

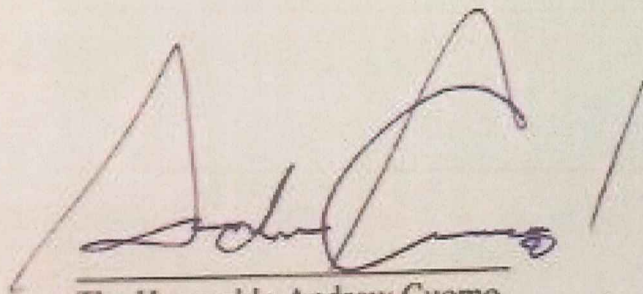
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP**

I. Statement of Purpose

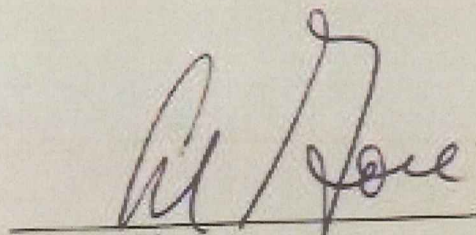
- A. Climate change presents worldwide challenges and risks to environment and economies, impacting human health, increasing extreme weather events, threatening natural resources and triggering forced migration of populations. Impacts from climate change are already inevitable due to the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) already resident in the atmosphere. At the same time, climate change responses and solutions create economic opportunities and benefits through sustainable energy and development. International efforts are necessary to ensure protection of humankind and our planet, and to limit the increase in global average temperature to below 2°C. To achieve this will require substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades and near zero emissions of CO₂ and other long-lived GHGs by the end of the century.

[(Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - Fifth assessment report (AR5))]

- B. Governments at all levels need act now to reduce GHG emissions in order to achieve long-term climate balance. Entities need to harness new technologies, policies, financing mechanisms, and economic incentives to reduce emissions while developing common metrics to measure their progress. Governments must also increase the resilience of infrastructure and natural systems to growing climate impacts.
- C. While the signatories to this MOU (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties") acknowledge and affirm support of international activities and declarations to respond to climate change (including the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), the Montreal Declaration (2009), the Cancun Statement (2011), and the Lyon Declaration (2011)), international efforts on climate change to date have been inadequate to address the scale of the challenge we face. Despite limited progress in cooperation among nations, sub-national jurisdictions—including provinces, states, and cities—have led the world in setting ambitious climate targets and taking actions to reduce GHG emissions and protect against climate impacts.
- D. By working together and building on agreements such as the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro 2012 (Federated States and Regional Governments Committed to a New Paradigm for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication), subnational governments, together with interested nations, can help to accelerate the world's response to climate change and provide a model for broader international cooperation among nations.



The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
State of New York



Witnessed by
Former Vice President Al Gore