

Race to Zero

Terms of reference - 2022

Expert Peer Review Group

This document outlines the Terms of Reference for the Race to Zero (RtZ) campaign Expert Peer Review Group (EPRG). Details of the Group's members can be found [here](#).

Responsibilities

1. Credibility is essential for the success of the Race to Zero campaign. All commitments under the campaign should reflect good-faith efforts to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.
2. EPRG advises the UN High-level Climate Champions ("Champions") on which networks and initiatives (termed 'Race to Zero Partners') should be included, or not, in the RtZ, based on a thorough application process that assesses alignment to the RtZ criteria.
3. EPRG undertakes an annual review of the Race to Zero Partners and advises the Champions on whether Partners should be (a) reapproved; (b) conditionally reapproved; or (c) removed from the campaign. Further details of this process can be found [here](#).
4. EPRG works in partnership with the Champions Team to organize the annual process of criteria consultation to update, strengthen and clarify the [minimum criteria](#) for Race to Zero.
5. The EPRG is an advisory body, not a decision-making body. Ultimately, the Champions decide on the RtZ criteria, and which networks and initiatives to include, or not.

Functions

1. EPRG provides the following functions:
 - a. **Review** applications from networks and initiatives wishing to join the RtZ.
 - b. **Advise** the Champions on the basis of that review. Such advice will typically be in writing. If required, the Champions may organize discussions with the EPRG.
 - c. **Annually review** Partners in RtZ.
 - d. **Advise** the Champions on the basis of that review. Such advice will typically be in writing. If required, the Champions may organize discussions with the EPRG.
 - e. Help **lead** the criteria consultation process on an annual basis to suggest updates to the minimum criteria in view of continuing to drive upward convergence towards best net-zero practice.

Composition

1. EPRG is formed of around 15-20 individual experts and practitioners;
2. EPRG members are independent of the Champions Team. They do not work for the Champions or report to them, but instead serve as independent advisors.
3. Members are drawn from:
 - a. Networks and initiatives in the RtZ;
 - b. Scientific or technical experts;
4. 7. The composition of EPRG will be inclusive with respect to:
 - a. Gender

- b. Geography, including developed and developing countries
- c. Types of actors (e.g. representatives of sub-national governments, business, civil society, etc.)
- d. Domains of expertise
5. One or two member(s) of EPRG will serve as (co)Chairperson, appointed by the Champions.
6. Members of EPRG serve for 18-month terms, renewable.

Expectations for members of EPRG

1. Members engage as individuals, not as representatives of their organizations.
2. Members act in good faith to provide accurate, evidence-based advice to the Champions.
3. Members are not compensated or remunerated for their time.
4. Members allocate 5-10 hours per month to the work of the EPRG.
5. Members shall declare any interests they may have relating to a particular initiative / network.
6. Members shall recuse themselves from advising the Champions on initiatives in which they have a direct personal interest (e.g. if they are employed by the network / initiative).

Nomination process

1. Membership in EPRG is determined by the Champions.
2. Individuals may nominate themselves to serve on EPRG by submitting a cover letter and CV to the Champions.
3. The Champions may appoint further members of the EPRG as needed.
4. At the request of the Champions, current members of EPRG may offer advice on individuals nominated to join EPRG.

Operation of the group

1. EPRG considers applications from networks and initiatives on a rolling basis (see vetting process).
2. In general, EPRG works asynchronously over email.
3. EPRG has a monthly virtual meeting to discuss any applications that require deliberation.
4. Exceptionally, EPRG may arrange ad hoc meetings at the request of the Champions or if EPRG members wish to meet.

Governance

1. The Champions may update these Terms of Reference as required, in consultation with the EPRG.
2. EPRG deliberations *with respect to specific networks and initiatives* are confidential unless the network or initiative chooses to publicize them. EPRG members are free to discuss publicly the general workings or processes of EPRG.
3. Members of EPRG will be listed on the Race to Zero website.