

Under2 Coalition Governance

Terms of Reference | 2024

Background

- 1.1 The Global Climate Leadership MOU 2021 (Under2 MOU) is a commitment by subnational governments to long-term deep decarbonisation and achieving net zero by 2050 as a Coalition in line with science. Central to this is the public commitment by all signatories to achieve net zero GHG emissions as early as possible.
- 1.2 The Under2 Coalition is a group of jurisdictions that have signed the Under2 MOU and seek to collaborate with global peers to achieve its goals.
- 1.3 The Under2 Coalition is an initiative primarily driven by state, regional and provincial governments collectively referred to as subnational governments.
- 1.4 The Under2 Coalition sets the tone for bold climate leadership and provides an effective global partnership model for parties to the UNFCCC and other relevant global climate processes. Under2 sends a clear signal that net zero by 2050 is achievable, desirable and leads to greater prosperity for all.
- 1.5 To achieve the goals of the Under2 MOU, the Under2 Coalition will be governed by a group of co-chairs and steering group, elected biennially with support from Climate Group as the secretariat.

Co-chairs

- 2.1 The role of the co-chairs is to serve as the high-level executive figureheads of the Under2 Coalition and represent the state and regional governments of their region - promoting its collective vision and goals. Together with the steering group, they guide the strategic and executive direction of the Under2 Coalition.
- 2.2 The co-chair position is held by the region, but implemented in a personal capacity by the government leader, i.e. the respective Premier, First Minister, Governor or (Minister) President of the subnational government.

- 2.3 Co-chairs shall represent each of the five global regions of the Under2 Coalition (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America) and are elected by the state and regional members within that global region.
- 2.4 Co-chairs shall demonstrate ambitious and accountable climate leadership within the Coalition, be a proactive member in the Coalition's programmatic and governance efforts including fundraising, be willing to communicate and advocate internationally about the Coalition's impacts, as well as engage with governments in their global region. This pertains directly to leadership vis-à-vis the strategic pillars of the Coalition i.e. ambition, action, advocacy, and accountability.
- 2.5 As an initiative led by states and regions, state, regional and provincial governments are eligible to nominate themselves for candidacy of co-chair.
- 2.6 The term of the co-chairs will begin at the Annual General Assembly of the Under2 Coalition.
- 2.7 The co-chairs will be elected for a minimum two-year term.
- 2.8 If a co-chair's situation changes, e.g. due to departure from office or change in government leadership, or they are no longer able to undertake the assigned role, the secretariat will seek written confirmation from the new leadership on their commitment to the co-chair role within 90 days of taking office. Should such commitment not be received, the steering group should suggest an interim co-chair to fill the position until the next elections. The recommendation will be circulated to the Under2 Coalition governments within the co-chair global region to rule out potential objections. If no suitable replacement can be found, the position responsibility will be borne by the remaining co-chairs until the next election.
- 2.9 Co-chairs can deputise to key steering group governments from the region to lead on political or policy issues of interest to the region.

Steering group

- 3.1 The role of steering group governments is to determine and oversee the strategic direction of the Under2 Coalition, including inputting on strategic decisions, approving new joiners and taking an active role to strengthen and grow the work of the Under2 Coalition, including supporting major new initiatives and fundraising efforts.
- 3.2 The steering group consists of the five co-chair regions and ideally fifteen additional representatives, with preferably two members per region being represented, from the Under2 Coalition governments. The term is for a minimum of two years.
- 3.3 Steering group positions refer to the jurisdiction and not to individuals.
- 3.4 A high-level elected representative of each steering group government acts as a formal representative in the steering group and is responsible for general oversight of steering group matters. A senior government official may be designated to represent the government in general steering group matters, such as consultations or meetings.

- 3.5 State, regional and provincial governments are eligible to nominate themselves for the steering group.
- 3.6 Steering group government should represent different global regions and show leadership with their climate change objectives and measures. Their governments should play an active role in the Under2 Coalition programmes, e.g. through participation in work streams and projects.
- 3.7 Criteria for confirmation will be geographic representation, performance on achieving climate change objectives and degree of involvement in Under2 activities over the past year.

Global Ambassador

- 4.1 The role of Global Ambassador is to be an external-facing role to raise the awareness of the Coalition's ambitions globally.
- 4.2 The Global Ambassador will encourage new states and regions to join the Coalition, advise on how the Coalition can strengthen its linkages with the formal, international process and support the expansion of the funding base for the Coalition's activities.
- 4.3 The Global Ambassador does not have an administrative role in the governance structure.
- 4.4 There are currently two Global Ambassadors; however, it is envisaged that further appointments may be made on an ad hoc basis in consultation with the steering group.

Members & signatories

- 5.1 Members and signatories to the Under2 MOU are subnational governments that are committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions to net zero greenhouse gas emissions, as early as possible, and to achieve net zero by 2050 as a Coalition.
- 5.2 Interested members and signatories shall express their intent to sign the Under2 MOU in an email and commit to periodically disclose GHG emissions and climate actions to the Climate Group (i.e. through the Under2 Coalition's Ambition Tracker online questionnaire).
- 5.3 Interested members and signatories once confirmed by the steering group will then submit a signature page and the membership agreement (as the case may be) and liaise with the secretariat to formally join the Under2 Coalition.

General Assembly of the Under2 Coalition

- 6.1 The General Assembly of the Under2 Coalition will be held on an annual basis, mostly alongside the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties. Co-chairs and steering group memberssecret may agree with the secretariat to change this based on annual priorities.
- 6.2 All Coalition members and signatories shall be invited to attend the General Assembly.

- 6.3 Governments and partner organisations who are not members or signatories of the Coalition may be invited as observers to the General Assembly, with intentions to sign the Under2 MOU and joining the Coalition and/or to collaborate/partner with the Under2 Coalition for its members' and signatories' benefit.

Secretariat role

- 7.1 Climate Group is secretariat to the Under2 Coalition and provides dedicated support to the co-chairs and steering group members. This includes:

7.1.1 Managing the Coalition's governance, administration and impact work, including fundraising for key projects and programmes to build capacity and impact across workstreams as well as expanding the network through recruitment of new members. The Coalition's workstream and strategic pillars which include ambition, action, advocacy, and accountability.

7.1.2 Written briefings in advance of co-chair and steering group meetings and consultations on new initiatives related to the Under2 Coalition;

7.1.3 Background briefings, communications and other support (as appropriate) in relation to specific activities undertaken by co-chairs and steering group members on behalf of the Under2 Coalition;

7.1.4 The secretariat will submit the composition of the co-chairs and steering group to the General Assembly for approval.

Contact

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