

Governance Elections 2024-2026

Guidance and Brief | March 2024

Summary

The Under2 Coalition is governed by regional [co-chair and steering group](#) governments which are elected biennially. A new leadership group will be instated in 2024 and will start their term officially during the Under2 General Assembly.

This paper outlines the structure of the Coalition's governance, the roles and responsibilities of the co-chairs and steering group members, the elections process, and upcoming deadlines ahead of the governance elections in 2024. As an initiative led by states and regions, the Under2 Coalition Secretariat nominations to co-chair and steering group positions from all state, regional and provincial-level government members for the next two-year term (2024 – 2026).

We invite interested governments to contact the secretariat to express their interest and communicate their nomination to play a leadership role from 2024 – 2026.

Governance structure

Below is the list of current co-chairs and steering group governments who've served the Coalition from 2022 – 2024.

Co-chairs:

- Africa: KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)
- Asia-Pacific: Chungnam (South Korea)
- Europe: Scotland (United Kingdom)

- Latin America: Querétaro (Mexico)
- North America: California (United States of America)

Steering group:

- Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
- Basque Country (Spain)
- Catalonia (Spain)
- Emilia-Romagna (Italy)
- Gauteng (South Africa)
- Lombardy (Italy)
- Maharashtra (India)
- New York (United States)
- North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)
- Pernambuco (Brazil)
- Québec (Canada)
- Querétaro (Mexico)
- São Paulo (Brazil)
- South Australia (Australia)
- Västra Götaland (Sweden)
- Victoria (Australia)
- Wales (UK)
- Washington State (United States)

Roles and responsibilities: co-chairs

The role of the co-chairs is to serve as the high-level regional figureheads of the Under2 Coalition, representing its state and regional governments to promote its collective vision and goals. Together with the steering group, they support governance mechanisms and guide the strategic direction of the Under2 Coalition. Five co-chairs representing each of the global regions of the Under2 Coalition (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, North America and Latin America) are appointed for a minimum two-year term.

The co-chair position is conducted in personal capacity by the political head, i.e. the respective Premier, First Minister, Governor or (Minister) President of the respective state or regional government.

Co-chair key responsibilities:

- **Strategic leadership**
 - Provide strategic guidance to the Coalition's development and direction throughout their term as co-chair.
 - Represent their global region's membership and show leadership with their climate change objectives, measures and initiatives, in accordance with Under2 Coalition strategic pillars, across ambition, action, advocacy, and accountability.
 - Be a signatory to the 2021 Under2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and demonstrate climate leadership.
- **Advocacy and strategic communications**
 - Act as the external representative for the Under2 Coalition at key events and climate moments.
 - Specifically, act as a high-level political advocate for the role of state and regional governments in addressing climate change, including active communications outreach and speaking publicly on behalf of the Under2 Coalition, e.g. at conferences, quotes in press releases, in interviews and op-eds.
 - Act as a spokesperson for the Under2 Coalition when appropriate, including social media communications, speaking publicly on behalf of the Under2 Coalition, providing quotes in press releases and reports, in interviews and op-eds.
 - Maintain close relationships with key members of the Under2 Coalition and with other key influencers and stakeholder groups.
- **Executive governance**
 - Work with other key leading members of the region to further the Coalition's position or efforts on priority political or policy issues related in particular to the achievement of the Coalition's climate ambition.
 - Attend co-chair meetings per year as required (in-person and/or via online conference).
 - Attend and chair at least one Under2 Coalition meeting a year, e.g. the General Assembly and a regional meeting.
 - Provide support for (where applicable promotion of) major projects and initiatives to strengthen and grow the work of the Under2 Coalition. This could include identifying priority sectors and issues, supporting the secretariat to secure resources for project implementation or acting as lead region for a particular project or initiative and recruitment of new members and signatories.

Climate Group will provide secretariat support to the co-chairs, including:

- Expanding the Coalition's footprint across key regions including Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America

- Regular calls, in-person and written briefings in advance of meetings, initiatives and events related to the Under2 Coalition.
- Communications support in relation to written op-eds, interviews and other media and communications opportunities facilitated by the Climate Group.
- Facilitation of speaking opportunities at major high-level events and briefing on key messages.
- Engage co-chairs on leadership across accountability, ambition, action and advocacy.

Roles and responsibilities: steering group

The steering group consists of senior-level officials from the elected co-chair governments additional representatives (preferably at least two per global region) from elected member regions. Steering group members will attend quarterly meetings and oversee the strategic direction of the Under2 Coalition.

A high-level elected representative of each steering group member region acts as a formal representative in the annual in-person steering group and is responsible for general oversight of steering group matters. A senior government official may be designated to represent the government in steering group matters, such as consultations or meetings.

The role of steering group members is to provide governance and to determine and oversee the strategic direction of the Under2 Coalition, including input on strategic decisions, approval of new signatories and members and taking an active role to strengthen and grow the work of the Under2 Coalition including supporting major new initiatives.

State, regional and provincial governments are eligible to nominate themselves for candidacy to the steering group.

Steering group members should show leadership through climate action. They should play an active role in the Under2 Coalition programs, e.g. through participation in workstreams and projects. This pertains directly to leadership vis-à-vis the strategic pillars of the Coalition i.e. ambition, action, advocacy, and accountability.

Criteria for selection will be geographic diversity, performance on achieving climate change objectives and degree of involvement in Under2 activities over the past year.

Steering group role requirements:

- Regularly attend quarterly steering group online conference calls/meetings (maximum four annually unless an extraordinary meeting is requested by the steering group).
- Provide strategic guidance to the Under2 Coalition, including approval of new members. They will be regularly consulted by the Climate Group and are expected to provide feedback on strategic decisions.
- Provide support (and where applicable promotion of) major projects and initiatives to strengthen and grow the work of the Under2 Coalition. This could include identifying priority sectors and

issues, supporting the secretariat to secure resources for project implementation or acting as lead region for a particular project or initiative.

- Be a signatory to the 2021 Under2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and demonstrate climate leadership.
- Contribute/add inputs around diplomacy and advocacy efforts lead by the secretariat.

Climate Group will provide secretariat support to steering group members. This includes:

- Managing the Coalition’s governance, administration and impact work, including fundraising for key projects and programmes to build capacity and impact across workstreams. These workstreams include raising the Coalition’s climate ambition, climate diplomacy, long term decarbonization planning, policy peer learning and knowledge exchange, and transparency and accountability.
- Providing briefings and preparation materials for steering group meetings and consultations on new initiatives relating to the Under2 Coalition.
- Background briefing, communications and other support (as appropriate) in relation to specific activities undertaken by steering group members on behalf of the Under2 Coalition.
- Communications and where applicable, briefings ahead of key events and organising the annual General Assembly and other convenings to offer members opportunities for leadership.

Process & timelines

- Nominations for co-chair and steering group positions for the next two-year term open on **1 April 2024**.
- Steering group and co-chair self-nominations should be submitted to the secretariat by contacting Nehmat Kaur, Head of Under2 and Subnational Governments, via email by **30 April 2024**.
 - *For co-chair nominees, we request you to send in your nomination along with a 1-page statement of intent, responding to the following questions:*
 - How do the co-chair nominees intend to champion climate ambition, action, advocacy and accountability, during their time as co-chair of the Under2 Coalition?
 - The Under2 Coalition membership in our key geographies is diverse and spans several countries. How do the nominee governments plan on maintaining relevance and regional context for a diverse membership?
 - If there is a government election in their constituency in the next 2 years, how will the co-chair nominee governments ensure continued commitment beyond the current government?

- How do the nominee governments intend to champion communications on behalf of the Under2 Coalition? In what way(s) would the nominee governments act as regional champions for the Under2 Coalition?
- How do co-chair nominees intend to foster stronger partnerships and connections across the network to support better collaboration on mutual goals?
- Once all nominations are received, the secretariat will compile the list and circulate to the Under2 Coalition on **1 May 2024** for a period of 30 days seeking objections.
- If no objections are raised, the list will be finalised on **1 June 2024**. This final list of new co-chairs and steering group members will be confirmed by the outgoing co-chairs and steering group governments in the June 2024 quarterly steering group meetings.
- Once confirmed, the new co-chairs and steering group governments will be announced on **1 July 2024** and their official terms will begin at the next annual General Assembly.

Vote in case of multiple co-chair nominations for same region

In the event that there are multiple co-chair nominations from one region, the Climate Group will run an election process for that region. The election process will include circulation of the statement of intent, running a confidential vote with members of the region, and announcing the results related to the vote. The nominee government that does not get elected as co-chair will automatically be included in the steering group.

Announcement

The new co-chairs and steering Group members will be announced in July 2024. Newly appointed co-chair and steering Group members will be required to attend a steering group meeting ahead of the announcement in the last week of June. The two-year term for new co-chair and steering group members will begin at the annual General Assembly and will continue until the annual General Assembly in 2026.

Contact

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