

## **Leading by Example: Net-Zero Government Initiative**

We the undersigned, representing the national governments of 19 countries have gathered here at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP27), in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt to launch the Net-Zero Government Initiative.

The Paris Agreement reaffirmed the goal of limiting the increase in global temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Achieving this goal requires concrete policies, measures, and actions from all sectors.

National governments are frequently the largest employers, electricity consumers, vehicle fleet owners, real estate holders, and purchasers of goods and services in their respective countries. Government decarbonization efforts not only contribute directly to the achievement of countries' nationally determined contributions and long-term climate goals, they also send powerful demand signals to the market. As a result, national governments can lead by example and play a catalytic role in accelerating economy-wide actions, driving zero-carbon technologies and markets, and lowering decarbonization costs across all sectors while also advancing energy security.

Many countries are taking steps to green their government operations and are pursuing efforts such as greening government fleets, advancing energy efficient and sustainable government buildings, expanding carbon-free electricity use in government operations, pursuing resilience and nature-based solutions, and advancing green public procurement policies. In some cases, countries have also committed to achieving government emissions reduction targets ahead of the economy-wide targets.

The Net-Zero Government Initiative accelerates decarbonization of the national government sector and underscores the catalytic role of national government operations in their countries' broader climate objectives.

Signatory countries aim to:

- A. Achieve net-zero emissions from national government operations by no later than 2050;
- B. Develop a roadmap by the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) that outlines the pathway for achieving the net-zero commitment, considering the country's individual context, and identifies interim targets as appropriate; and
- C. Publish the roadmap upon completion.

We invite other countries to join us in the Net-Zero Government Initiative and stand ready to exchange knowledge and lessons learned with other countries seeking to work with us toward this shared objective.

## **Signatories**

Signed by the ministers and representatives of:

**Australia**

**Republic of Austria**

**Kingdom of Belgium**

**Canada**

**Republic of Cyprus**

**Republic of Finland**

**France**

**Federal Republic of Germany**

**Ireland**

**Israel**

**Japan**

**Republic of Korea**

**Republic of Lithuania**

**Netherlands**

**New Zealand**

**Republic of Singapore**

**Switzerland**

**United Kingdom**

**United States of America**