

# — Under2 Coalition 2021 MOU

## Frequently asked questions | October 2021

We are delighted to announce that under the leadership of the Under2 Coalition Co-chairs and Steering Group, a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been adopted, which will pave the way for us becoming a **net zero coalition** by 2050 at the latest. The new MOU can be found here:

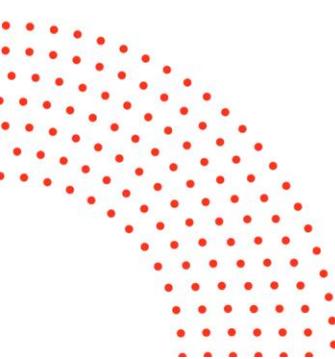
<https://www.theclimategroup.org/under2-memorandum-understanding> and will also be available in multiple languages (Simplified Chinese, Korean, German, Italian, French, Latin American Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Bahasa Indonesian).

Adopting this level of commitment puts the Under2 Coalition once again at the front and centre of global efforts to tackle climate change. We were instrumental in pushing for greater action before the signing of the Paris Agreement and now, ahead of COP26 in Glasgow, we are calling on all governments, everywhere, to join us in this new ambition and sign the new MOU. It is only through strong, joint action that we will see the changes we need while achieving a just transition that leaves no one behind.

### **What is the difference between the 2015 commitment and the 2021 commitment levels?**

The 2015 Global Climate Leadership MOU set a standard for leadership that was sufficient for the Paris Agreement in 2015 i.e. 80 – 95% emissions reduction below 1990 levels by 2050 or below 2 tons per capita emissions by 2050, as per the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Fifth assessment report (AR5). The 2021 Global Climate Leadership MOU aligns with the most recent science, as given in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C.

It acknowledges that more needs to be done and holds signatories to “pursuing an emissions reductions trajectory consistent with achieving net zero emissions by 2050 as a Coalition, and individual net zero emissions as soon as possible, in line with the most recent science”. In addition to long-term 2050 goals, the 2021 Global Climate Leadership (Under2) MOU offers guidance to signatories to “undertake their own unique set of actions and plans towards supportive interim targets, preferably towards or beyond a fair share of 45% global reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030 over 2010 levels or equivalent goals, to the maximum extent possible”, offering a clear sense of the near-term goals that the Coalition needs to work towards.



### **Why have you chosen this time to launch a new MoU?**

COP26 is the best – perhaps last – chance to make meaningful changes that will slow the pace of climate change. We need to show leadership at this moment in time by being as ambitious as we can be. State and regional adoption of net zero targets is an important place to start.

### **How can our state/region/province sign the 2021 Under2 MOU?**

We invite all existing signatories, as well as, new states, regions and provinces that would like to share their leadership, to sign the 2021 MOU. You can find the English version of MOU here: [https://www.theclimategroup.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/Under2%20MOU\\_English\\_2021.pdf](https://www.theclimategroup.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/Under2%20MOU_English_2021.pdf) and request you to refresh your commitment at the highest possible political level i.e. Governor or Minister level.

If you are interested in signing the refreshed 2021 Under2 MOU, contact the Under2 Coalition Secretariat team. We will regularly keep the members updated on opportunities to sign and announce their signatures.

The next opportunity to sign and announce your refreshed commitment will be the Under2 Coalition General Assembly, on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

### **How long does our state/region/province have to consider signing the Under2 MOU?**

If you are unable to sign by the 2021 Under2 Coalition General Assembly, we request you to kindly update us on the approval timelines for your government. We understand that there are approval processes, and we are allowing 12 months for all governments to have the 2021 MOU approved and sign at the Minister/Governor level.

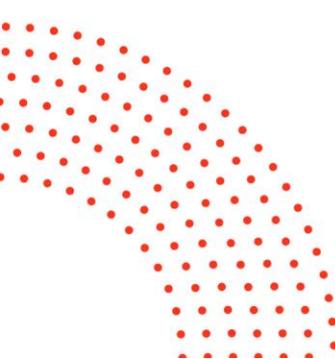
We will work closely with members to understand their individual circumstances, please let us know if you think it will take your state/region or province longer than 12 months from October 2021 to sign the refreshed 2021 Under2 MOU.

### **Is there a deadline for existing members to sign the new MoU?**

We would like all members to sign within the next 12 months, but we would encourage them to sign by the end of the year to keep up the net zero momentum and signal strong ambition on behalf of states, regions and provinces at COP26.

### **Does our government need to announce or legislate a net zero by 2050 target to sign the 2021 Under2 MOU?**

The 2021 Under2 MOU requires all governments to act as climate leaders to the maximum extent possible and achieve net zero by 2050 as a Coalition, and individual net zero as soon as possible. We understand that means that some governments can achieve net zero emissions before 2050, while others after 2050. A government



does not need to have a target legislated before signing the 2021 Under2 MOU, however, we do expect governments to pursue this target as soon as possible, whether in policy or legislation, as soon as possible, once the 2021 Under2 MOU has been signed. The 2021 Under2 MOU is a strong global signal that your state/region/province is committed to the highest standard of leadership and intend to be held accountable for it.

**Does our state/province/region/government need to physically sign the MOU and send it in?**

Physically signing the MOU is an important token moment to signal political level commitment and leadership from your political leadership. We encourage using key moments such as regional members meetings, events, Under2 Coalition General Assemblies, and other relevant events to sign the MOU physically and share with us.

At the Under2 Coalition General Assembly in November 2021, there will be an opportunity for governments to sign the 2021 Under2 MOU.

**How will our joining date to the Coalition be impacted if we sign the 2021 Under2 MOU?**

The joining date for signatories to the MOU will remain unchanged. However, we will represent on the Under2 Coalition website, which signatories are committed to the 2021 Under2 MOU and those committed to the 2015 Under2 MOU.

**How will our state/region/province be reflected on the website once we've signed the 2021 Under2 MOU?**

We will be recognising each government based on the version of MOU they've signed. We will be listing signatories on the basis of the 2015 MOU and the 2021 MOU in two separate sections on the same signatories webpage on the website.

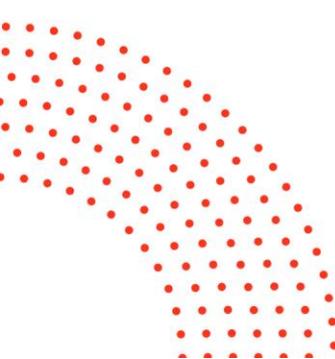
**What if our state/region/province signs the new MOU, what date of joining would it show on the website?**

The date of joining the Coalition would not change if your government signs the refreshed 2021 Under2 MOU. Signing the new 2021 Under2 MOU is simply a refresh of your commitment to the Coalition.

**What is the process to sign or join the Coalition if I am a new state or region for the Coalition?**

We invite all states and regions to sign on to this new commitment, which includes a net zero emissions ambition, and become signatories of the Under2 Coalition. Please see how the process works step by step below:

1. Read carefully the new Under2 MOU text to see if your government complies and let us know if you have any questions.



2. Once ready to sign, please contact us to confirm your intention to join the Under2 Coalition. The Under2 Coalition Steering Group formally approves all new joiners on a no objection basis. The next meeting is taking place on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
3. Return to us a signed (digital) copy of the MOU which must be signed by a political leader, preferably President/Governor or the Minister of your government.
4. If you wish to sign the Under2 MOU also in person, the next opportunity to do so is during the [Under2 Coalition General Assembly](#) on 7<sup>th</sup> November in Glasgow, where we will provide an official signing table and photo opportunity. Please register via this [registration form](#) by 28<sup>th</sup> October to confirm participation.
5. Becoming a member of the Under2 Coalition brings benefits and access to global climate projects and events. We're happy to share the membership offer with your government when you get in touch.

#### **Will there be an opportunity to sign during the Under2 General Assembly?**

If you wish to sign the Under2 MOU also in person, the next opportunity to do so is during the [Under2 Coalition General Assembly](#) on 7<sup>th</sup> November in Glasgow, where we will provide an official signing table and photo opportunity. Please register via this [registration form](#) by 28<sup>th</sup> October to confirm participation.

#### **What happens if our government cannot sign?**

We encourage all existing signatories to sign the 2021 Under2 MOU. This is important to reflect the leadership for which the Coalition was founded and stands in the community of non-state actors.

If however, your government cannot sign or approve the new 2021 Under2 MOU, we would like to understand that more. Please get in touch with our team if that is the case.

Further, please note, that your government will be reflected as a signatory to the 2015 Under2 MOU commitment on the website.

#### **Does my government have to sign the 2021 Under2 MOU to take part in Under2 Coalition projects and initiatives?**

The Under2 Coalition is undergoing a transition towards becoming a net zero coalition to deliver on our highest potential. Under2 Coalition projects, workstreams, policy initiatives and events are increasingly focussed on the new level of commitment. Bearing that in mind, our efforts will increasingly prioritise supporting states, regions and provinces in achieving net zero emissions, as laid out in the new 2021 Under2 MOU. Therefore, to take full and best advantage of our projects and initiatives, we encourage all signatories to refresh their commitment and sign the new 2021 Under2 MOU.

## **Does signing the Under2 MOU mean my government automatically joins the Race to Zero?**

Once your government has signed the 2021 Under2 MOU, please follow the following steps to be eligible for the Race to Zero campaign:

1. Make a public commitment at the head of government level with 2050 and 2030 targets – this can be through legislation or through an announcement/statement, preferably backed with strong legislation or plans for legislating the target.
2. Submit evidence of the public commitment to net zero to the Under2 Coalition Secretariat through the Under2 Coalition Ambition Tracker, including any updates to the target including new plans, documents, papers and progress figures to be re-submitted through the survey when released. Governments included in the Race to Zero campaign must continue to report their progress annually through this form to continue meeting the required criteria.
3. Take part in [Net Zero Futures](#), participate in the dialogue series and receive profile as a state and regional Net Zero Leader, as well as profile through the Race to Zero campaign.
4. The Under2 Coalition Secretariat will assess pledges and submit governments to the Race to Zero database. Once the state/region is in Race to Zero, the Under2 Coalition Secretariat will share the Race to Zero Member Toolkit to guide their announcements and communications.

