**NET ZERO FUTURES POLICY FORUM**

JOINING AGREEMENT

**July 2022**

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**Purpose**

The Net Zero Futures Policy Forum (the Forum) is a voluntary international collaboration of state, regional, and other interested governments committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. Signatories to this agreement are considered Members of the Forum.

The Forum focuses on the unique challenges that state and regional governments face on the journey to net zero emissions, recognising those governments are sometimes better-placed than national governments to implement policy solutions.

The Forum aims to help state and regional jurisdictions address the practical challenges of achieving net zero emissions by enabling access to the collective experience of participants in developing emissions reduction policies.

**Context**

* 1. We are living in a decisive decade for climate change action. The Paris Agreement aims to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and to pursue best efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.[[1]](#footnote-1) Limiting warming to these levels requires substantial emissions reductions by 2030.[[2]](#footnote-2)
  2. Globally, governments at all levels have set targets to reduce emissions in their jurisdictions to net zero. We now face the shared challenge of designing and implementing policies to achieve those targets, while also supporting equitable economic growth.
  3. Different levels of government have different responsibilities for reducing emissions. State and regional governments have access to multiple policy levers in key economic sectors, such as energy, transport, agriculture, the built environment and industry. The United Nations Development Programme estimates that 50-80% of necessary climate mitigation and adaptation actions will be implemented by state and regional governments.[[3]](#footnote-3)
  4. Recognising this potential, the Under2 Coalition was established in 2015 to support state and regional governments to achieve their emissions-reduction ambitions. More than 40 states and regions in the Under2 Coalition have committed to reach net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier.[[4]](#footnote-4)
  5. Governments are building capabilities in different policy areas, depending on their local circumstances, creating significant opportunities to learn from each other.
  6. Sharing knowledge, and collaborating to solve policy problems of mutual interest, can help governments to accelerate emissions reductions within their jurisdictions and contribute to achieving the rapid emissions reductions we need globally.
  7. The Forum is a mechanism to enable governments to learn from each other. It is an Under2 Coalition initiative, is open to all interested governments (including governments that are not members of the Under2 Coalition) and is led by Ministers from Member governments.

**Principles**

2.1 The following principles underpin the Forum and guide Members in their involvement:

a) Focus on the practical challenges of emissions reduction and developing pragmatic solutions to policy problems at the state and regional level.

b) Respond to Member needs by ensuring the Forum is Member-led.

c) Adapt the Forum over time as its membership changes and Member needs evolve.

d) Recognise that different governments have different strengths and can learn from each other.

e) Harmonise with other international climate change initiatives, including the Under2 Coalition, while maintaining the Forum’s independent governance and funding.

f) Recognise that non-government actors have an important role to play in reducing emissions and involve non-government actors in the Forum’s activities as needed.

g) Ensure the work of the Forum complements rather than duplicates national and international efforts to tackle climate change.

**Commitments**

3.1 To support delivery of their emissions-reduction targets, Member governments commit to:

a) Collaborate with each other to solve policy problems.

b) Share information on policy successes and challenges so that others can learn from them.

c) Provide financial or in-kind support to promote information sharing and policy collaboration, including by supporting taskforces where appropriate.

3.2 Ministers from Member governments will meet at least annually. Ministers may choose to meet more frequently if required.

3.3 Founding Members will make an initial financial contribution to support the Forum in its first two years. Member contributions will be documented in a funding document outside this joining agreement.

3.4 Members will review this joining agreement by June 2024.

**Other considerations**

4.1 This agreement is not legally binding.

4.2 A separate procedures document and Terms of Reference will guide the Forum’s day-to-day operation. These documents will contain guidance about data sharing protocols, confidentiality considerations, provision for sharing of skills/secondments, and publicity and media considerations.

4.3 Members can update this agreement in future if a majority of financially contributing Members support the amendments.

**Signature**

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| --- | --- |
| Name of Government: |  |
| Name of signatory: |  |
| Title of signatory: |  |
| Signature: |  |
| Date: |  |

1. United Nations, 2015. Paris Agreement, Article 2, p3. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For example, the IPCC’s 2022 Working Group III report finds that in global modelled pathways that limit warming to 1.5°C, global greenhouse gas emissions are projected to peak before 2025 at the latest and fall by approximately 43% from 2019 levels by 2030. See IPCC, Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change, Summary for Policymakers, p21. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Climate Group, 2022: Frequently asked questions, accessed 25 May 2022 at <https://www.theclimategroup.org/frequently-asked-questions>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The Climate Group, 2022: Under2 Coalition, accessed 31 May 2022 at <https://www.theclimategroup.org/under2-coalition>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)