

## **Under2 Coalition Grows to 165 Members with Wave of New Signatories at COP22**

*Coalition Now Represents over a billion people and \$25.7 trillion in combined GDP*

**MARRAKECH, 14 November 2016** - Following a signing ceremony at the 2016 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP22), the Under2 Coalition and California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. today welcomed 29 new members to the growing pact of cities, states and countries committed to limiting the increase in global average temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius – the level of potentially catastrophic consequences.

“This Under2 MOU represents an ever-growing consensus of states and provinces throughout the world determined to do everything possible to combat climate change,” said Governor Brown.

With the addition of 29 new signatories including the Australian Capital Territory in Australia; South Sumatra, East Kalimantan and West Kalimantan in Indonesia; Michoacán and Tabasco in Mexico; Abruzzo in Italy; and the Alliance of Peaking Pioneer Cities in China which represents 23 cities, including Beijing and existing member Zhenjiang; the Under2 Coalition has now grown to 165 jurisdictions representing more than a billion people and \$25.7 trillion in combined GDP – more than one-third of the global economy.

Speaking at a signing ceremony hosted at the China Pavilion, in Marrakech Jiang Zhaoli, Deputy Director General of the Climate Change Department of China’s National Development Reform Commission said: “China's low carbon city program has expanded to 100 cities and provinces. More than 30 of them have pledged to peak their emissions much earlier than the national target of peaking by 2030.”

The Under2 Coalition, the collective governments who have signed or endorsed the Under2 MOU, was [formed in 2015](#) by the states of California and Baden-Württemberg, Germany to mobilize – and galvanize – bold climate action from likeminded city, state and regional governments around the globe. Coalition members pledge to limit greenhouse gas emissions to 2 tons per capita or 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050.

“Canberra has some of the most ambitious renewable energy targets in the world and is well on track to reaching 100% renewable electricity by 2020 and being carbon neutral by 2050, ” said Shane Rattenbury, Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability for the Australian Capital Territory.

“Committing to the Under2 Coalition is a great opportunity for Canberra to take the stage as a world leader on climate change and clean energy and share our strong progress with other cities.”

The climate pact also set a strong example for the world’s nations to follow ahead of the COP21 in Paris and has since been endorsed by a number of national governments committed to long-term deep decarbonisation.

[The Climate Group](#), an international non-profit that works with business, state and regional leaders to promote a prosperous, low-carbon future was [announced as Secretariat](#) of the Under2 Coalition at last year’s COP in Paris. It is supporting signatories in developing decarbonization pathways to 2050, sharing

expertise and policy solutions, and tracking progress to ensure that governments deliver on their commitments.

“With the Paris Agreement entering into force earlier this month, all levels of government in every part of the world need to come together and push forward solutions to secure a climate safe future. This unique coalition of states, regions, cities and nations is needed now more than ever,” said Damian Ryan, Acting CEO at The Climate Group.

Additionally, California and the World Bank, in partnership with the Under2 Coalition and the Alliance of Peaking Pioneer Cities, have just announced an agreement to promote sustainable, low-carbon development strategies delivered through various initiatives, including the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities, with a focus on carbon inventory methodology, decarbonization pathways to 2050, and capacity building for sustainability strategies in Chinese cities.

Laura Tuck, World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development said: “This is an exciting new platform that will enable us to build from California’s experience in driving down emissions and to extend it to cities in China and beyond,” said Laura Tuck, World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development. “We need partnerships like this if we are going to deliver on the ambitions of Paris.”

More information about this agreement and the Under2 Coalition can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

## **ABOUT THE UNDER2 COALITION**

The Under2 Coalition is an ambitious network of sub-national governments publicly committed to long-term deep decarbonization. The Coalition brings together signatories of the Under2 MOU, a commitment by governments to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions towards net-zero by 2050. All signatories commit to limit their GHG emissions by 80-95% on 1990 levels, or to 2 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per capita, by 2050.

To help governments move from commitment to action, the Under2 Coalition focuses on three areas of work; developing 2050 pathway plans, scaling innovative policy solutions and transparently measuring and reporting progress. This forum supports a very unique membership of governments from different geographies, politics and economies, as they move towards a trajectory consistent with 2050 carbon neutrality.

Coalition members include 165 states, provinces, regions and city government signatories, as well as national government endorsers, and together they represent a third of the global economy. The Under2 MOU was created by the governments of California and Baden-Württemberg and The Climate Group has acted as the Coalition secretariat since 2015.

#Under2Coalition

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