

Under2 Coalition

Signatory and Endorser Criteria and Process | December 2018

Introduction

This briefing note outlines the criteria used by the Under2 Coalition’s Steering Group to evaluate new signatories and endorsers that have expressed interest in signing the Under2 MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

The Under2 Coalition is driven by a group of ambitious state and regional governments committed to keeping global temperature rises to well below under 2°C.

The Coalition brings together signatories of the Under2 MOU, a public commitment by governments to limit their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80 to 95% on 1990 levels, or to 2 annual metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent per capita, by 2050. The Under2 Coalition is an initiative primarily driven by state, regional and provincial governments. However, jurisdictions at all levels of government may sign or endorse the Under2 MOU, thus committing to deep decarbonization in their jurisdictions.

Under2 Coalition signatories and endorsers are categorized as follows:

- Signatories
 - o ‘State and regional government signatories’ refers to jurisdictions that are one level below national governments, including states, regions and provinces.
 - o ‘City and local government signatories’ refers to cities, counties and all administrative divisions below state and regional level.
- Endorsers
 - o Typically refers to national governments that wish to support the goals of the Under2 Coalition.

State and regional government signatory criteria

To become an Under2 MOU signatory, governments are expected to meet the below considerations. These considerations are aligned with limiting the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

These criteria should be met at the time of signing the Under2 MOU, or have a reasonable expectation of being met soon, as demonstrated by an official correspondence detailing progress to date.

Prospective signatories should:

1. Publicly state their political commitment to deep decarbonization through a press release or other public communications channel
2. Set GHG reduction targets in line with the Under2 MOU

3. Adopt a public strategy for achieving GHG reduction targets through an appendix that, in line with the provided appendix guidance, sets forth the unique set of current or future actions for reaching emissions reduction goals
4. Measure and annually disclose GHG emissions and climate actions to The Climate Group through CDP's online platform (for state, provincial and regional governments only)¹
5. Engage with the pathways, policy and transparency pillars of the Under2 Coalition's work throughout the year, collaborate and share learning with other signatories, and participate actively in The Climate Group's Under2 Coalition activities, and
6. Consider making an Annual Secretariat Contribution calculated according to their jurisdiction's GDP per capita

City and local government signatory criteria

While the Under2 MOU is led by state, regional and provincial governments, all levels of government below this level may sign the Under2 MOU as city or local government signatories. In addition to the criteria outlined above, city and local governments who wish to become signatories will be evaluated against additional criteria, at the discretion of the Steering Group.

Endorser criteria

Endorsers are jurisdictions (typically at the national government level) who wish to support the goals of the Under2 MOU. By endorsing the Under2 MOU, jurisdictions do not necessarily commit to the Under2 MOU's 2050 target, but instead provide support in achieving the goals laid out in the Under2 MOU. For instance, endorsers may:

- Support the work of states, provinces and regions within its boundaries in their efforts to reach emissions targets;
- Encourage subnational jurisdictions within its boundaries to become signatories to the Under2 MOU;
- Commit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 to 95% on 1990 levels, or to 2 annual metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent per capita, by 2050 within their jurisdiction;
- Undertake direct actions within its jurisdiction to reduce emissions and support the goals of the Under2 MOU;
- Provide funding, expertise and other resources to support the programmatic work of the Coalition. Making a financial pledge is not a requirement to endorse the Under2 MOU; however, several endorsing governments have chosen to support us in achieving the goals of the Under2 MOU by making a financial pledge.

Process and next steps

1. Interested signatories and endorsers shall express their intent to sign the Under2 MOU in an email to the contacts listed at the bottom of this document.
2. Signatories are expected to submit an appendix², which is a brief document that sets forth their jurisdiction's unique set of actions and plans for reaching their emissions reduction

¹ City and local government signatories are encouraged to disclose through dedicated disclosure platforms for cities.

² Submitting an appendix is not a requirement for Endorsers.

goals. It is preferred that governments submit their appendix in English, but it may be submitted in other languages.

3. The Secretariat will provide an appendix guidance document and information on suggested annual contribution based on the jurisdiction's GDP per capita.
4. Signatories commit to annually disclose GHG emissions and climate actions³ to The Climate Group (through CDP's online platform).
5. The application will then be tabled at the quarterly governance meeting with the Steering Group to be evaluated against the above criteria.
6. Interested signatories and endorsers whose applications are approved by the Steering Group will then submit a signature page from a high-level government official and liaise with the Secretariat to formally join the Under2 Coalition. The Under2 Coalition Secretariat will provide the signature page template.
7. Approved signatories and endorsers shall commit to designate at least one person to represent their government and participate in the Under2 Coalition's activities, events and programmatic work.

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³ Annually disclosing GHG emissions and climate actions is not a requirement for Endorsers.