Concept Note

Carbon Neutrality Coalition (CNC)

Inaugural High-Level Meeting

at United Nations Headquarters during UNGA Leaders’ Week

27 September 2018

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is planning to convene the inaugural high-level meeting of the Carbon Neutrality Coalition (CNC) during the UN General Assembly Leaders’ Week in New York.

Climate change is a hot topic – and it’s getting hotter. COP24 in Katowice this December has been dubbed “Paris 2.0” as governments must reach agreement on the implementing guidelines for the Paris Agreement. In 2019, the UN Secretary-General will convene a Climate Summit to build political momentum further. UNGA Leaders’ Week is a key opportunity for promoting increased ambition on the track to COP24 and laying the groundwork for the 2019 Summit.

At this decisive moment for the negotiations, the inaugural meeting of the CNC represents a clear signal that its members intend to play their part in making a highly credible contribution to the fight against climate change.

Background

At the One Planet Summit in 2017, 16 countries and 32 cities launched the CNC and committed to developing long-term low-emissions development strategies well ahead of 2020, in support of the Paris Agreement’s collective goal of achieving carbon neutrality in the second half of the century. The strategies aim to achieve a triple win: reaping the socio-economic benefits of the transition to net-zero greenhouse gases; building climate-resilient economies; and accelerating global climate action at the necessary speed and scale. Members also recognise that this long-term target would act as a lodestar against which interim planning and policy-making can be measured.

Inaugural Meeting

Prime Minister Ardern will be joined by other co-champions and members of the Coalition to highlight their ambitious climate change action and encourage others to follow the lead. The
event will also be a platform to announce and welcome any new CNC signatories, and to launch the CNC action plan and website.

All of this will help build the momentum for greater ambition in the lead-up to COP24 and the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit.

Invitees to the meeting will include Leaders and Ministers of the 16 member countries and other prospective members, plus international and regional organisations, and civil society. There may also be representatives from some of the 32 member cities of the CNC.

The event will be up to 1 hour in duration and will include a ‘family photo’ of the Leaders, Ministers and other senior representatives from CNC members.

**Proposed Format**

- **5 minutes** Welcome and introduction by MC / guest speaker
- **15–20 minutes** Introductory remarks by 3–4 Leaders (approximately 5 minutes each), including announcement of new CNC members, and launch of action plan and website
- **20–25 minutes** Comments by other Leaders and Ministers on why and how they are transitioning to carbon neutrality
- **5 minutes** Wrap-up and next steps
- **5 minutes** ‘Family photo’ with leaders of CNC members

**Current Members**

*The Declaration of the Carbon Neutrality Coalition was signed by:* Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, and Sweden.