

Under2 Coalition Governance

Attachment A: Terms of Reference | October 2017

1. Background

- 1.1 The Under2 MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is a commitment by sub-national governments to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions towards net-zero by 2050. Central to this is the public commitment by all signatories to reduce their GHG emissions by 80-95% on 1990 levels, or to 2 metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent per capita, by 2050.
- 1.2 The Under2 Coalition is a group of jurisdictions who 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. However, jurisdictions at all levels of government are encouraged to sign or endorse the Under2 MOU, thus committing to deep decarbonization in their jurisdictions.
- 1.4 The Under2 Coalition sets the tone for bold climate leadership and provides an effective global partnership model for parties to the UNFCCC. 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 Co-Chairs and a Steering Group with the support from The Climate Group as the Secretariat.

2. Co-Chairs

- 2.1 The role of the Co-Chairs is to serve as the high-level regional figureheads of the Under2 Coalition, representing the state and regional signatories and promoting its collective vision and goals. Together with the Steering Group, they guide the strategic 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 sub-national government.
- 2.3 Co-Chairs shall represent each of the global continents of the Under2 Coalition (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, North America and Latin America).
- 2.4 As an initiative led by states and regions, state, regional and provincial government signatories are eligible to nominate themselves for candidacy of co-chair. City and local government signatories and national government endorsers are not eligible to nominate themselves to the position of co-chair.
- 2.5 The Co-Chairs will be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of the Under2 Coalition at COP, preferably by consensus, but if not possible by simple majority vote.
- 2.6 The Co-Chairs will be elected for a minimum two-year term.
- 2.7 If a Co-Chair's situation changes and they are no longer able to undertake the assigned role, the Steering Group should suggest an interim Co-Chair to fill the position until the next elections. The recommendation will be circulated to all Under2 Coalition members to rule out potential objections.
- 2.8 Ahead of formal elections in 2018, the five regional Co-Chairs of the States & Regions Alliance's together with the two founders of the Under2 MOU will lead the Under2 Coalition internationally and oversee global governance.

3. Steering Group

- 3.1 The role of Steering Group members is to determine and oversee the strategic direction of the Under2 Coalition including input on strategic decisions, approval of new signatories and endorsers and taking an active role to strengthen and grow the work of the Under2 Coalition including support major new initiatives.
- 3.2 The Steering Group consists of the seven Co-Chair regions and a maximum of ten additional representatives (two per continent) from the Under2 Coalition member governments. The term is for a maximum 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 member region acts as a formal representative in the Steering Group and is responsible for general oversight of Steering Group matters. A 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 government signatories are eligible to nominate themselves for candidacy of Steering Group members. City and local government signatories and national government endorsers are not eligible to nominate themselves to the position of Steering Group members.
- 3.6 Steering Group members should represent different continents and show leadership with their climate change objectives and measures. Their governments should play an active role in the Under2 Coalition programs, e.g. through participation in work streams and projects.
- 3.7 Criteria for selection will be geographic representation, performance on achieving climate change objectives and degree of involvement in Under2 activities over the past year.
- 3.8 Ahead of formal elections in 2018, the sixteen Steering Group members of the States & Regions Alliance will oversee the strategic direction of the Under2 Coalition.

4. Global Ambassador

- 4.1 The Global Ambassador is an external-facing role to raise the awareness of the Coalition's ambitions globally.
- 4.2 The Global Ambassador will encourage new signatories and endorsers 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 a formal role in the governance structure.

5. Signatories

- 5.1 Signatories to the Under2 MOU are sub-national governments that are committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% on 1990 levels, or to 2 annual metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent per capita, by 2050.
- 5.2 Signatories are categorized as follows:
 - 5.2.1 State and regional signatories
 - 'State and regional signatories' refers to jurisdictions that are one level below national governments, including states, regions and provinces
 - 5.2.2 City and local government signatories

- ‘Cities and local government signatories’ refers to cities, counties and all administrative divisions below state and regional level.
- 5.3 Interested signatories shall express their intent to sign the Under2 MOU in an email and commit to annually disclose GHG emissions and climate actions to The Climate Group (i.e. through CDP's online questionnaire). This will be submitted along with an appendix that sets forth their jurisdiction's unique set of actions and plans for reaching their emissions reduction goals which will be evaluated by the Steering Group against set criteria.
- 5.4 Interested signatories whose applications are approved by the Steering Group will then submit a signature page and liaise with the secretariat to formally join the Under2 Coalition.

6. Endorsers

- 6.1 Typically, Endorsers to the Under2 MOU are national governments.
- 6.2 Interested governments shall express their intent to endorse the Under2 MOU in an email which will be evaluated by the Steering Group against set criteria.
- 6.3 By way of endorsing the Under2 MOU, governments may indicate a range of intentions including:
- Support the work of states, provinces and regions within its boundaries in their efforts to reach emissions targets; and/or
 - Encourage subnational jurisdictions within its boundaries to sign the Under2 MOU; and/or
 - Commit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% on 1990 levels, or to 2 metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent per capita, by 2050 within their jurisdiction and/or undertake direct actions within its jurisdiction to reduce emissions and support the goals of the Under2 MOU and/or
 - Provide funding and resources to support the programmatic work of the Coalition.

7. General Meeting of the Under2 Coalition

- 7.1 The General Meeting of the Under2 Coalition will be held on an annual basis around the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties or other major global climate event.
- 7.2 All Coalition signatories and endorsers shall be invited to attend the General Meeting.
- 7.3 Jurisdictions who are not members of the Coalition may be invited as observers to the General Meeting, in view of signing the Under2 MOU and joining the Coalition.

8. Secretariat role

- 8.1 The Climate Group is Secretariat to the Under2 Coalition and provides dedicated support to the Co-Chairs and Steering Group members. This includes:
- 8.1.1 Written briefings in advance of Co-Chair and Steering Group meetings and consultations on new initiatives related to the Under2 Coalition;
- 8.1.2 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;
- 8.1.3 The Secretariat will submit the composition of the Co-Chairs and Steering Group to the General Meeting for approval.



SECRETARIAT THE CLIMATE GROUP



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