

GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP
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 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.

II. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

- A. The guiding principle for reduction of GHG emissions by 2050 must be to limit global warming to less than 2°C. For Parties to this MOU this means pursuing emission reductions consistent with a trajectory of 80 to 95 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 and/or achieving a per capita annual emission goal of less than 2 metric tons by 2050.

- 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 in Appendix A to reach 2030 reduction goals and related targets.
- C. Parties aim at broadly increasing energy efficiency and a comprehensive development of renewable energy to achieve the GHG emission goals. Parties set forth their 2030 goals and targets for these and other critical areas in Appendix A.
- 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 sub-section 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, and strategies to promote energy efficiency.

2. 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.

3. Natural Resource Protection and Waste Reduction:

The Parties agree to collaborate on methods to reduce emissions from the natural resources and waste sectors, 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. Parties will share technologies to reduce waste or convert waste to secondary raw materials or to energy.

4. 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.

5. Communication and Public Participation:

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

6. 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.

7. Inventory, Monitoring, Accounting, Transparency:

The Parties agree to work towards consistent monitoring, reporting, and verification across jurisdictions, and will work through mechanisms such as the Compact of States and Regions and the Compact of Mayors to that end.

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 modeling 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 have 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.

- A. Parties agree to collaborate and coordinate to advance respective interim targets consistent with 2050 goals and climate actions at the annual Conference of Parties 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.

This MOU is neither a contract nor a treaty.

V. Addendum

A. The Parties to this MOU agree to the following addendum:

The Parties to this MOU aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.