



Secretariat

**CLIMATE GROUP**

# Under2 Coalition Annual Highlights Report 2021

Stronger in state and  
regional climate leadership,  
fit for the Climate Decade





# Director's message: a year of milestones

**Since 2015, the Under2 Coalition has been galvanising state and regional action on climate change. States and regions are proven leaders on climate action, and only by working together can we successfully transition to a net zero world of equity and resilience.**

Earlier this year, we hit a milestone in reaching membership of over 260 governments, representing 50% of the global economy and over 1.75 billion people. This makes us the largest global network of states and regions committed to making the changes needed this decade – and beyond – to tackle the climate crisis.

The Under2 Coalition has continued to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building through transformative projects covering key topics of interest to our members – transport, industry, short-lived climate pollutants, pathways, transparency and green recovery to name a few. The results of this work are now showcased via our online Knowledge Hub.

While so much of our work in the climate community has been focused on making COP26 a success, it's important that we now look ahead and keep up momentum throughout this crucial decade. One of the main demands from COP26 was immediate climate action, which is why we launched a set of 2030 commitments through our Further, Faster, Together campaign.

This is supported by our work across all members to drive net zero momentum.

In 2021, we committed to become a 'net zero coalition' by 2050 with our revised Memorandum of Understanding: recognising the need to substantially reduce emissions by 2030. We urge all our states and regions to sign the new MOU and refresh their commitment to clear climate leadership.

We also held our biggest ever annual General Assembly meeting in the margins of COP26. More than 60 governments attended, creating the largest political moment outside the Summit itself and showcasing states and regions as a driving force behind climate action. But, as always, there's more to be done. So, let's keep moving further, faster, together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Ash Vie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Tim Ash Vie**, Director,  
Under2 Coalition Secretariat



# Bigger, Better, Stronger in 2021



**260**  
governments



**50%**  
of the global  
economy



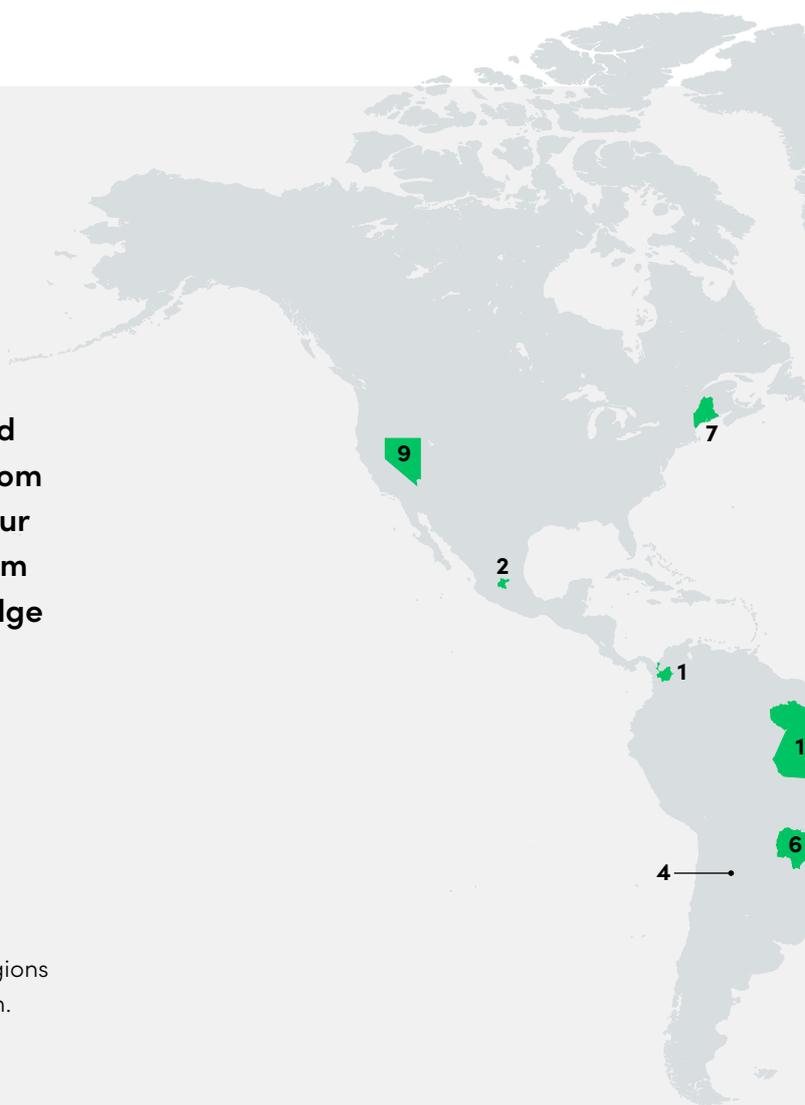
**1.75bn**  
people

## Expanding our global reach

The Under2 Coalition brings together state and regional governments from around the world, with our members benefitting from global profiling, knowledge sharing, international networking and more.

14 new members joined the Under2 Coalition in 2021, growing our membership to over 260. This represents 50% of the global economy and 1.75 billion people, making the Under2 Coalition the largest network of states and regions committed to bold climate action.

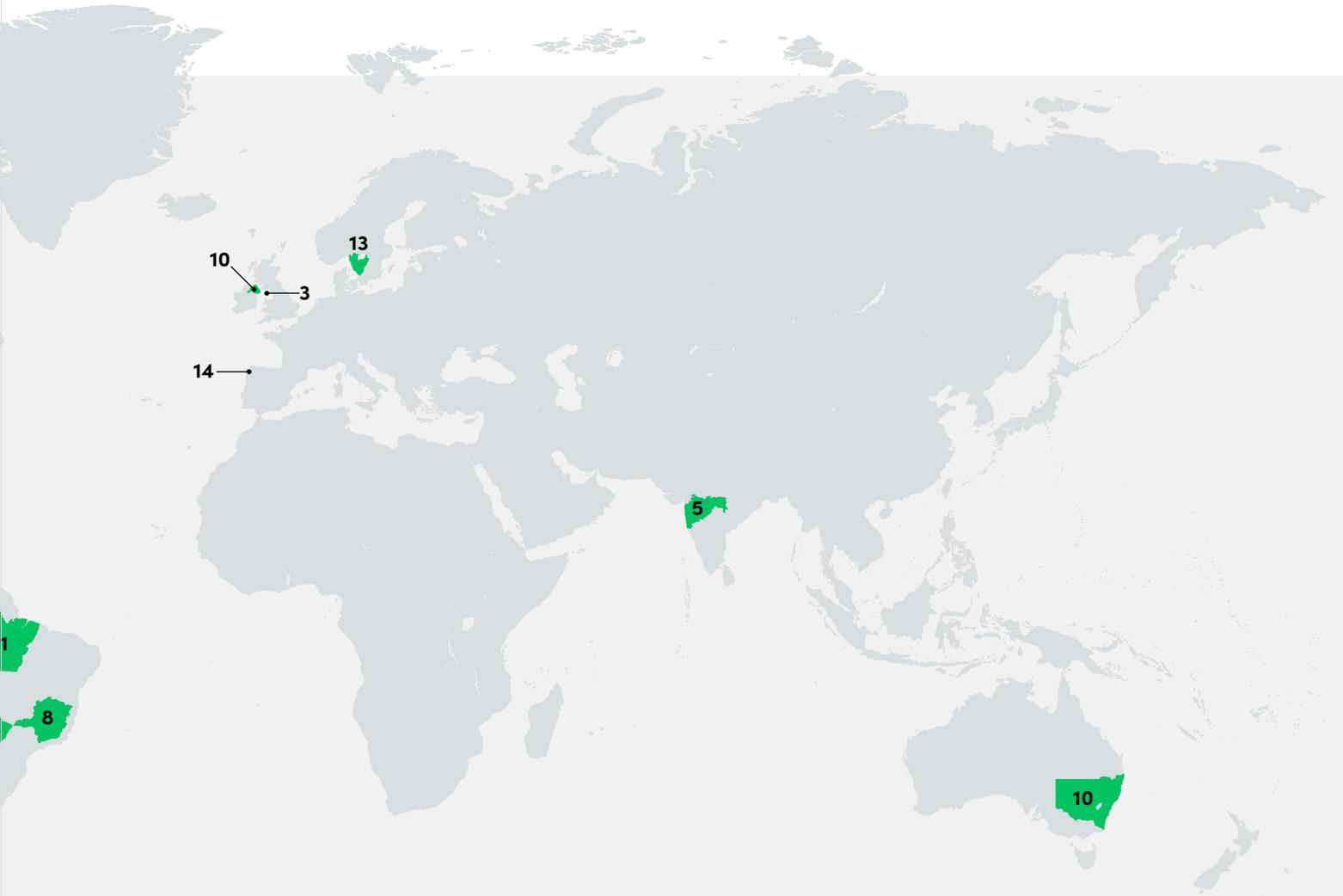
The largest global network of **states and regions** committed to reducing emissions in line with the **Paris Agreement**.





Climate change is a global issue that knows no borders, and the State of Nevada remains firmly committed to being part of the solution. Nevada is excited to join the Under2 Coalition and join forces with other state and local climate leaders as we each do our part to tackle climate change.

**Bradley Crowell**, Director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



## We would like to extend, again, a warm welcome to our new members:

- |                        |                                |                             |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Antioquia, Colombia | 6. Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil  | 11. Northern Ireland, UK    |
| 2. Guanajuato, Mexico  | 7. Maine, US                   | 12. Pará, Brazil            |
| 3. Isle of Man         | 8. Minas Gerais, Brazil        | 13. Västra Götaland, Sweden |
| 4. Jujuy, Argentina    | 9. Nevada, US                  | 14. Xunta de Galicia, Spain |
| 5. Maharashtra, India  | 10. New South Wales, Australia |                             |

## Leveraging the Coalition's leadership

We'd also like to thank our regional co-chairs – First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP (Scotland), Governor Gavin Newsom (California), Governor Yang Seung-jo (Chungcheongnam-do), Premier Sihle Zikalala (KwaZulu-Natal) and Governor Mauricio Kuri González (Querétaro) – members of the steering group, Governors, Ministers and leaders who championed the Coalition's efforts in 2021.

The Secretariat was proud to work with them and the Global Ambassadors to elevate the Coalition's impact this year.



With all that is at stake, California, as co-chair of the Under2 Coalition, is inviting fellow states and regions to meet this moment and commit to setting net zero emissions targets and making bold commitments to meet those targets as soon as possible. We welcome all partners that will step up and join us in shaping our collective future.

**Gavin Newsom**, Governor of California and Co-Chair of the Under2 Coalition



The role of Querétaro as co-chair of the Under2 Coalition has given our citizens the feeling of being part of the ambitious and transformational decarbonization targets we set in order to make possible our goals of reducing CO2 emissions in our state.

**Mauricio Kuri González**, Governor of Querétaro and Co-Chair of the Under2 Coalition



**As European co-chair of the Under2 Coalition, which now represents almost two billion people around the world, I urge state, regional and devolved governments to up their ambition. By doing so, we can spur national governments to go further and faster, too.**

**Nicola Sturgeon MSP**, First Minister of Scotland and Co-Chair of the Under2 Coalition



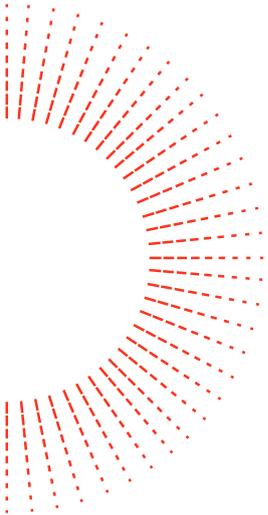
**Amidst global climate challenges, the Under2 Coalition has continuously driven a wide range of comprehensive, cooperative initiatives to realise carbon neutrality and has exercised global leadership with its new MOU on subnational climate action.**

**Yang Seung-jo**, Governor of Chungnam Province and Co-Chair of the Under2 Coalition



**Seven years ago, the Paris Agreement ushered the world into an era of a paradigm shift on ambitions as well as rethinking leadership in order to prepare for the Climate Decade. As the Under2 Coalition's African co-chair region, we support the Coalition's new net zero commitment.**

**Sihle Zikalala**, Premier of KwaZulu-Natal and Co-Chair of the Under2 Coalition



## Recognizing achievements through the Under2 Coalition Leadership Awards

2021 was the first year of the Under2 Coalition Leadership awards. The three categories were:

- Creative climate solutions
- Inspiring regional leadership
- Climate partnerships

A large number of submissions were received, giving the expert judges difficult decisions to make as they shortlisted for each category. Ultimately British Columbia, Maharashtra and Québec won each of the three awards respectively, with a range of other states and regions recognised for their policies and programmes that have been making a real difference for emissions reduction at a local level.

We plan to make the awards an annual feature, in order to showcase state and regional leadership at such a crucial time for the planet. Not only can this demonstrate what government action is possible, but it helps to inspire others to go even further in finding solutions to common climate issues.



**Top left:** George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in British Columbia, receives the award for 'Creative climate solutions' from Climate Group CEO Helen Clarkson and Under2 Global Ambassador Franz Untersteller



**Bottom left:** Aaditya Thackeray, Minister of Environment and Climate Change in Maharashtra, receives the award for 'Inspiring regional leadership' from Climate Group CEO Helen Clarkson and Under2 Global Ambassador Franz Untersteller

**Top right:** Benoit Charette, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change in Québec, receives the award for 'Climate partnerships' from Climate Group CEO Helen Clarkson and Under2 Global Ambassador Franz Untersteller



Québec has taken significant steps in recent years to address climate change, including its Plan 2030 for a Green Economy, the electrification of its transportation, its membership in the Beyond Oil & Gas Alliance and the announcement of its withdrawal from oil and gas exploration and development. Today, I am honoured that the Under2 Coalition recognizes Québec's leadership in building partnerships.

**Benoit Charette**, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change in Québec





Tim Ash Vie, Director of the Under2 Coalition Secretariat, addresses the Under2 General Assembly

## Taking a stand where it matters

The Under2 Coalition held its annual General Assembly meeting in the margins of COP26, in November 2021 in Glasgow.

This was the biggest members' meeting to date, with 60 governments in attendance and more than 30 Governors and Ministers speaking at sessions throughout the day on subjects including transitioning to low carbon energy, transport and industry infrastructure; agriculture, forestry and other land use; reducing methane emissions; and accelerating finance and investment.

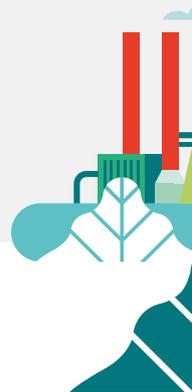
At the conclusion of the General Assembly, five priorities were identified for the Coalition for 2022:

- Building a stronger identity for states and regions internationally
- Working towards a just transition that meets the needs of all people
- Continuing with deep exchanges on technical issues related to climate to achieve 2030 goals
- Aiming for more radical collaboration across the year
- Enhancing accountability to align with increasing global focus on transparency



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the day.

# Further, Faster, Together



## Net zero ambition

### Refreshed Memorandum of Understanding

The Under2 Coalition has adopted a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

This refreshed ambition ensures that the Coalition remains at the front and centre of global efforts to fight climate change while aligning with the most recent science.

Now that we are well into the Climate Decade, our MOU sets expectations for states and regions to act as climate leaders and pursue emissions reductions trajectories consistent with achieving net zero emissions as soon as possible. It also sets out expectations for mid-term targets for 2030 or earlier to demonstrate progress.

Since the launch of the new MOU nearly 40 governments have refreshed, or are in the process of refreshing, their commitment. We hope to see more governments join them in 2022. If you would like more information, please contact [nkaur@theclimategroup.org](mailto:nkaur@theclimategroup.org).





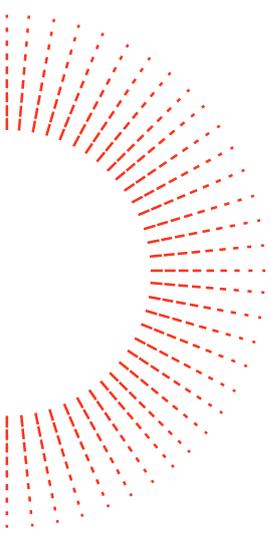
## Net Zero Futures

Through [Net Zero Futures](#), in collaboration with the Scottish Government and Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Under2 Coalition has been mobilising state and regional action towards net zero emissions planning and target-setting, and supporting governments in identifying common solutions.

To date, over 80 state and regional governments from around the world have taken part in peer learning and knowledge sharing opportunities. They have made connections, learnt from each other and from experts on the best paths to net zero, and come to a better understanding of what it takes to set a credible net zero emissions target.

Earlier this year, the [Dialogue Series](#) successfully united states and regions that have already set net zero targets with their peers in order to share latest best practice, promote solutions and connect with an international community of experts. Additionally, 50 state and regional governments joined the Race to Zero in 2021, with all committing to review their plans and progress this year.





# Net Zero Actions

## Further, Faster, Together

Convening at COP26, governments from the Under2 Coalition, U.S. Climate Alliance and C40 acknowledged the need to move beyond 2050 targets and focus on the short-term actions to reach them in order to keep global temperature rises to 1.5°C.

68 state, regional and city governments affirmed their urgent commitment to addressing the climate crisis by signing up to a range of cross-sector actions ahead of 2030. This is part of a global call to action from non-state actors, recognising the increased impacts of climate change and their critical role in addressing it.

On Cities, Regions and Built Environment Day at COP26 in Glasgow, state, regional and city leaders also came together through the Under2 Coalition and C40 Cities to accelerate the immediate, ambitious, equitable and science-based climate action they are taking to address the climate emergency and keep 1.5 alive. They called for national governments and other non-state actors such as businesses, trade unions and investors to join them in reducing emissions in the next year, in line with delivering their fair share of halving global carbon emissions by 2030. The [full statement](#) is available on our website.



State and regional leaders unite at the Under2 General Assembly to launch 2030 actions through 'Further, Faster, Together.'



**FURTHER  
FASTER  
TOGETHER**

“ We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to effectively mitigate climate change. The actions we take in the next five years will determine the fate of our species. I’m proud to stand with this global coalition of governors and mayors to go beyond pledges. Together, we are charting a path to make tangible, meaningful progress to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and get to net zero by 2050. Now is the time for leaders to buckle down and get it done.

Jay Inslee, Governor of Washington State

**The range of actions announced cover:**



**Agriculture**



**Energy**



**Inter-governmental  
Cooperation and Planning**



**Environmental justice**



**Built Environment**



**Nature-based solutions**



**Clean transportation**



**Waste**



The installation of solar panels in Rondônia, Brazil, which was enabled by the Future Fund

## Supporting emerging economy regions with the Future Fund

The Future Fund empowers subnational governments to accelerate the shift towards a world of net zero emissions, through strategic funding that supports climate activities in developing and emerging economy regions. This past year, the Future Fund supported three transformational projects in Rondônia (Brazil), São Paulo (Brazil) and West Kalimantan (Indonesia). It also facilitated an online peer-learning exchange between Western Cape (South Africa) and the Climate Group and four learning activities between the Government of Scotland and all Future Fund-eligible members of the Under2 Coalition.

In 2021, we continued to support emerging economy states and regions to accelerate their climate action by funding three

new projects in Chiapas, Guanajuato and Yucatán (Mexico). We also provided financial support for 12 government officials to attend the Under2 General Assembly at COP26: increasing and diversifying the voices and climate actions showcased not only at the General Assembly but also at COP itself. The Future Fund is made possible thanks to ongoing financial support from the governments of Baden-Württemberg, Québec, Scotland and Wales.

Read our latest impact report [here](#). To support the Future Fund or for more information, please contact [MCHarvey@theclimategroup.org](mailto:MCHarvey@theclimategroup.org).



## Planning long term decarbonisation through the Climate Pathway Project

The [Climate Pathway Project](#) has supported state and regional governments in developing transformational processes, or 'pathways', to reducing emissions. In 2021, after two and a half years of capacity-building workshops, vision and modelling exercises, stakeholder engagement and peer learning exchanges, each of the six participating governments from Brazil, Mexico and Peru successfully developed their pathway towards decarbonisation.

These pathways revolve around the governments' selected emissions reduction goals and development visions, and centre on 7-12 mitigation actions prioritised through broad stakeholder participation. The final pathways reports, alongside other project outputs and learnings, are available on our new [Knowledge Hub](#).

The project had a strong knowledge sharing component, launching both a Pathways Framework (a step-by-step toolkit for governments to understand the pathways process) and the Pathways Communities of Practice: a bilingual platform that brought together 30 Latin American governments to learn from each other on the topic. You can find these resources, and further pathways opportunities, on our [Decarbonisation Pathways page](#).



**The important thing is that citizens are truly convinced that the decarbonisation of the economy is both necessary and increasingly urgent for the long-term sustainability, not only of Querétaro, but of Mexico and the whole world.**

**Ricardo Javier Torres Hernández**, Undersecretary of Environment at the Secretariat of Sustainable Development for the State of Querétaro, Mexico:



## Cutting industry emissions through the Industry Transition Platform

The [Industry Transition Platform](#) worked with 11 governments from highly-industrialised regions across Europe and North America to develop strategies for cutting industry emissions while supporting growth, job creation and prosperity.



**To be a part of ITP was a very valuable experience in terms of both effective project development and very interesting options for climate protection**

**Rainer van Loon**, senior expert advising the Government of North Rhine-Westphalia

These state and regional governments worked together to identify key challenges in transitioning their industries to be low carbon, with a focus on sustainable hydrogen and fostering disruptive innovation. They were advised by representatives from industry, system change experts and researchers, who provided participants with tailored technical support.

The Industry Transition Platform concluded in July last year and was a joint project of the Climate Group and the German state government of North Rhine-Westphalia, funded by Stiftung Mercator. All resources, research and government strategies can be found on the [Knowledge Hub](#).

## Creating a zero emission vehicle network through the ZEV Community

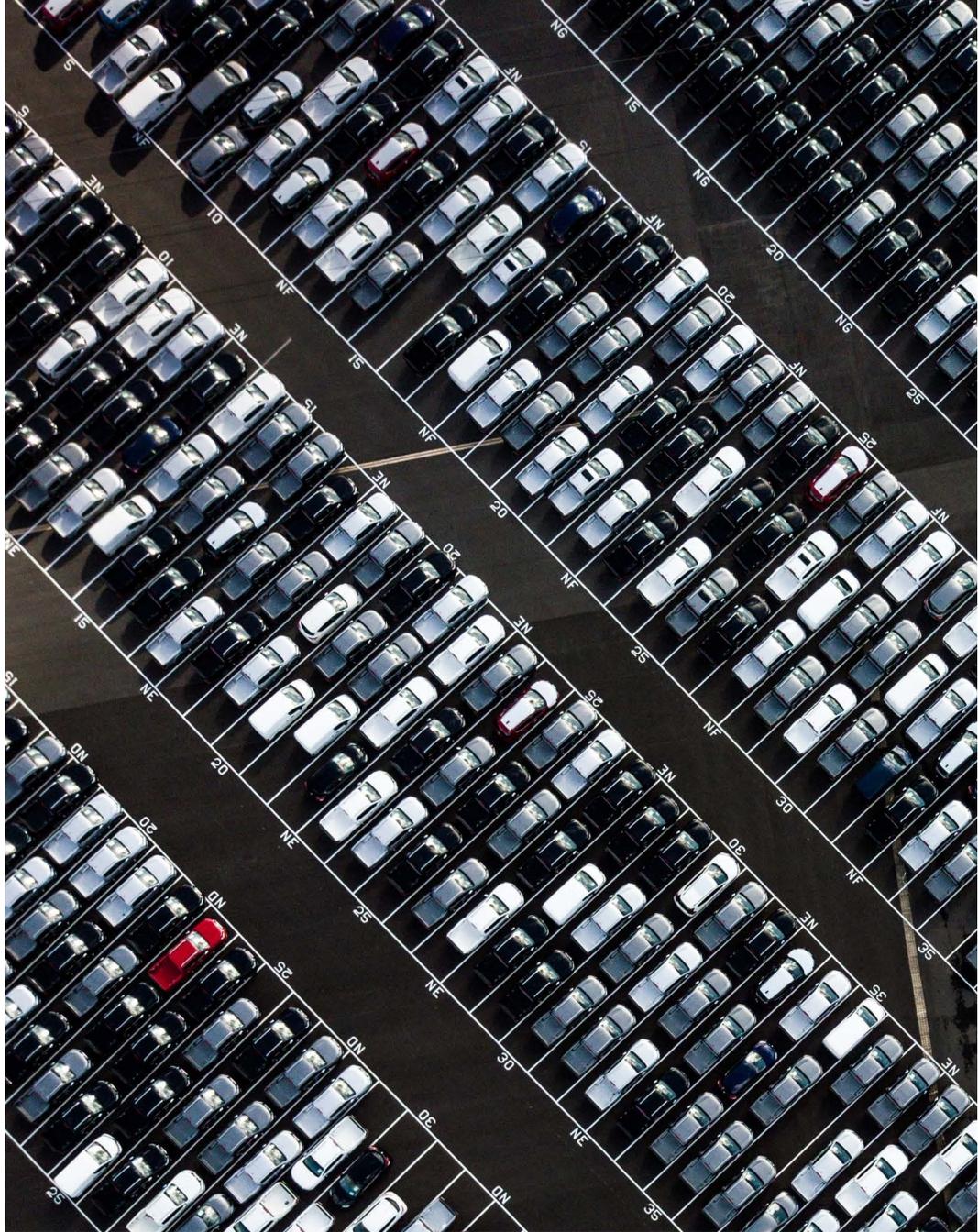
The [ZEV \(Zero Emission Vehicle\) Community](#) is an established platform for government peer learning on zero emission vehicles, co-hosted by the Under2 Coalition and the ZEV Alliance, in partnership with C40 Cities and the U.S. Climate Alliance (USCA). It is supported by the Scottish Government and the ClimateWorks Foundation, with contributions from the Government of Québec.

The ZEV Community reaches a network of over 500 participants from more than 90 governments around the world, particularly

in North America, Europe, Latin America, Australasia and Africa. States, regions, cities and nations come together to learn about new EV initiatives and to exchange information, experiences and best practice through regular webinars and [peer forums](#).

Through this collaboration, governments are developing the knowledge needed to [set ambitious targets](#), switch public fleets to zero emission, roll-out supportive infrastructure and implement innovative policies. Our [“Taking action on zero emission vehicles”](#) profile series shines a light on the ambitious targets and policies of leading governments in the ZEV Community.

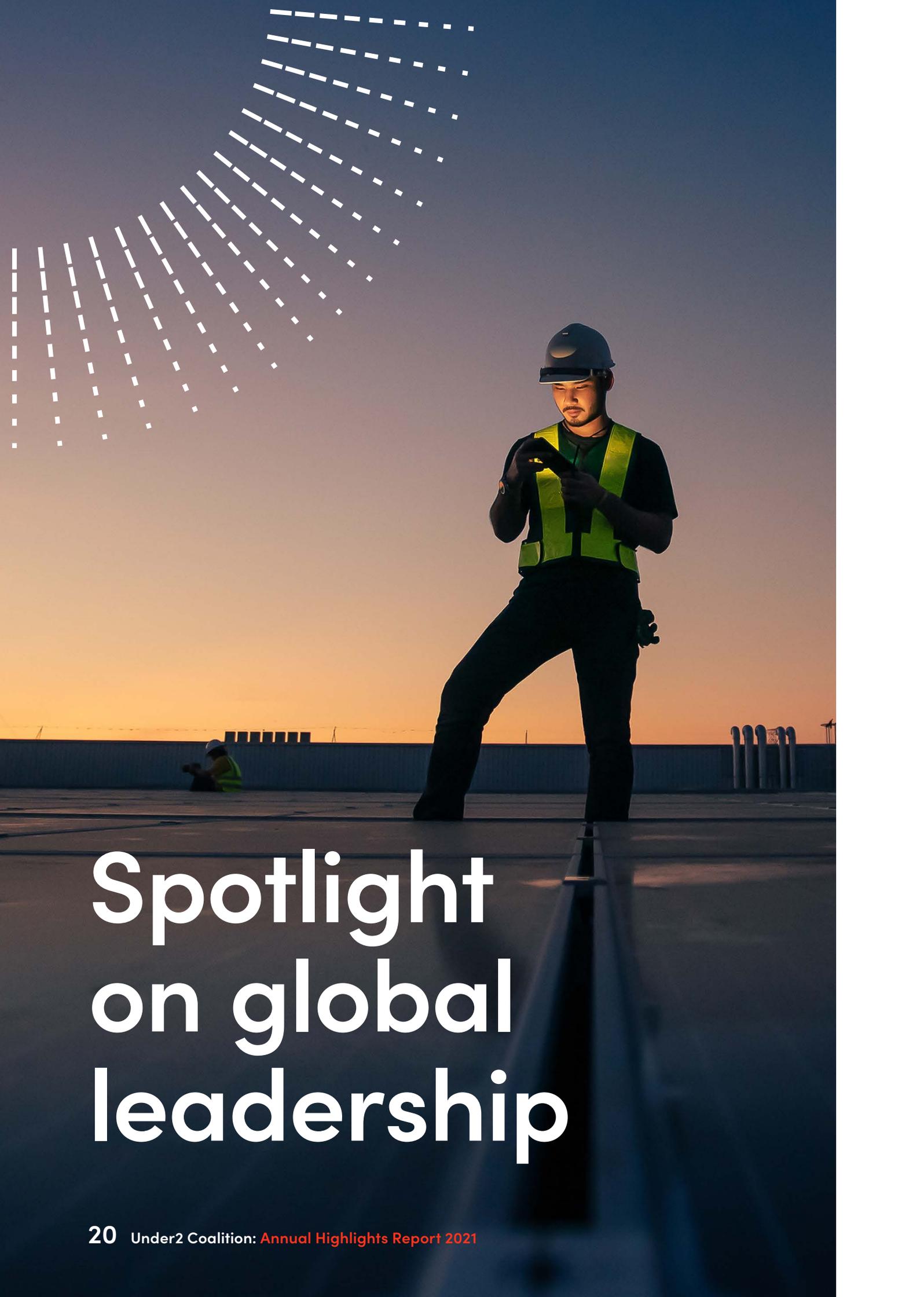




## ZEV Pledge for public fleets

The [ZEV Pledge for public fleets](#) is the ambition platform from the ZEV Community which invites governments at all levels, as well as individual departments, agencies and public sector bodies, to pledge to convert their entire owned or leased fleets, where feasible, to zero emission vehicles. Recent analysis by [Climate Group and SYSTEMIQ](#) has found that faster electrification of fleets could deliver transformational benefits for our climate, health and infrastructure, including saving the equivalent annual emissions of India - the world's third highest emitter - by 2030.

The ZEV Pledge was officially launched in November 2021. [Nine national, regional, state and city-level governments signed up](#), collectively representing 121,355 vehicles on the road - with nearly a third of these being medium or heavy-duty vehicles. The ZEV Pledge has also been integrated in the [Further Faster Together: Under2 Leaders Action at COP26](#), demonstrating that state and regional governments are on the frontline of implementation and are serious about taking transformative and far-reaching action towards the 2030 agenda. To sign the ZEV Pledge, please contact [APinto@theclimategroup.org](mailto:APinto@theclimategroup.org).



# Spotlight on global leadership



**By encouraging states to use the tool they will be able to track their own climate actions and performance as well as identify gaps and build capacity towards implementing robust climate action across sectors, strengthen their State Climate Action Plan for Climate Change, and therefore will be able to contribute more concretely towards India's Nationally Determined Contributions."**

**Pujarini Sen**, Former Global Climate Diplomacy Manager, the Climate Group

## States Climate Leadership Project, India

The second phase of the [Indian States Climate Leadership Project](#) started in 2020, supported by the MacArthur Foundation. In 2021, we continued this work with a sectoral webinar called [Catalysing Climate Smart Growth in Indian States through Finance for Climate Action](#). In the webinar, we convened experts from states, civil society organisations and banking and financial institutions. As peer learning and knowledge sharing are the two main components of this project, we published six case studies highlighting the impactful work state governments are undertaking in India across sectors. In September, during Climate Week NYC, we held a showcasing event in partnership with [Climate Trends](#) on actions towards India's low carbon future.

## States Climate Fellows, India

In partnership with the [Swaniti Initiative](#), we launched a State Climate Fellows project in October, with the aim of building a community of dynamic professionals to champion the climate strategies and ambition of selected Indian states. This project was launched at the Under2 General Assembly, with a [video presentation](#) shown to all attendees.



## Asia-Pacific Regional Forum, Chungcheongnam-do, South Korea

In September we held the Asia-Pacific regional forum – Race to Net Zero in Asia-Pacific – with the Government of Chungnam, South Korea. The event explored barriers to and opportunities of mid-and long-term net zero targets in the region and how best to strengthen initiatives of public governance towards coal phase-out, carbon neutrality and a just and equitable energy transition. During the forum we held two panel discussions on net zero leadership and renewable energy transition in Asia-Pacific, the latter of which was hosted in collaboration with Climate Group's RE100 campaign. The event was recorded and can now be found on our [YouTube channel](#).





## Methane takes centre stage at COP26

Reducing short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), such as methane, is a critical part of achieving near-term climate goals. State and regional governments are uniquely positioned to act quickly on methane and pave the way for others to follow. Building on state and regional leadership established through the Under2 Methane Project, we led a series of activities at COP26 to elevate state and regional leadership and support the Global Methane Pledge. These included a special methane session during the Under2 General Assembly, which highlighted methane as a priority area and showcased new opportunities presented by advancements in satellite technology for tracking and addressing emissions sources.

We also convened a special session on state and regional action as part of the Methane Pavilion at COP26, with a panel featuring Jorge Daniel Taillant, Executive Director of Center for Human Rights and Environment, California Secretary of Food and Agriculture Karen Ross, and British Columbia Assistant Deputy Minister for Climate Change Jeremy Hewitt. The far-ranging session covered topics such as how to collaborate with the oil and gas sector and a full-cycle approach to livestock emissions from dairy. Please email [eanico@theclimategroup.org](mailto:eanico@theclimategroup.org) to get involved in our methane work in 2022.

## Decarbonisation visions, Colombia

Supported by UK PACT (Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions), the Climate Group has been working with The Climate Reality Project and Opepa to develop decarbonization visions for the energy and transport sectors in five departments in Colombia (Antioquia, Boyacá, Cundinamarca, Atlántico and Valle del Cauca).

As part of the project, each state built its visions based on a catalogue of mitigation policy actions for the transport and energy sectors. These catalogues include a comprehensive list of potential actions for each sector that jurisdictions could include in their pathway to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or increase GHG removals from the atmosphere compared to their "Business as Usual" (BAU) baseline scenario. In addition, the catalogues show which actions align to strategies selected by the national government for Colombia's Long Term Climate Strategy (E2050) and Colombia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The project follows the Climate Group's Pathways Framework to build visions with a multi-stakeholder and data-driven methodology.



## Alliance for Regenerative Ranching, Peru

Launched in 2021, the Alliance for Regenerative Ranching in the Peruvian Amazon is a pilot project based in Madre de Dios, Peru, which promotes nature-based solutions while benefiting local farmers. Project partners WWF, Tropical Forest Alliance and Climate Group are carrying out capacity-building activities around silvopastoral systems (where trees are planted far apart in grazed pastures). They have also developed regenerative activities through the creation of farmer field schools and the construction of a public-private coalition to create market and financial conditions that enable silvopastoral practices. The Alliance for Regenerative Ranching also builds off the Climate Pathway Project, serving as an example of the journey from decarbonisation pathway development to implementation.

# Net Zero accountability

## Under2 Ambition Tracker

In July last year, we launched our new Under2 Ambition Tracker – an initiative to collect key climate action data from state and regional governments that will help us track the progress and ambition of our transition to net zero emissions in line with the new Under2 Memorandum of Understanding.

60 states and regions have reported their data through the tracker so far, with 35 reporting a net zero target. Based on member feedback to showcase more data and undertake deeper analysis, we will be using these submissions to provide a new and updated analysis of state and regional climate action with benchmarking capabilities, with a planned release for Q1 of 2022.

## Greenhouse gas emission tracking with the Climate Footprint Project

The Climate Footprint Project supports state and regional governments in improving their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions tracking and reduction efforts. The first phase of this project concluded early last year with over

300 subnational actors from the seven primary project states and regions in Brazil, India, Mexico and South Africa having received technical assistance and capacity-building training.

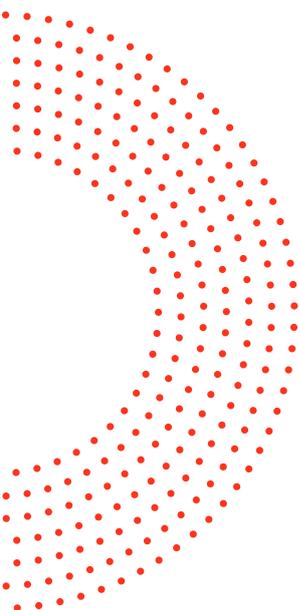
An additional 70 states and regions globally participated in the Tracking to Action peer forum series and were able to access the toolkits, case studies, guidelines and an e-learning course developed as part of the project and [available on the Climate Group website](#). The second phase of the project is set to start in 2022, and will provide flexible, fast, tailored capacity-building support to a broader set of states and regions in developing and emerging countries.

## Setting the standard for accountability

We are proud to introduce a set of key principles that lay the foundations for our accountability efforts in the coming months and years. Adopting these principles serves to strengthen the Coalition's credibility in line with a growing global focus on transparency.

Based on these, in 2022 we urge states and regions of the Coalition to:

1. Publicly report annually against the Under2 Coalition's refreshed MOU.
2. Publish a pathway identifying the measures, technologies, infrastructures and investments required to meet the objectives of the MOU.
3. Provide evidence against their progress towards these commitments.
4. Commit to divest from fossil fuels.
5. Cover all greenhouse gas emissions and all operations in their commitments.



# Setting the net zero agenda through communications and diplomacy



**2030**

**commitments  
signed by**

**68**

**states, regions  
and cities**

**This has been a significant year for the visibility of subnational climate action. At a time when countries have been interrogated for their ambition, states, regions, cities and others have been raising their voices and taking action where it counts.**

In October the Coalition announced its intention to become a '[net zero coalition](#)' by 2050, in an initiative spear-headed by its five co-chairs. Over 20 members have since signed the updated Memorandum of Understanding and this was included in COP26 outcome documents as well as in a number of media articles highlighting the successes of Glasgow.

2021 was also the year where subnational actors' roles in climate negotiations came to the fore. Across the COP26 period, over 500 articles were published in countries across the world mentioning the Under2 Coalition and the contributions of individual member states and regions. This included

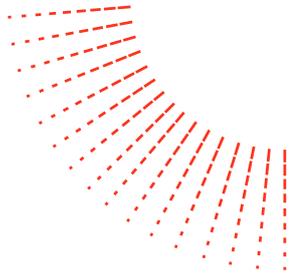
the 2030 commitments drawn together by Washington State and signed by 68 states, regions and cities.

As subnational voices become increasingly aligned, we have also used communications to push for actions with other international groups. This included the [What's at State](#) campaign with Regions4, which highlighted what states and regions stand to lose if the 1.5 degrees target is not kept in sight, and a joint statement with C40 at COP26 calling for non-state actors to be recognised in the final 'Glasgow Package' – which they ultimately were, and which will help to elevate their work even further in the years ahead.

# Looking ahead to next year

In 2022, we will work to deliver on the priorities identified during the Under2 Coalition General Assembly:

- Build a stronger identity for states and regions internationally
- Work towards a just transition that meets the needs of all people
- Continue with deep exchanges on technical issues related to climate to achieve 2030 goals
- Aim for more radical collaboration across the year
- Enhance accountability to align with increasing global focus on transparency



## Things to look out for in 2022!

### 1. Accessible emissions data for states and regions

Climate Group, with funding from ClimateWorks Foundation, is partnering with the Climate TRACE Coalition to begin an innovative new 12-month pilot project in early 2022 to use satellite imaging and machine learning technology to provide six states and regions in the Under2 Coalition with up-to-date greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data. The GHG emissions data from this project will be broken down by sector and cover the years 2015–2020.

The project aims to establish a proof of concept of using these technologies to estimate GHG emissions at the state and regional level as one solution that can help to close the data and capacity gap, particularly in developing and newly industrialising economies. By providing recent GHG emissions data at a much faster rate and at a reduced cost, satellite imaging technology can allow governments with more limited resources and capacity to dedicate their time and resources to collaborative planning and impactful climate action.

This project will also feed into the work Climate Group already undertakes with Camda, a collaborative community of data and analytical experts dedicated to advancing progress tracking of credible climate action by global subnational and non-state actors. Earlier this year, Camda launched Climate Action Data 2.0, a new working group focused on applying innovative technologies in the climate action data space to enhance global transparency. The results of this pilot project will inform the broader use of emerging technologies to improve data accessibility.

### 2. Net Zero Policy Forum

At the Under2 Coalition General Assembly we announced the creation of a new policy forum to support governments to accelerate the transition to net zero emissions. Initiated by the Government of New South Wales, Australia, and building on leadership by the Scottish Government on Net Zero Futures, this forum will provide a single platform for governments to address the policy challenges of deep decarbonisation.

Specifically, the forum will provide a repository of policies and resources that can be accessed by members, facilitate collaboration between governments to design policies, share learnings and insights on key policy priorities, and enable problem-solving to address policy challenges and speed up the transition to net zero. For further information and to get involved, please contact a member of the team.

### 3. Just transition

The Just Transition Working Group is a collaboration between the Scottish Government and the Under2 Coalition that aims to connect global state and regional governments on just transition issues. Beginning in 2022, Climate Group will work with state and regional governments to identify the opportunities for greater collective and individual action on just transition and explore different approaches to integrating it into short and long-term climate action plans. This work will build on the peer-learning fostered through Net Zero Futures and leverage the expertise and leadership of the Scottish Government, including research compiled by the Scottish Government's Just Transition Commission.

## Governance elections in 2022

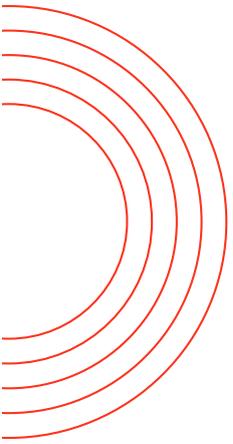
In April, we will begin the process of governance elections for the Under2 Coalition to confirm the Coalition's leadership from 2022-2024.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our current leadership, which has spearheaded our growth and impact over the last two years:

- Sihle Zikalala, Premier of KwaZulu-Natal (Africa)
- Yang Seung-jo, Governor of Chungnam Province (Asia-Pacific)
- Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister, Government of Scotland (Europe)
- Governor Mauricio Kuri González, Government of Querétaro (Latin America)
- Gavin Newsom, Government of California (North America)

We also thank our Steering Group members, who have led the Coalition for this period:

- Basque Country, Spain
- Baden-Württemberg, Germany
- Catalonia, Spain
- Emilia-Romagna, Italy
- Hawaii, USA
- Lombardy, Italy
- Minnesota, USA
- North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany
- Pastaza, Ecuador
- Québec, Canada
- São Paulo, Brazil
- South Australia, Australia
- Victoria, Australia
- Wales, UK
- Yucatán, Mexico



## COP27

The next Under2 Coalition General Assembly will be held on Sunday, 13 November during COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, subject to travel restrictions. There is much work to be done in advance of this date, and we look forward to working with our members and supporters on projects, campaigns, statements and plans that reflect our collective ambition and recognise our unique strengths and abilities.

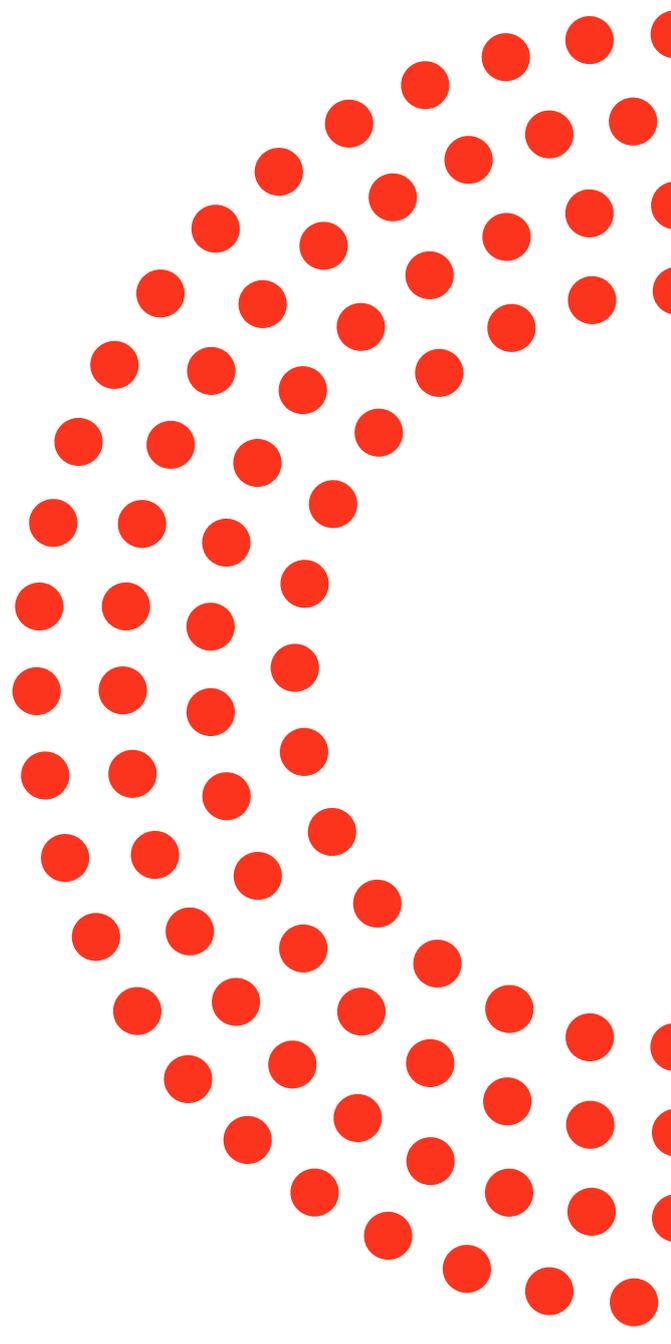
Enhanced NDCs will remain crucial to fulfilling the Glasgow Climate Pact, which commits parties to strengthen 2030 NDCs this year. This applies to all countries, despite initial statements from some that they would not be revising their ambition. At the same time, much more detail on the plans and policies to implement and deliver 2030 targets is required to ensure real emissions reductions this decade. There is a clear role here for states and regions to use their influence to drive positive change across the world.

## Making it happen

There are clear challenges ahead, not only in keeping global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees but in finding solutions to the climate change impacts that are already with us. This last year has seen the public becoming increasingly aware of these issues and, in Glasgow, mobilising around them. National governments have a mandate to work on climate change and strong support to do more but it is not happening fast enough.

State and regional governments however are constantly finding new and innovative ways to cut emissions and reduce the impacts of climate change on their populations. They are also finding their voices in international gatherings: pushing for the actions they know are needed. As we continue into 2022 this will be called for more than ever and there will be plenty of opportunities for our members to step up. Let us try to seize these and to make the difference we know the world both wants and needs this decade.





Secretariat

**CLIMATE GROUP**

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