



Global Climate Leadership Under2 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

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 occurring due to 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 essential to ensure protection of humankind and our planet, and to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C with best efforts to achieve 1.5°C. This requires substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades, including global net CO₂ decline of 45% by 2030 (from 2010 levels), reaching net zero emissions of CO₂ by 2050 and all GHGs about two decades later.

(Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C)

- B. Governments at all levels need to 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), the Lyon Declaration (2011) and the Paris Agreement, and especially decision

1/CP.21 (2015)), international efforts on climate change to date have been inadequate to address the scale of the challenge we face. Sub-national jurisdictions—including provinces, states, regions, 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.
- E. In May 2015, Parties established the Under2 Coalition, a network of states and regions committed to ambitious climate action, for which the Climate Group acts as Secretariat.

II. Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- A. In line with the Paris Agreement, the guiding principle for reduction of GHG emissions by 2050 must be to limit global warming to no more than 1.5°C. For Parties to this MOU, this means acting as climate leaders and 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.
- B. In order to achieve this ambitious 2050 target, measurable progress must be made in the near-term to establish the trajectory of reductions needed. Midterm targets, including commitments for 2030 or earlier are critical. Recognizing that each party has unique challenges and opportunities, this agreement does not prescribe a specific path for 2030. Rather, Parties agree 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 CO₂ emissions by 2030 over 2010 levels or equivalent goals, to the maximum extent possible.
- C. Parties aim at broadly reducing emissions across sectors of the economy to achieve the GHG emission reduction goals. Parties set forth their 2030 goals and targets for these and other critical areas by pursuing their own unique set of actions and plans and reporting them publicly and to the Under2 Coalition Secretariat – the Climate Group.
- D. Specific areas of action, coordination, and cooperation:

The Parties agree that for actions related to this MOU, coordination and cooperation will be beneficial and will strengthen the efforts of participating states. The Parties agree to work together on solutions that provide near-and long-term environmental and economic co-benefits, including joint efforts where possible. The Parties may expand the list of specific areas of action set forth in this subsection from time to time. The following is a non-exhaustive list of issues of interest for cooperation and coordination among the Parties:

1. Energy:

The Parties agree to share information and experience on redesign of the power supply and grid, technical solutions and advances in promoting large-scale switch to renewable energy and the integration of renewable energy sources, actions needed to ensure security of supply, strategies to promote energy efficiency and strategies on transitioning away from the use of fossil fuels.

2. Heavy Industry:

The Parties agree to share information and experience on decarbonising highly industrialised economies and develop strategies to cut emissions from the industrial sector while supporting growth, job creation and prosperity.

3. Traffic and Transport:

The Parties agree to take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger and freight vehicles, with the goal of broad adoption of “zero emission vehicles” and development of related zero emission infrastructure. The Parties agree to encourage land use planning and development that supports alternate modes of transit, especially public transit, biking, and walking.

4. Nature and Land Use:

The Parties agree to collaborate on methods to reduce emissions from natural resources, deforestation, agriculture, and waste, which exist at the nexus of climate mitigation and adaptation activity. Parties will share information about management techniques to sequester carbon and protect natural infrastructure including nature-based solutions and climate-smart agriculture. Parties will share technologies to reduce waste or convert waste to secondary raw materials or to energy.

5. Science and Technology:

The Parties agree to collaborate and coordinate on scientific assessment efforts and share information and experience in technology development and deployment. Parties seek to help others learn from experience to maximize success of technological transitions and avoid potential obstacles.

6. Communication and Public Participation:

The Parties agree to collaborate and coordinate on messaging, transparency, accountability, public outreach around climate change, mitigation of GHG emissions, adaptation, and the subject matter of this MOU.

7. Short-lived Climate Pollutants:

The Parties agree to collaborate on the reduction of short-lived climate pollutants such as black carbon and methane, which will provide near-term air quality benefits, while also reducing potent climate forcing pollutants.

8. Inventory, Monitoring, Accounting, Transparency:

The Parties agree to work towards consistent monitoring, reporting, and verification across jurisdictions including but not limited to through the Under2 Coalition Secretariat – the Climate Group.

9. Finance and Investment:

The Parties agree to work to share and collaborate on innovative financial policy models to support greenhouse gas emissions reduction. The Parties may work with private sector actors to increase private investment in climate mitigation and adaptation mechanisms.

III. Adaptation and Resilience

- A. The Parties agree to collaborate on actions to promote adaptation and resilience, with an eye toward maximizing benefits for both GHG emission reduction and climate adaptation.
- B. Parties will share best practices in modelling and assessment to understand projected climate impacts, especially at the regional and local scale. Entities will share best practices in integrating these findings into planning and investment.
- C. Parties will work together to build metrics and indicators that can help to track progress in reducing the risk of climate change to people, natural systems, and infrastructure.

- D. In working to reduce climate risk, Parties will look to natural or “green” infrastructure solutions that maximize ecological benefits while providing protection. Parties will share best practices in designing and deploying these solutions.
- E. Parties to this MOU will work to share innovative models for financing and supporting climate adaptation, including public-private partnerships, resilience funds, and competitive approaches.

IV. Means of Implementation

The Parties each act with urgency towards their own strategies to implement and achieve their goals and targets. While some strategies will be unique to particular Parties, others can be shared and/or modified by other Parties, including through Under2 Coalition projects.

- A. Parties agree to collaborate and coordinate to advance respective interim targets consistent with 2050 goals and climate actions at the annual Under2 Coalition General Assembly, the annual session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other international climate events.
- B. Parties agree to share and promote effective financing mechanisms domestically and internationally to the extent feasible.
- C. Parties agree to share technology to the extent feasible, such as through open source information.
- D. Parties agree to help build capacity for action and technology adaptation through technology transfer and expertise to the extent feasible.
- E. Parties agree to engage in programmes and projects developed by other Parties and/or the Climate Group, as Secretariat to the Coalition, to the extent feasible.
- F. Parties agree to review the on-going relevance of the MOU every five years, in line with the Paris Agreement’s five-year cycle of increasingly ambitious climate action.

This MOU is neither a contract nor a treaty.

Signed on behalf of Government of:

Name of signatory:

Title:

Date: