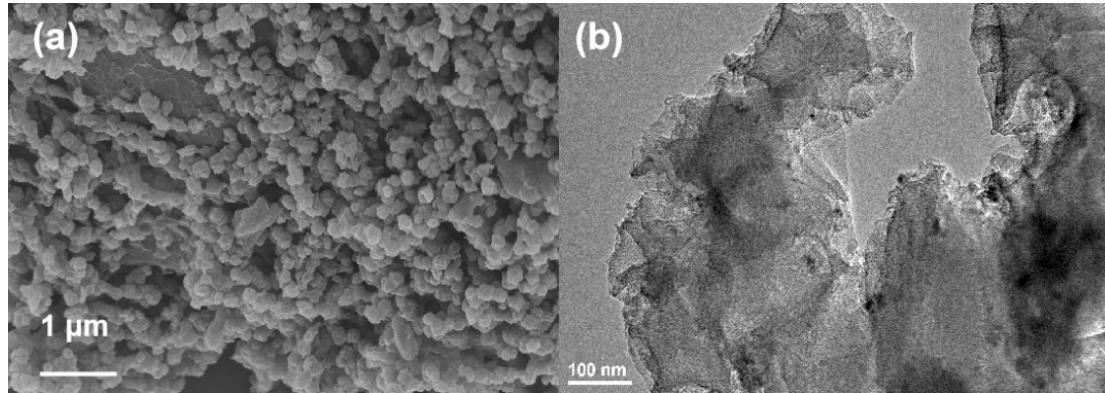
**Figure S7.** SEM and TEM images of 3.4% Co/NC.



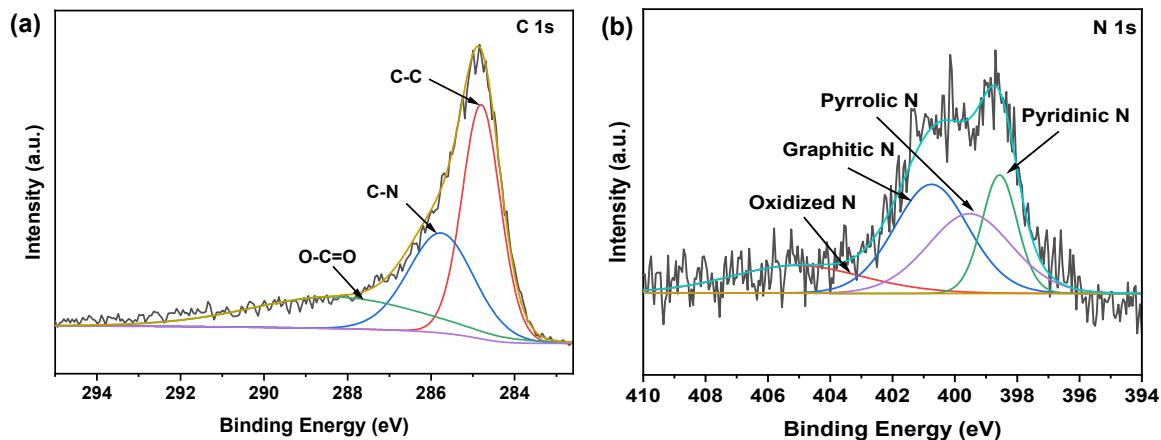
**Figure S8.** XPS spectra of 3.4% Co/NC.



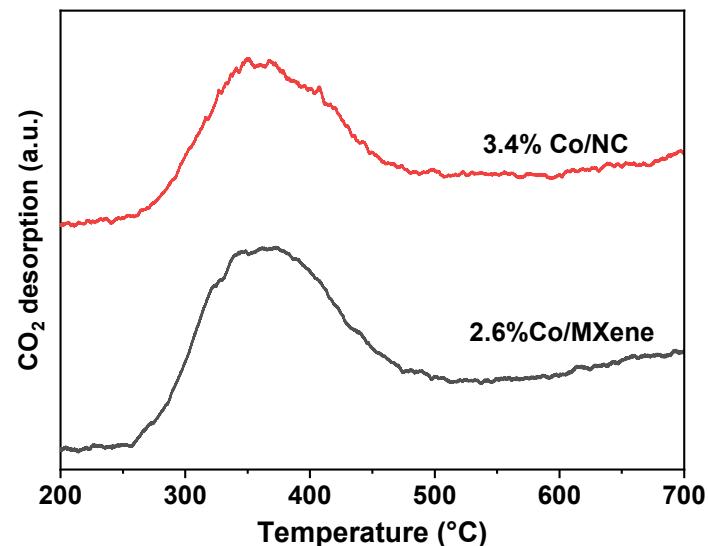
**Figure S9.** XRD pattern (a), N<sub>2</sub> adsorption–desorption isotherms (b), pore size distribution curve (c), and Raman spectra (d) of NC/MXene.



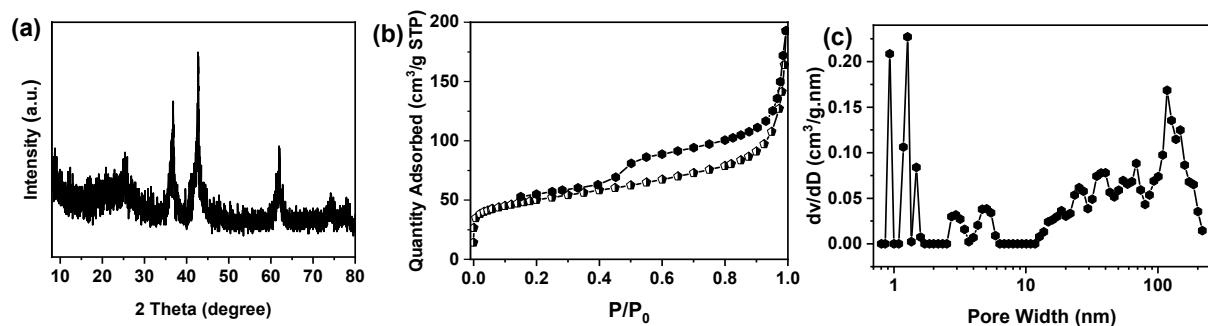
**Figure S10.** SEM and TEM images of NC/MXene.



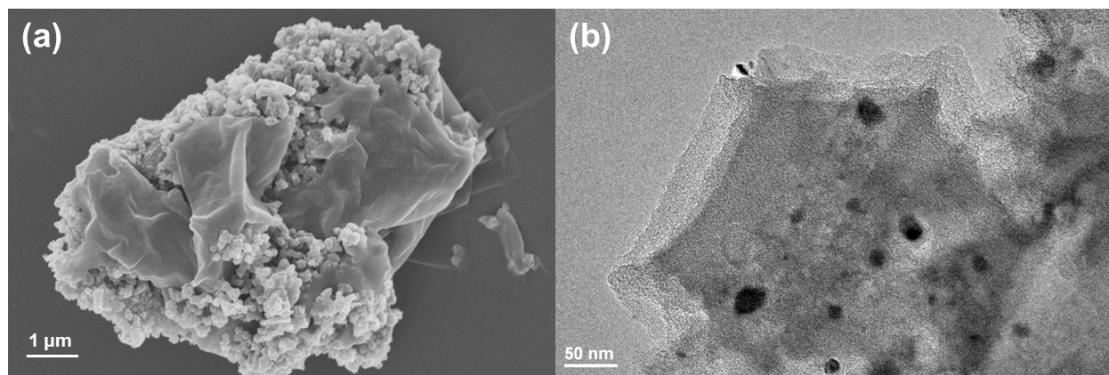
**Figure S11.** XPS spectra of NC/MXene.



**Figure S12.** CO<sub>2</sub>-TPD profiles of 2.6% Co/MXene and 3.4% Co/NC.



**Figure S13.** XRD pattern (a), N<sub>2</sub> adsorption–desorption isotherms (b), pore size distribution curve (c) of the spent 2.6% Co/MXene.



**Figure S14.** SEM and TEM images of the spent 2.6%Co/MXene.

## MS spectra of the typical products

