

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)
BETWEEN
THE STATE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND CLIMATE POLICY OF THE
NETHERLANDS AND
THE HEAD OF THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT,
ENERGY AND COMMUNICATIONS OF SWITZERLAND
ON COOPERATION ON CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE (CCS) AND CARBON
DIOXIDE REMOVAL (CDR)

The State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of the Netherlands and the Head of the Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of Switzerland (hereinafter referred to individually as a “Participant” and collectively as the “Participants”);

Acknowledging the importance of the bilateral relationship between Switzerland and the Netherlands and our shared values and interests;

Emphasising the need for reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement, and the obligation to deliver on the Participants' respective Nationally Determined Contributions;

Recognizing the emphasis by amongst others the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) on the role of CCS and CDR in achieving climate goals;

Reaffirming that emission reductions remain the priority for achieving the climate objectives and also reaffirming the shared commitment of the two countries to mitigate climate change under the Paris Agreement and the necessity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as to permanently remove CO₂ from the atmosphere in order to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement;

Emphasising the important role of CCS and CDR in meeting the Dutch and Swiss national climate targets, CCS technology can help address emissions that are otherwise difficult to reduce and where no other viable options exist;

Emphasising the importance to implement CCS and CDR in an environmentally responsible manner;

Acknowledging the importance of CCS and CDR technology in the fulfilment of national climate policy goals;

Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation in supporting cross-border CCS and CDR infrastructure;

Acknowledging the importance of science in the promotion and development of CCS and CDR, and the shared aim of strengthening international cooperation on CCS and CDR innovation, research and technology development;

Bearing in mind that this MoU provides a general framework for cooperation between the Participants and expresses the mutual intent of the Participants to advance bilateral relations and support CCS and CDR development and deployment, including cost reductions and facilitating cross-border CCS and CDR solutions;

Have accepted the following:

Section 1 – Objective

The objective of this MoU is to promote the development of CCS and CDR and the Participants' cooperation in this field by creating a framework for cooperation between the Participants to facilitate their sharing of technical knowledge, advice, skills and expertise in the field of CCS and CDR.

Section 2 – Cooperation

The cooperation between the Participants under this MoU will be operationalized through a Joint Working Group established and presided by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of the Netherlands and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, and further consisting of representatives of other relevant government authorities.

The Joint Working Group will in particular work on the following topics:

- a. Sharing knowledge on latest technologies, geological infrastructure, transport systems, safe storage, environmental impact, and other relevant experiences relating to CCS and CDR.
- b. Considering and exploring the need for a bilateral agreement or arrangement including enabling cross-border transportation and storage of CO₂. This also includes the consideration of the technical, legal, CO₂ monitoring and accounting aspects concerning the cross-border transport and storage of CO₂.
- c. Collaborate in identifying and evaluating possible policy mechanisms and funding sources to support the deployment of CCS and CDR infrastructure and projects.
- d. Other subject areas as the Participants may jointly decide.

The Joint Working Group will meet at regular intervals as decided by the Participants and be presided alternately by Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Section 3 – Arrangements of the Participants

This MoU does not create any rights or obligations under international law and does not impose any financial obligations on the Participants.

All costs resulting from cooperation under this MoU are to be borne by the Participant that incurs them, unless otherwise mutually decided.

Each Participant intends to conduct the cooperation under this MoU subject to all applicable laws and regulations and subject to availability and deployment of resources and personnel.

Each Participant will designate a primary point of contact to coordinate the overall cooperation between the Participants for the areas described in Section 2.

Section 4 – Amendment Procedures and Consultations

This MoU may be amended at any time by jointly written consent of the Participants.

At any time, the Participants will consult, at the request of any of them, on any matter relating to this MoU, in the spirit of cooperation, good faith and mutual trust, to resolve quickly any difficulties or misunderstanding that may arise.

Section 5 – Final Provisions

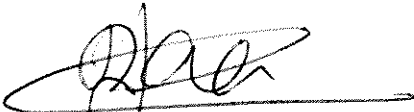
This MoU will come into effect upon signature and remain effective for a period of 4 (four) years. The MoU may continue to have effect after this initial period if the Participants so jointly decide.

This MoU may be jointly reviewed upon written request of one of the Participants.

This MoU may be terminated at any time by either Participant if possible upon three (3) month's written notice to the other Participant. The termination of this MoU will not affect any on-going activities under this MoU, unless otherwise decided by the Participants.

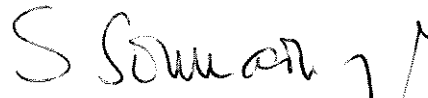
Signed in The Hague on the 22 March 2022 in the English language.

*For the State Secretary for Economic Affairs
and Climate Policy of the Netherlands*



*Rob Jetten
Minister for Climate and Energy Policy of the
Netherlands*

*The head of the Federal Department of
Environment, Transport, Energy and
Communications of Switzerland*



*Simonetta Sommaruga
Federal Councillor, Minister for the
Environment, Transport, Energy and
Communications*