

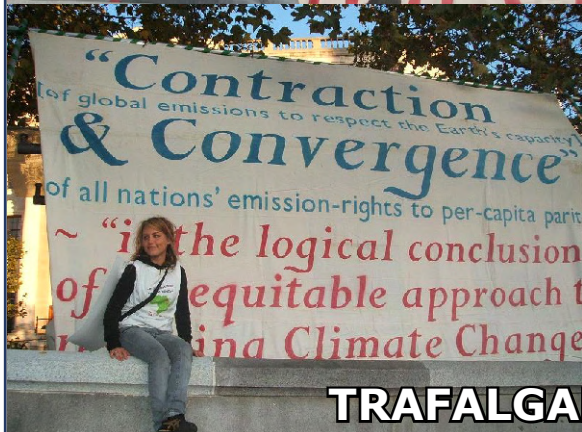


For the now beautiful young woman who, only yesterday, was this beautiful little girl.

Dearest,

"Remember, if when tomorrow comes, your heart is in the right place, you are never far from home"

Your loving
Dadda



TRAFALGAR SQUARE 4th Novmber 2006



Founding Statement Aubrey Meyer

Feb 12, 2000 05:59 PST

The text below is a sign-on declaration regarding global climate change and its context.

It also suggests a global policy framework to deal with it called "Contraction and Convergence" based on precaution, equity and efficiency - in that order. (<http://www.gci.org.uk>).

It was issued initially by the Global Commons Institute in London. A shortened version of the letter was published in 'the Independent' newspaper (UK) on the 24th of December 1999.

The text here has the original six co-signatories attached to it. The founding signatories agreed that the list of co-signatories would use the informal title, 'The Global Commons Network' (GCN).

Support for the content of the letter grew quickly, so a decision was taken by me (Aubrey Meyer of GCI) to create a 'list address' at 'topica' [<http://www.igc.topica.com/lists/GCN> - based in California] to make it easier to manage the volume of support.

The intention behind this list is to inform people of the activity and to seek further awareness and support for it and to demonstrate this support at the UN negotiations on climate change.

Yours sincerely

Aubrey Meyer

Global Commons Institute

Here is the founding text. The shortened version in the Independent is available on request. To whoever may share these concerns.

The debts that the wealthy countries have recently forgiven their poorer neighbours are as nothing in comparison with the amount that these countries already owe the rest of the world for the increased global warming they have caused and are still causing. Inevitably there are links between this and the rising frequency and severity of storms, floods, droughts and the damages these are causing in many places across the world.

While debts worth roughly \$3 billion have just been conditionally written off by the UK, the cost of the infra-structural damage done by the recent floods in Venezuela alone has been put at \$10 billion. In addition, tens of thousands of lives have been lost there. Is anybody brave enough to put a monetary value on these?

Moreover, the greenhouse gases the energy-intensive countries have discharged into the atmosphere in the past two centuries will stay potentially even beyond the new century, causing death and destruction year after year. The debt relief, on the other hand, is a one-off event.

Fifty-six countries were affected by severe floods and at least 45 by drought during 1998, the most recent year for which figures are available. In China, the worst floods for 44 years displaced 56 million people in the Yangtze basin and destroyed almost five per cent of the country's output for the year, for which climate change was one of the causes. In Bangladesh, an unusually long and severe monsoon flooded two-thirds of the country for over a month and left 21 million people homeless.

Paul Epstein of Harvard Medical School has estimated that in the first eleven months of 1998, weather-related losses totaled \$89 billion and that 32,000 people died and 300 million were displaced from their homes. This was more than the total losses experienced throughout the 1980s, he said. The rate of destruction will accelerate because greenhouse gases are still being added to the atmosphere at perhaps five times the rate that natural systems can remove them. By 2050, annual losses could theoretically amount to anywhere between 12 per cent and 130 per cent of the gross world product. In other words, more than the total amount the world produces that year could be destroyed and life as we know it could collapse. For the industrialized countries, the damage could be anywhere between 0.6 per cent and 17 per cent of their annual output, and for the rest of the world, between 25 per cent and 250 per cent.

Michael Meacher, the UK Environment Minister, has recognised this. He recently told the Royal

Geological Society that, "the future of our planet, our civilisation and our survival as a human species... may well depend on [our responding to the climate crisis by] fusing the disciplines of politics and science within a single coherent system."

"Contraction and Convergence" is such a system. As Sir John Houghton, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently told the British Association for the Advancement of Science, global greenhouse emissions need to be reduced by at least 60% in less than a hundred years.

When governments agree to be bound by such a target, the diminishing amount of carbon dioxide and the other greenhouse gases that the world could release while staying within the target can be calculated for each year in the coming century. This is the contraction part of the process.

The convergence part is that each year's tranche of this global emissions budget gets shared out among the nations of the world in a way which ensures that every country converges on the same allocation per inhabitant by, say, 2030, the date Sir John suggested. Countries unable to manage within their allocations would, within limits, be able to buy the unused parts of the allocations of other, more frugal, countries.

Sales of unused allocations would give the countries of the South the income to purchase or develop zero-emission ways of meeting their needs. The countries of the North would benefit from the export markets this restructuring would create. And the whole world would benefit by the slowing the rate at which damage was being done.

Because "Contraction and Convergence" provides an effective, equitable and efficient framework within which governments can work to avert climate change, even some progressive fossil fuel producers have now begun to demonstrate a positive interest in the concept.

Consequently, as Jubilee 2000 and Seattle have shown, governments and powerful interests are helped to change by coherent coordinated pressure from civil society.

Yours sincerely

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CHARTER 99 Supports Contraction and Convergence Aubrey Meyer

Apr 03, 2000 07:56 PDT

CHARTER 99 Declaration

Inter alia " Declare climate change to be an essential global security interest and establish a high-level international urgent action team to assist the UN Conference of the Parties on Climate Change to set a scientifically based global ceiling on greenhouse gas emissions, to allocate national shares of permissible emissions based on convergence to equal per capita rights, and to work with governments, companies, international agencies and NGOs to cut emissions of greenhouse gases to a sustainable level."

Malcolm Harper, Director, United Nations Association

Mrs Anna Ford BBC

Chief Emeka Anyaoku Sec-Gen Commonwealth

Jean Lambert MEP

Linda Melvern

Tony Colman MP

Barry Coates, Director, World Development Movement

Anita Roddick The Body Shop International PLC

Lord Peter Archer of Sandwell

George Monbiot

Lord Frank Judd of Portsea

Glenys Kinnock MEP

Ken Livingstone MP

Prof. Andrew Motion , Poet Laureate,

Prof. Tim Brighouse

Lord Richard Rogers of Riversdale RA RIBA

Julian Filochowski OBE, Director, CAFOD

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Dr Peter Brand MP

Mr David Waller , Director, Acord

Mrs Marian Young VP WEA

Mr Tony Jones Ex Dir Mersey Basin Trust

Mr Mark Thomas , Comic,

Mr Michael Moore MP

Prof. Amyan Macfadyen MA D SC

Prof. Naom Chomsky

Prof. John Hicks

Prof. Ruth Lister Loughborough Univ.

Simon Maxwell, Director, Overseas Development Institute

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Donald Gorrie MP

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Prof. Anthony Giddens, Director, LSE

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Mr Jonathan Dimbleby, President, VSO Friends of the Earth Finland
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Nigel Palmer MP
David Drew MP
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John McAllion MP
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Andrew George MP for St Ives
David Lepper MP
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Mike Aaronson , Director General, Save the Children
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Mr Edward Davey MP
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Jackie Ballard MP
Mike Hancock CBE MP
Colin Breed MP
Vincent Cable MP
Rt. Hon. Menzies Campbell CBE, QC, MP
Norman Baker MPLiberal Democrats
Hazel Henderson , Author, Building a Win-Win World, and Beyond Globalization
Phil Willis MPfor Harrogate and Knaresborough
Dr Jenny Tonge MPLiberal Democrat Spokesperson for International Development
Allan Rogers MP
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Lord Desai of St Clement DanesLSE
Don Foster MP
John MacDonnell MP
Jean Marcben , Deputy Mayor of Calais, France,
Neil Gerrard MP
Austin Mitchell MP
Alan Keen MP

Opportunity Knocks at PEW Aubrey Meyer

Apr 05, 2000 03:28 PDT

Opportunity Knocks at the PEW CENTRE for C&C *This Month*

The PEW Centre (with Chatham House) has billed a: -

Climate Change Conference - April 25-26, 2000, Washington, D.C.

(see <http://www.pewclimate.org>)

Pronk/Prescott/Bob Hill/Claussen and other 'eminent and/or ordinary'
persons will be addressing: - "Innovative Policy Solutions to Global
Climate Change"

Chatham House already advocates 'Contraction & Convergence'. (if M. Grubb, of "The Kyoto Protocol - a Guide and an Assessment" (Earthscan) is as good as his word).

Grubb describes it as, "the most politically prominent contender for any specific global formula for long-term allocations with increasing numbers of adherents in both developed and developing countries," saying that it, "emerged from the academic debate". (p 270)

(Also see <http://www.gci.org.uk/grubb.html>)

PEW Centre has a 'position' on Contraction and Convergence. (see http://www.pewclimate.org/projects/pol_equity.html)

Citing the paper by GCN colleagues Dr Dan Kammen and Ann Kinzig, the PEW Climate/Equity paper makes the following remark (p 11); it is rather strangely phrased: -

"Several proposals for convergence around a uniform per capita emissions level have set the bar at around one ton of carbon dioxide (sic - they must surely mean one tonne - metric - of carbon from carbon dioxide) a level significantly lower than most Annex One countries and even lower than some developing countries [Kinzig Kammen]. Is this possible? (they ask) If enough people think it is impractical - regardless of whether they think it is fair - the chances of implementing any internal mitigation standards are reduced."

I (Aubrey/GCI) say this can be put the other way, i.e. "if enough people think that it is practical/fair then we can do it."

At COP5 Lisa McNeilly co-author of the PEW document seemed unwilling to discuss this.

However, Opportunity Knocks !!!

Tom Spencer (GLOBE International - he recently won the 'Green Ribbon Award' for helping put C&C on the map) will be there representing Counterpart International (CI). CI (Lelei LeLaulu) have endorsed C&C.

Tom is already interested raising the "£100 million worth of shame" question (UK sells CO2 credits to the US etc).

He could also raise the issue of C&C with the extensive support that is already on record. (See this website).

To help Tom to get PEW to put the issue in a positive light, I will also shortly post an extended list of academic/political/media support references for this approach.

If anybody has references (especially web URLs) please send them to me and I will include them in this 'archive'.

Thank you

Aubrey

Stuck in the TAR? Aubrey Meyer

May 12, 2000 09:06 PDT

GCI Letter To Rob Swart

Re Contraction and Convergence in the TAR or not in the TAR (TAR = IPCC Third Assessment Report).

Dear Rob

Thank you for your e-mail. I agree with you the ethics are important and the issues are sensitive. That is why GCI will continue to co-operate with you all in a sensitive manner and why we shall continue to appreciate your good judgement and co-operation.

The attachment (see above and below) I sent you is the up-dated C&C Reference list. Over 40 references are there. Many are 'intellectually blue-chip.'

This is simply continuing to keep sound records. If anyone - or author - believes still that there are no or perhaps even insufficient references for "Contraction and Convergence" related literature, they now - with your help please, you have the addresses, and I only have the ones of people I actually know - have a resource with which to correct this error. Perhaps this is still relevant vis-a-vis some of the people you are still trying to get a result from in TAR Chapter One.

You are rightly concerned about the need to be constructive and productive. What is both of these things, and what I intend to keep attention sensitively focussed on now, is the following : -

IPCC Authors: -

(1) Review all the policy documentation and literature logically relevant to achievement of the objective of the UNFCCC regardless of their ideological preferences. IPCC serves the Convention before it serves the Protocol (which may yet fail to achieve ratification). The formal Institutional linkage for IPCC is at that meta-level with the UNFCCC, as we all know.

I understand it has been suggested that some of the relevant literature has been classified as 'grey' (marginal). Springer Verlag, The European Parliament, The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (UK), UNEP, Chatham House, (amongst at least some of the others on the attached list) would, I feel sure, take exception to that classification of their status and relevance in this exercise. Perhaps they should be consulted.

(2) Reveal and explain difference of views where they exist.

This is the 'Bolin Dictum' (see my previous review comments - "Framework or Guesswork") - The SAR observed this, (with some difficulty re 'valuation' towards the end it is true) and the TAR will obviously have to do this as well. It is in the formal IPCC rules of procedure. It is the only sensible way to proceed, especially so as to avoid the concern that sees the 'politicizing the IPCC'.

(3) Explicitly in this context, attend and take account of the substance and the output of the specially convened IPCC Workshops (e.g. Cuba) around these issues.

..... This did not happen regarding the Cuba Equity workshop in February, as you mentioned with some understandable disappointment. Consequently the views of the participants (Estrada et al) are in danger of being ignored when the opposite is all-too-obviously required.

I remember during the SAR years, Principal Lead Authors failed to attend the Equity workshop in Nairobi. It was this as much as anything which led to the subsequent difficulties regarding the error of unequal life evaluation and the protracted business of correcting this and ensuring that rules of procedure were eventually adhered to.

Kind regards

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

UK Royal Commission backs C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 17, 2000 08:27 PDT

In their extended report - "Energy - the changing climate", published 16/6/2000 - the UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution roundly supports the principles on Contraction and Convergence.

Ref: - <http://www.rcep.org.uk/newenergy.html>

Detail on RCEP Backing for C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 18, 2000 23:50 PDT

Re "Contraction and Convergence" and the advocacy of this by the UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

The report as a whole is sited at: -

<http://www.rcep.org.uk/newenergy.html>

Contraction & Convergence is the third of the 19 KEY recommendations to the government here. (See all 19 below). There were 87 recommendations in total.

"3. The government should press for a future global climate agreement based on the contraction and convergence approach, combined with international trading in emission permits. Together, these offer the best long-term prospect of securing equity, economy and international consensus (4.69)."

The C&C chapter is Chapter Four

<http://www.rcep.org.uk/pdf/chp4.pdf>

In Chapter Four and in the section; "The Need for an International Agreement", we find

A PER CAPITA BASIS FOR EMISSION QUOTAS

4.47 Continued, vigorous debate is needed, within and between nations, on the best basis for an agreement to follow the Kyoto Protocol. Our view is that an effective, enduring and equitable climate protocol will eventually require emission quotas to be allocated to nations on a simple and equal per capita basis. There will have to be a comprehensive system of monitoring emissions to ensure the quotas are complied with. Adjustment factors could be used to compensate for differences in nations' basic energy needs. Those countries which regularly experience very low or high temperatures might, for instance, be entitled to an extra allocation per capita for space heating or cooling.

4.48 A system of per capita quotas could not be expected to enter into force immediately. At the same time as entitling developing nations to use substantially more fossil fuels than at present (which they might not be able to afford), it would require developed nations to make drastic and immediate cuts in their use of fossil fuels, causing serious damage to their economies.

4.49 A combination of two approaches could avoid this politically and diplomatically unacceptable situation, while enabling a per capita basis to be adhered to. The first approach is to require nations' emission quotas to follow a contraction and convergence trajectory. Over the coming decades each nation's allocation would gradually shift from its current level of emissions towards a level set on a uniform per capita basis. By this means 'grandfather rights' would gradually be removed: the quotas of developed nations would fall, year by year, while those of the poorest developing nations would rise, until all nations had an entitlement to emit an equal quantity of greenhouse gases per head (convergence). From then on, the quotas of all nations would decline together at the same rate (contraction). The combined global total of emissions would follow a profile through the 21st and 22nd centuries which kept atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases below a specified limit.

50 The upper limit on the concentration of greenhouse gases would be determined by international negotiations, as would the date by which all nations would converge on a uniform per capita basis for their emission quotas, and the intermediate steps towards that. It would probably also be necessary to set a cut-off date for national populations: beyond that date, further changes in the size of a country's population would not lead to any increase or decrease in its emission quota.

4.51 In table 4.1 17 we have applied the contraction and convergence approach to carbon dioxide emissions, and calculated what the UK's emissions quotas would be in 2050 and 2100 for four alternative upper limits on atmospheric concentration. We have assumed for this purpose that 2050 would be both the date by which nations would converge on a uniform per capita emissions figure and the cut-off date for national populations.¹⁸ If 550 ppmv is selected as the upper limit, UK carbon dioxide emissions would have to be reduced by almost 60% from their current level by mid-century, and by almost 80% by 2100. Even stabilisation at a very high level of 1,000 ppmv would require the UK to cut emissions by some 40% by 2050.

4.52 The UK-based Global Commons Institute has taken the lead in promoting contraction and convergence, and has developed a computer model which specifies emission allocations under a range of scenarios.¹⁹ The concept has been supported by several national governments and legislators. Some developed nations are very wary of it because it implies drastic reductions in their emissions, but at least one minister in a European government has supported it.²⁰ Commentators on climate diplomacy have identified contraction and convergence as a leading contender among the various proposals for allocating emission quotas to nations in the long term.²¹

4.53 The other ingredient which would make an agreement based on per capita allocations of quotas more feasible is flexibility of the kind already provided in outline in the Kyoto Protocol (4.42 and box 4A). Nations most anxious to emit greenhouse gases in excess of their allocation over a

given period will be able and willing to purchase unused quota at prices which incline other countries to emit less than their quota, to the benefit of both parties. The clean development mechanism, which allows developed nations to claim emission reductions by sponsoring projects which reduce emissions in developing nations to levels lower than they would otherwise have been, can also be seen as a form of trading.

4.54 In the longer term trading by companies in emission permits, drawn from national emission quotas determined on the basis of a contraction and convergence agreement, could make a valuable contribution to reducing the global costs of stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations while transferring resources from wealthy nations to poorer ones. Trading needs to be transparent, monitored and regulated, and backed by penalties on nations which emit more than they are entitled to. If it became merely a means of enabling wealthy nations to buy up the emission entitlements of poor countries on the cheap, thereby evading taking any action at home, trading would not serve the cause of climate protection. Nor would it if developing countries which had sold quota heavily went on to emit in excess of their revised entitlements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We bring together here all the recommendations which appear (in bold type) elsewhere in this report: first 19 key recommendations, which are also included (in capitals) in the relevant contexts in chapter 10; and then a number of other recommendations on particular aspects

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The goal of reducing the UK's annual carbon dioxide emissions by 20% from their 1990 level by 2010 is a major step in the right direction. It should become a firm target and the government should produce a climate change programme that will ensure it is achieved (5.60).
2. The UK should continue to play a forceful leading role in international negotiations to combat climate change, both in its own right and through the European Union. The government should press for further reductions in the greenhouse gas emissions of developed nations after 2012, and controls on the emissions of developing nations (4.68).
3. The government should press for a future global climate agreement based on the contraction and convergence approach, combined with international trading in emission permits. Together, these offer the best long-term prospect of securing equity, economy and international consensus (4.69).
4. While UK carbon dioxide emissions are falling at the moment, they are expected to begin rising again. All but one of the nuclear power stations, the main source of carbon-free energy at present, are expected to close by 2025. The government should set out, within the next five years, a programme for energy demand reductions and development of alternative energy sources that will prevent this from causing an increase in UK emissions (10.12).
5. The government should now adopt a strategy which puts the UK on a path to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by some 60% from current levels by about 2050. This would be in line with a global agreement based on contraction and convergence which set an upper limit for the carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere of some 550 ppmv and a convergence date of 2050 (10.10).
6. Absolute reductions in energy demand and a large deployment of alternative energy sources will be needed if the UK is to make deep and sustained cuts in carbon dioxide emissions while protecting its environment and quality of life (10.17). Longer-term targets should be set for expanding the contribution from renewable sources well beyond 10% of electricity supplies to cover a much larger share of primary energy demand (7.106). A range of targets should be developed for raising energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy (6.172). A central policy objective must be a very large reduction in demand for energy for heating and cooling, achieved through much more sophisticated management of heat and much wider use of combined heat and power schemes for both the industrial and the commercial and domestic markets. The resulting heat networks, supplied initially by fossil fuels, could ultimately obtain heat from energy crops and electrically powered heat pumps (8.15).

7. The targets in the UK's long-term strategy should cover protection and expansion of carbon sinks through tree planting and appropriate land use policies (10.20).
8. The UK should introduce a carbon tax, replacing the climate change levy which is due to begin next year. It should apply upstream and cover all sectors (10.26).
9. The first call on the revenue from this carbon tax should be to further reduce fuel poverty by benefit increases and more spending on household energy efficiency measures (10.27).
10. The remainder of the revenue should be used to raise investment in energy efficiency measures in all sectors, to increase the viability of alternative energy sources, and to reduce the impact of the new tax on UK industrial competitiveness (10.28).
11. The UK should press for a carbon tax within the European Union, but proceed on its own if agreement cannot be reached within the next few years (10.32).
12. We recommend that a Sustainable Energy Agency should be set up to promote energy efficiency more effectively in all sectors and co-ordinate that with the rapid development of new energy sources (10.46).
13. We recommend that the government should take the lead in a fundamental review of how electricity networks can best be financed, managed and regulated in order to stimulate and accommodate large contributions to energy supplies from combined heat and power plants and renewable sources, while maintaining reliability and quality of supplies (10.50).
14. We recommend that the fall in government spending on energy research and development should be reversed, and annual expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product quadrupled over the next decade to bring the UK up to the present EU average (10.59).
15. The need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, should be taken into account in all government policies. That is not the case at present (10.67).
16. The UK government and devolved administrations should launch a long-term programme to bring about major reductions in the energy requirements of buildings. As well as reducing waste, this will embrace wide use of technologies that enable occupiers of buildings, including householders, to obtain their own heat and electricity from renewable or energy-efficient sources such as solar heating, solar electricity, heat pumps, and small-scale combined heat and power plants (6.100). It will also require the large-scale construction of district heating networks, so that advantage can be taken of larger-scale combined heat and power schemes (10.68).
17. Reducing carbon dioxide emissions should continue to be a central objective of transport policy (10.69).
18. Growing crops for energy purposes should be regarded as a primary use for agricultural land, and policies and support measures should reflect that (10.71).
19. A comprehensive strategy is needed for developing renewable energy sources offshore. This should cover assessment of environmental impacts, designation of appropriate areas, and the possibility of combining more than one technology within a single installation (10.72).

'Cool Heads, Cold Feet'? Open letter re Skeptics Aubrey Meyer

May 28, 2000 04:31 PDT

To CLIMATE-L Readers: -

GCI has posted an open letter to: -

Marlo Lewis

Former Vice President for Policy and Coalitions

Competitive Enterprise Institute

Washington

regarding the 'climate skeptics /cool heads' 'invasion' of Capitol Hill next Tuesday the 30th of May.
<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Marlo.pdf>

Red Cross and Red Crescent Aubrey Meyer

Jun 20, 2000 05:59 PDT

To GCN members

RC embraces C&C

This 'good' news is embargoed until 9.30 am June 28th

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies publishes "World Disasters Report 2000" on the above date. It is published in several countries and in several languages.

[See <http://www.ifrc.org/>]

Andrew Simms of New Economics Foundation authored Chapter Seven of this report.

In chapter seven of the IFRC booklet there is a box - A climate of Debt [7.2] - where Andy makes the case he made in the Christian Aid booklet - "Climate, Debt, Equity and Survival" - the basis of the pro-C&C Global Commons Network position statement.

While the "World Disasters Report" has 'technical and editorial independence', it is IFRC's 'flagship' publication.

This puts IFRC in line with C&C. Good move Andy.

Text follows.

World Disasters Report 2000

Box 7.2 "A Climate of Debt"

On 1 March 2000, the world's media reported a story of hope amid the despair and catastrophe of Mozambique's massive floods. For days, while the international response stalled, just a handful of helicopters plucked a lucky few stranded people to safety. Then a woman was found clinging to a tree to escape the water. She had been there for three days. Extraordinarily, in the minutes before her rescue, she gave birth. There was a ripple of inappropriate self-congratulation in the Western press.

The story diverted attention from the large but unknown number of deaths, the estimated 1million people displaced, the loss of countless livestock and crops, the immeasurable damage to infrastructure. Typically, poverty had moved large numbers of people into areas highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters.

For a country still recovering from years of conflict and debt, the flood not only wiped out hard-won development gains, but set the country back far into the foreseeable future. In spite of its poverty and efforts towards reform, the servicing of foreign debts had been allowed to drain Mozambique of precious resources for many years.

Even following treatment by the latest improved debt-relief deal, known as HIPC II, current estimates suggest that Mozambique will still have to spend US\$ 45 million a year on debt servicing – more than it spends on either primary health care or basic education.

Yet, while highly indebted poor countries are pursued by creditors to service their foreign debts, industrialized countries are themselves responsible for a larger and potentially more damaging ecological debt. A debt for which no accounting system exists to force repayment. And those most responsible for the debt are least likely to suffer the consequences.

Reckless human use of fossil fuels – overwhelmingly by industrialized countries – has helped raise the spectre of climate change, which darkens everyone's horizon. According to a letter co-

signed in December 1999 by the under secretary of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the chief executive of the UK Meteorological Office, "the rapid rate of warming since 1976, approximately 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade, is consistent with the projected rate of warming based on human-induced effects...we continue to see con-firmation of the long-term warming trend."

But poor people in poor countries suffer first and worst from extreme weather conditions linked to climate change – a fact highlighted in the 'World Disasters Report 1999'. Today, 96 per cent of all deaths from natural disasters occur in developing countries. By 2025, over half of all people living in developing countries will be "highly vulnerable" to floods and storms. Ironically, these are also the people likely to be most affected by the results of financial debt.

Mozambique was just the latest example. Late last year, the coasts of Venezuela and India's Orissa state suffered some of the worst storms and flooding in living memory, killing tens of thousands. Ever-worsening floods in Bangladesh left 21 million homeless in 1998. That same year, the El Niño weather phenomenon left its scars in droughts and floods from southern Africa to northern India, Latin America to the Pacific. Then, ironically, Mozambique had to prepare for drought. When Hurricane Mitch hit Central America, the Honduran president commented, "We lost in 72 hours what we have taken more than 50 years to build." According to the reinsurance giant MunichRe, the number of great weather-related and flood disasters quadrupled during the 1990s compared to the 1960s, while resulting economic losses increased eight-fold over the same period.

Geological history shows the earth gripped by natural cycles of cooling and warming. But now, because of human-driven accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, we are moving beyond natural climatic variations.

To solve the problem or, at least, mitigate its worst effects, all nations will have to live within one global environmental budget. Emissions need controlling because the atmosphere, seas and forests can only absorb a certain amount before disruption begins. Currently, industrialized countries generate over 62 times more carbon dioxide pollution per person than the least developed countries.

No one owns the atmosphere, yet we all need it. So we can assume that we all have an equal right to its services – an equal right to pollute. On the basis of the minimum cuts in total carbon dioxide pollution needed to stabilize the climate, estimated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to be between 60 to 80 per cent of the pollution levels reached in 1990, and assuming that we all have an equal right to pollute, rich countries are running up a massive climate or 'carbon' debt. By using fossil fuels at a level far above a threshold for sustainable consumption, year after year the carbon debts of rich countries get bigger.

Ironically, poor people in poor countries suffer whatever the debt – whether from the smaller, conventional debts their nations owe, or from the larger, more threatening carbon debts being amassed by industrialized nations.

There is a direct link between fossil-fuel use and the economic output gained from overutilizing these non-renewable reserves. Because of this, the carbon debt can be given illustrative estimates in economic efficiency terms. Such sums show heavily indebted poor countries in carbon credit up to three times the value of their conventional debts. G7 nations, however, fall US\$ 13 trillion into debt.

Given the policy conditions associated with conventional debt, logic suggests that poor countries should now, in the face of climate change, be able to impose a reverse form of structural adjustment on those most responsible. In 'Caring for the Future: Report of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life', M.S. Swaminathan comments that "what we really need is adjustment to sustainable life styles". The onus is on industrialized countries.

Instead of old-style structural adjustment programmes for poor, indebted countries, a far more critical challenge will be devising sustainability adjustment programmes for the rich. Klaus Töpfer, executive director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), has called for a 90 per cent cut in consumption in rich countries to meet the challenge. Töpfer, in UNEP's latest report, 'Global Envi-

ronmental Outlook 2000', pointed to global warming as one of the main threats to the human race, and added that "a series of looming crises and ultimate catastrophe can only be averted by a massive increase in political will".

"Any political solution to climate change will need to be based on reductions in emissions, otherwise known as contraction. As the climate is owned by no one and needed by everyone, we will also have to move towards equally sharing the atmosphere, known as convergence. Our collective survival could depend on addressing both."

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies World Disasters Report 2000"

UNWire - RCEP & C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 20, 2000 15:24 PDT

CLIMATE CHANGE: UK Facing Potential Disaster; More

Scientists have predicted a dramatic rise in greenhouse gas emissions in the United Kingdom, warning that subsequent global warming could cause an environmental disaster, BBC Online reports.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_793000/793211.stm]

Britain's Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, an independent group that advises the UK government, has recommended a 60% cut in emissions over the next 50 years. According to the commission, the cut will be needed "to prevent climate change running out of control."

"Recklessly causing large-scale disruptions to climate by burning fossil fuels will affect all countries," said Tom Blundell, chair of the commission. Environment Minister Michael Meacher said the commission had highlighted "how enormous the challenge of climate change really is."

According to the commission, carbon dioxide emissions in the United Kingdom are falling, but are expected to rise again. Britain has undertaken measures to reduce CO2 levels by 20% from their 1990 levels by 2010, but the commission says it still "lags far behind many other European countries in developing renewable energy" and improving the efficiency of heat supplied to homes.

In order to improve the problem, the commission recommended "contraction and convergence" as the best basis for future international action. Under such a policy, citizens of every country would be entitled to emit the same amounts of climate-changing pollution. "I hope they will encourage many others to join in the support for this simple and effective idea," said Aubrey Meyer of the London-based Global Commons Institute.

The royal commission also says countries should be allotted tradable emissions quotas calculated on the basis of contraction and convergence. According to the commission, there is now "a moral imperative to act now to curb emissions" (Alex Kirby, BBC Online, 16 Jun).

Parliamentary Monitor UK on C&C Aubrey Meyer Jun 28, 2000 03:11 PDT

The UK "Parliamentary Monitor" magazine carries an article on COP-6 UNFCCC in the Hague (Nov 2000) and Contraction and Convergence. Published next Tuesday, the article is by David Chaytor MP of GLOBE UK. The article cited at: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/Articles/ParlMon1.pdf>

C&C "easiest and cheapest" (Pronk) Aubrey Meyer Aug 02, 2000

http://www.earthtimes.org/jul/environmentthekyotoprotocoljul25_00.htm

" The debate about broadening participation of developing countries in the global effort to stabilize greenhouse concentrations in the atmosphere at sustainable levels has the tendency to focus first on the most advanced developing countries. Suggestions have been made for commitments for those developing countries in the period after 2012 in terms of increased energy or greenhouse gas efficiency. In other words: not an absolute cap, but a relative efficiency improvement in the production structure of developing countries. This strategy would imply that developing countries gradually start participating, as they achieve a certain level of economic development. That is a reasonable and realistic option.

However, it can be argued that such gradual participation would only lead to a slow decline of global emissions, even if current industrialized countries would drastically decrease their emissions. As a result global average temperature increase would significantly exceed the 2 degrees centigrade limit that could be seen as the maximum tolerable for our planet.

There are alternatives for this scenario. Some developing countries have argued for an allowance of equal emissions per capita. This would be the most equitable way to determine the contribution of countries to the global effort. If we agree to equal per capita emissions allowances for all countries by 2030 in such a way that global emissions allow us to stay below the 2 degrees global temperature increase (equivalent to about 450 ppm CO₂), then the assigned amounts for Annex B countries would be drastically reduced. However, due to the fact that all countries would have assigned amounts, maximum use of global emissions trading would strongly reduce the cost of compliance. So, in such a scenario, industrialized countries would have to do more, but it would be cheaper and easier. . . . "

Join the call for 'Equity and Survival' in Climate Change negotiations cjj-@aol.com

Oct 15, 2000 08:17 PDT

Invitation to join the appeal that 'Equity and Survival' define the International Solution to the Climate Change being negotiated at the United Nations.

"The future of our planet, our civilisation and our survival as a human species... may well depend on [our responding to the climate crisis by] fusing the disciplines of politics and science within a single coherent system."

Michael Meacher, UK Environment Minister

"'Contraction and Convergence' is such a system."

Svend Auken, Danish Environment Minister
In November 2000 a UN meeting - COP6 - will take place in The Hague to decide the action that will be taken by the governments of the world to combat global warming. It is essential that the decisions taken here are effective, realistic and fair - nothing less than the survival of our planet is at stake. Over the last ten years, the Global Commons Institute has pioneered the concept of "Contraction and Convergence" of greenhouse gas emissions which has already met with considerable success. We are now working to enlarge the Global Commons Network of support for "Contraction and Convergence" so that a mandate for the adoption of these global organising principles can be secured at COP6. (For more information about COP6, see below). To support this, all you need to do is co-sign the letter below (originally from GCI to the UK's Independent newspaper, published 24th December 1999) in support of Contraction and Convergence and send your response to us by email. Please give your name, occupation/title, organisation details if applicable, and your postal address.

What is "Contraction and Convergence"?

Contraction is the reduction of CO₂ emissions - as Sir John Houghton, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently told the British Association for the Advancement of Science, global greenhouse emissions need to be reduced by at least 60% in less than a hundred years.

When governments agree such targets for reduction, the diminishing amount of carbon dioxide and the other greenhouse gases that the world could release while staying within the target can be calculated for each year in the coming century.

Convergence proposes that each year's tranche of the global emissions budget is shared among the nations of the world in a way that ensures that every country converges on the same allocation per inhabitant by, say, 2030, the date Sir John suggested. Countries unable to manage within their allocations would, within limits, be able to buy the unused parts of the allocations of other, more frugal, countries.

Many individuals and a wide variety of government and non-government organisations now sup-

port "Contraction and Convergence" globally. While this support has not yet achieved critical mass, it is now growing at a globally significant rate. Documentation of this can be retrieved from the web at: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/Refs/C&CRefs3.pdf>.

COP6 is the 6th 'Conference of the Parties' to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is the meeting at which the principles governing the Kyoto Protocol (KP) to the UNFCCC are supposed to be resolved. It is the contention of the Global Commons Network that a mandate for future negotiations to be based on "Contraction and Convergence" will make a resolution easier to achieve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours,

Global Commons Institute (GCI)

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Technical support, information concerning "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) and model (CCOptions) at: - web URL <http://www.gci.org.uk>

Global Commons Network (GCN) Please join GCN by registering your political support for C&C at: - web URL

<http://www.gci.org.uk/indlet.html>

With GCN membership you receive updates and have access to: - web URL

<http://www.igc.topica.com/lists/GCN/prefs/info.html>

Full C&C support, advocacy, and reference list at: - web URL

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Refs/C&CRefs3.pdf>

Suggestion/request to Global Commons Network
re "Future use of existing policy statement."

BACKGROUND

Yesterday evening Channel 4 TV in the UK did extensive coverage of the Mozambique crisis. Much of it was live debate with the CH4 front-man (John Snow!) in Maputo.

I spoke to the producer (Julian Rush) early on Sunday morning regarding the 'big question' they were billed as intending to ask: - "is there a link to human-enhanced global warming?"

With his permission, I suggested CH4 interview John Houghton. His answer (Sir John told me) would have been; "Mozambique is consistent with our predictions and is consistent with what we must now expect with climate change." i.e. circumstantial evidence that is impossible to put aside.

When the question was asked on air: - a different 'expert' was trundled out to explain it only in terms of 'la nina'.

I spoke to Julian this morning (these are good people incidentally) and I said, "not good enough Julian. Why didn't you have Houghton?" He said there wasn't time to organise it. (Houghton lives in Wales CH4 is based in London).

Julian said however, "we would have quoted the Global Commons Network policy statement, except that it was two months old" [i.e. re Venezuela etc].

SUGGESTION

Here - consequently - is the suggestion: -

(1) We all agree to keep the policy paragraphs of the letter constant - with all signatures attached

- for future use.

(2) We agree an 'update strategy' - whereby the first paragraphs about 'impact' and 'debt' are continually up-dated - on a basis that we (gcn) must decide - (suggestions please - steering committee?).

(3) We - i.e. all or any of us - can use the continually updated combination of (1) and (2) in any media available at any future moment that is appropriate with the consent of all the signatories. This is obviously so we can continue to build momentum at moments like the one gone by with CH4.

At present the list is one-way only i.e. me to you and not vice versa and 'inter-active'. I did this deliberately to limit traffic, because you are all probably drowning in e-mail, just as I am. I can set up a 'discussion list' [e.g. GCN Chat or interactive] for any/all who would like this.

Please reply direct to me for now.

Regards

Aubrey

PS

There is incidentally another 'one-way only' [same reason only] list called 'Global Commons - Guess-work or Framework'. It is simply people who wrote asking for the GCI report of that name. It is partly intended to contrast: - Guess Work, - Frame Work, - Net Work and partly intended to inform people who are still agnostic about this question [guesswork or framework?] regarding the way ahead.

If anybody wants that report it is at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers.html>

COP-6 * Climate, Debt Equity & Survival Meeting Aubrey Meyer

Oct 16, 2000 04:50 PDT

CONTRACTION & CONVERGENCE:

C&C EQUITY PLATFORM - From IDEA to DEAL?

Meeting 16.00 - 21.00, Thursday 16th November 2000, COP 6 The Hague

On the 16th there will be a 2 - 3 hour side event at COP-6 on Contraction and Convergence. It is booked in the name of GCI. So far Counterpart and GLOBE have taken a strong interest in co-presenting this. The purpose of this letter is to ask each and all of you to be involved.

The form of your involvement is straightforward. You are more than welcome - by that I mean I ask you from the bottom of my heart - to be all or any of these options at this event.

(1) Co-Sponsor - this means your organisations names appear jointly with GCI GLOBE Counterpart. No money is sought. Tom Spencer now Chairman of Counterpart Europe has some sort of a budget to cover the event.

(2) Speaker - this means presenting in your own way the equity message summarised in the section (see below). As far as I know, there are speaker 'fees' - I can confirm this soon.

(3) Just be there if you like or can.

Sorry this is short notice. But would love to hear from you soon. A draft outline with suggested arrangements is attached. Invites to all speakers would go out on 'joint-headed notepaper' i.e. you-too if you want to appear. Time is short.

Please copy any replies to Ron Kingham who is co-ordinating from Counterpart Europe in Brussels. <ra-@kbcmail.net>;

Best wishes and regards

Aubrey

EQUITY MESSAGE

Equal Per Capita Emissions Rights under a Global Emissions Cap. (call this 'A'). I believe that we all share this organisational model.

GCI calls this 'Contraction and Convergence'. (call this 'AA').

Subject to formal agreement to: -

(1) cap global emissions for precaution to a pre-specified safe and stable atmospheric concentration value e.g. 450 ppmv CO₂ and

(2) a global pre-distribution of the available emissions shares converging to equal per capita globally by an agreed date pre-specified

(3) GCI says international emissions trading could be environmentally and socially effective.

I make the distinction A/AA because I am aware that some organisations call for 'A' but not 'AA', apparently because they have concerns about emissions trading.

Letter To Chair of IPCC Policy Group Aubrey Meyer

Feb 19, 2001 10:29 PST

19/02/01

To Global Commons Network.

If any GCN people wish to co-sign this please let me know.

From: -

Aubrey Meyer

Director

Global Commons Institute (GCI)

To: -

Bert Metz

Co-Chair IPCC WG3

RIVM - PO Box 1

3720 BA Bilthoven

The Netherlands

email bert.-@rivm.nl

Regarding: -

Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) IPCC WG3 Third Assessment

Dear Bert

Well done on coming near to the completion of the drafting process of climate mitigation policy. I can confirm how difficult this has been for all involved. I am sure you must be relieved to be nearing the end of this ambitious but arduous undertaking.

The upwardly revised projections of temperature increases from Working Group One and the recently sharpened warnings of increasing damages coming from Working Group Two, confirm the trends of climate change as "devastating" and do indicate that, "we are in a critical situation and must act soon." [See Reference Book enclosed in the package coming to you by ordinary mail, page 2, document 1 - Ewins/Baker 1999; WEF Davos CEOs 2000].

It is now therefore the grave responsibility of Working Group Three, the Policy Working Group, to provide from the available literature, all substantive guidance to policy makers that holds the potential to be globally effective against the yet further and potentially uncontrollable acceleration of human-triggered global climate change.

In the light of this, it is therefore encouraging to find that "Contraction and Convergence" is presented in the Third Assessment Report as, "taking the rights based approach to its logical conclusion."

Since quite obviously all approaches to global climate policy are inherently 'rights-based', this means that C&C effectively represents the logical conclusion of them all. It is afterall - and as we have argued throughout the decade gone by - the meta-logical precautionary framework for action under the UN Treaty if the climate problem is to be solved.

And it is within this that the otherwise uncertain and unguided sequence of decision-taking on mitigation policies and measures needs to occur. Global efficiency and prosperity will be the consequences of a setting a global concentration target and hence contraction budget based on precaution with subdivision based on the equity and logic of global timetable of convergence within this. The reverse proposition is simply randomness and drift, dangerous and quite obviously absurd.

There is now long-term frustration that there appears still to be resistance to this point amongst some of your authors, as it is increasingly obvious to most people that a stable atmospheric concentration target must be set - indeed the report affirms this - and that this is not going to be set

or met by accident.

This logical point is fundamental. It is clearly in the literature you cite and this point - if briefly - is reflected in its citation in the report. This needs now to be conveyed - urgently - to policy makers in the reports summaries. And on behalf of all the advocates of C&C cited in the Reference document I am asking you to take the steps necessary to bring this out. Failing this, a residual character of randomness and drift in the summary will remain and therefore continue to dissipate the process that the IPCC exists to inform.

None of us would want the IPCC reports or their summaries to be ridiculed for being vague or evasive on this point in this increasingly critical climate. Such an outcome is irresponsible, unnecessary and dangerous.

For your further information on the extent of support that is consistently growing for the 'logical conclusion', I include here (in the post) a further compilation of published technical, institutional - now commercial (the insurance sector) as well as political - support and advocacy for the C&C proposition. As I am sure you will agree, it is compelling for being so considerable.

With warm regards

Yours sincerely

Aubrey Meyer

Director

GCI

City Blue Chips Back C&C Aubrey Meyer

Feb 20, 2001 07:38 PST

Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)

In a report published next week CII advocate the C&C strategy as ". . . the insurance companies own the oil companies (through equity ownership), insurers form the only industry that has the collateral and the need to adopt the C&C logic."

The report describes C&C as, "The most realistic way to bring about the required reduction in ghg emissions (which will have the combined effect of reducing the damage imposed on the insurance industry and encouraging the transition to renewable energy) is that proposed in the concept of Contraction and Convergence (C&C). This concept was created by the Global Commons Institute (GCI) and is incredibly simple in its detail. Essentially, everyone has the right to emit an equal amount of pollution (in this case CO2) to the Global Commons (atmosphere)."Read full chapter at:

-

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Insurers/Chap10_CII_\(C&C\).pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Insurers/Chap10_CII_(C&C).pdf)

BBC - Wednesday, 21 February, 2001, 12:20 GMT

Report at: -

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_1180000/1180745.stm

Climate 'uncertainty' stumps UN

The IPCC says there is mounting evidence - but the science may need "revision"

By environment correspondent Alex Kirby

A draft report by United Nations advisers says deciding how to tackle climate change is shrouded in uncertainty. It urges "a prudent risk management strategy" and "careful consideration of the consequences, both environmental and economic". The report, on mitigating climate change, has been passed to BBC News Online. It is to be published in March. It says policymakers should be ready for "possible revision of the scientific insights into the risks of climate change".

The report is being finalised by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and is certain to be changed before publication.

Hesitant approach

Last month, an IPCC report on the science of climate change said the world was warming faster than previously predicted and found increasingly strong evidence for human activities as a cause.

The thirst for oil will not slacken

Another report this month, on the impacts of climate change, was the IPCC's strongest and most detailed warning so far of what global warming might mean.

But the draft report on mitigation, by contrast, emphasises the uncertainties involved and the need not to decide policy without more information.

It says: "Climate change decision-making is essentially a sequential process under uncertainty . . . it should consider appropriate hedging" until there is agreement on the level at which greenhouse gas emissions should be stabilised.

Among the report's detailed findings are: nuclear power can help significantly to bring greenhouse emissions down over the next 20 years; the technology already exists to stabilise the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) at between 450 and 550 parts per million: the present concentration is about 370 ppm, a third more than pre-industrial levels; it would cost "substantially" more to stabilise CO₂ at 450 ppm than at 750 ppm; the global demand for oil will probably increase, whether or not governments reduce emissions as they agreed under the Kyoto Protocol. The marked contrast between this report and those on the science and impacts of climate change has dismayed some experts.

'Climate Rottweiler'

The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII), the leading professional body for insurance and financial services, has published a report on climate change.

It concludes: "The key message is that climate change is now a proven fact."

Nuclear power can help

A CII briefing says governments should adopt a policy of contraction and convergence as "the most realistic way" to control greenhouse gases.

This argues, in essence, that everyone in the world has an equal right to emit greenhouse gases, but that total emissions should be kept below the level where they intensify global warming.

The leader of the group that produced the CII report is Dr Andrew Dlugolecki, visiting research fellow at the Climate Research Unit, University of East Anglia, UK. He says hesitancy in the face of the IPCC's mounting evidence will unleash "a climate Rottweiler".

Dr Dlugolecki told BBC News Online: "I'm frustrated with the lack of progress in the IPCC process. There's no drive, no sense of urgency that we have to get a move on. "The Kyoto emission cuts of 5.2% are only playing for time, and we haven't even achieved them yet.

Boomerang effect

"I'd hope that this mitigation report would call for urgent and serious action going beyond Kyoto, instead of this milk-and-water stuff.

"We know climate change is happening, but we won't know for about 20 years how serious it's going to be, and that's frightening. "It means we just have to start taking decisions before we know the full position. "Climate change is like a boomerang. You chuck it, nothing happens for a considerable time - and then it comes back and hits you."

Chartered Insurance Climate Report Aubrey Meyer

Mar 09, 2001 04:30 PST

Full Climate Report of the UK Chartered Insurance Institute is now available at: - <http://www.cii.co.uk/climate.html>

BBC Wednesday, 28 February, 2001, 16:24 GMT

Climate panel urged to 'get real'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/1194622.stm>

Climate science could be in for a big review

By environment correspondent Alex Kirby

A damaging row is threatening to envelop a panel of United Nations experts charged with recommending the best ways of softening the impact of climate change.

The panel starts work on 28 February in Accra, Ghana, to finalise its report to governments. The report will be the third issued in 2001 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Its two earlier reports this year said unambiguously that there was greater scientific confidence that the world was warming, that human activities were at least partly responsible, and that the consequences would be serious.

But this third report, by contrast, by the IPCC's working group three, looks likely to dwell instead on the remaining uncertainties surrounding climate change, and on the consequent difficulty of choosing suitable mitigation policies.

Unwillingness or inability?

A copy of the draft which the Accra meeting will be seeking to finalise was passed to BBC News Online. It urges "a prudent risk management strategy" and "careful consideration of the consequences, both environmental and economic".

None of us would want the IPCC reports or their summaries to be ridiculed for being vague or evasive on this point in this increasingly critical climate

Aubrey Meyer, GCI

It says policymakers should be ready for "possible revision of the scientific insights into the risks of climate change". The draft says: "Climate change decision-making is essentially a sequential process under uncertainty . . . it should consider appropriate hedging" until there is agreement on the level at which greenhouse gas emissions should be stabilised.

But the panel's apparent unwillingness - or inability - to be as forthright as the authors of the two earlier reports has been attacked by a UK-based group, the Global Commons Institute. This argues for a policy of "contraction and convergence" (C&C) as the fairest way to tackle climate change.

C&C insists, in essence, that everyone in the world, from rich and poor countries alike, has an equal right to emit greenhouse gases, but that total emissions should be kept below the level where they intensify global warming.

French support

The advocates of contraction and convergence include most of the European Union's environment ministers, the European Parliament, and the UK's Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

It was given a significant boost at the climate conference last November in the Dutch capital, The Hague, when President Jacques Chirac of France spelt out his support for it.

Now, Aubrey Meyer, the director of the GCI, has written to Bert Metz, who co-chairs the IPCC group meeting in Accra, urging him to include a recommendation of C&C in the policy-makers' summary which the meeting will issue.

Mr Meyer writes: "Failing this, a residual character of randomness and drift in the summary will continue to dissipate the process that the IPCC exists to inform. None of us would want the IPCC reports or their summaries to be ridiculed for being vague or evasive on this point in this increasingly critical climate.

"Such an outcome is irresponsible, unnecessary and dangerous."

Dissenters' view

Support for the GCI stance has come from an influential climatologist, Sir John Houghton. Sir John is a former head of the UK Met. Office, and now co-chairs the IPCC's working group one, the team which last month said it was more confident that global warming was happening, and that average temperatures might rise twice as fast by 2100 as had been thought.

Global ice cover is diminishing, but are humans really to blame?

He told BBC News Online: "I hope contraction and convergence will find some part in working group three's report. I think these ideas are important because of their logic, and because of their appeal on grounds of principle. C&C does actually address three distinct principles: that we should take a precautionary approach, that the polluter should pay, and that we must be concerned with equity.

"Because it addresses these, C&C needs to be taken very seriously."

However, there are also those observers who will want the scepticism that has crept into the IPCC's working group three draft to be maintained. Those scientists who doubt the global warming hypothesis, and humankind's part in it, were delighted to see what they regarded as some realism enter the thinking of the UN body.

C&C - IPCC- WG3 New Scientist Magazine Aubrey Meyer

Mar 09, 2001 03:45 PST

Recent developments re. "Contraction and Convergence"

Thanks to GCN folk who co-signed the letter to Bert Metz Co Chair IPCC Working Group Three. Owing to wide exposure of the letter, there were 1000's of visits to the relevant webpage. One consequence of this was favourable attention paid by New Scientist magazine in an Editorial and an article in the current issue: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/NSc2.pdf>

and a comment in the current issue of Nature magazine: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Nature080301.pdf>

Secr. Gen. Rajiv Gandhi Fdn. on Convergence Aubrey Meyer

Mar 12, 2001 06:49 PST

Royal Institute of International Affairs on March 6th 2001.

After PM Tony Blair's Green Speech, Mr Malhoutra Secretary General of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation made a speech including the following remarks.

[Full speech at <http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Malhoutra.pdf>].

" . . . the basis of global governance architecture for sustainable development must begin to be addressed. What principles should determine issues such as entitlements, resource allocations, consumption practices and so on? The climate negotiations have given the issue immediacy. On what basis will drawing rights to global common goods such as atmospheric space be established? Will developing countries be brought to the table on the principle of equity i.e. convergence of per capita emissions over an agreed period of time?

Leader of UK Lib Dems backs 'C&C' and 'GRACE' Aubrey Meyer

Mar 21, 2001 03:09 PST

From Speech by the Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP

Leader of the UK Liberal Democrats.

At Green Alliance 20th March 2001

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

full speech at <http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Kennedy.pdf>

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

" . . . So I think we have to think differently on climate change. And I want to flag up two areas, that I think we must consider ways of taking more effective action on climate change.

The first area embraces the principle of equity. On a planet where the most precious of commodities, a stable climate, is under threat, emissions could be rationed, through contraction of emissions, and convergence of national use of energy.

That means that every citizen could in the long run have an equal emission quota. There could hardly be a more obvious application of the notion of Universal Human Rights enshrined in the United Nations Charter. There are many different options for implementing a scheme. Quotas could be introduced gradually, and they could be tradeable. But whatever options are adopted, it is a proposal that may well offer the way forward.

The second area I want to flag up, is the role of Europe in climate change. Europe has shown the way before. In 1945, European nations realised that to revive yet also contain Germany there must be a community of equals.

Half a century later the key problem for the planet is climate change and Europe must again lead in the co-operative game. Europe should take the initiative to invite all the major nations and regions to form a Global Climate Community on the basis of commitments to reducing emissions and then ensuring that the emissions of different countries reach a happy medium. Contraction and convergence.

To be useful such an initiative must include from the start, not only Europe but major developing nations such as India. America and some others may not join at first. But they will have a major incentive to join or they will be excluded from the massive emissions market which will develop. Britain is in a unique position to ensure that the project gets off the ground. Britain's own experience and Atlantic and worldwide links could make it a valuable initiator of such a scheme."

full speech at <http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Kennedy.pdf>

C&C in UK Parliamentary Monitor Aubrey Meyer

Apr 24, 2001 07:54 PDT

An article linking Tony Blair's recent green speeches to Contraction and Convergence and the Kyoto Protocol is published in this month's (April 2001) "Parliamentary Monitor". It can be viewed/downloaded at/from: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/PMon.pdf>

Again - New Scientist pro C&C Aubrey Meyer Apr 25, 2001 05:55 PDT

Here is another pro Contraction and Convergence editorial in the New Scientists Magazine, this time from the 7th of April. It is at: -

<http://www.newscientist.com/editorial/editorial.jsp?id=ns228546>

Their previous pro C&C editorial is at: -

<http://www.newscientist.com/editorial/editorial.jsp?id=ns228142>

Alex Evans GCI speaks at PEW Conference Aubrey Meyer

Apr 26, 2001 16:10 PDT

Alex Evans, Director of Communications at GCI, was recently one of the several hundred people who attended the PEW Centre conference on global climate change and equity in Washington DC. Owing to the last-minute indisposition of Sunita Narain of CSE India, he agreed to make a presentation on Contraction and Convergence on the morning of the first day.

As this was done with only ten minutes notice, he did not have a prepared presentation. However, the PEW conference website now carries a slightly edited version of Alex's article for Prospect Magazine at the following URL: -

http://www.pewclimate.org/events/conf_presentations/evans.doc

C&C backed UNA UK Aubrey Meyer

Apr 28, 2001 06:26 PDT

Two resolutions backing Contraction and Convergence were passed at the 56th AGM of the United

Nations Association in the UK, 20-22 April 2001.

8.10

"We applaud the government's leadership role in the international climate change negotiations and shared the disappointment at the failure to secure an adequate agreement at the last conference. We urge Her Majesty's Government to pursue a long-term framework for reducing global CO2 concentrations based on the principle of Contraction and Convergence to equal percapita emissions levels worldwide by a specific date to be negotiated."

Emergency Resolution

"UNA;

* appalled by the decision of the Government of the USA to reject the Kyoto Protocol on climate change; and

* noting that even if the Protocol were implemented in full, global emissions of CO2 would be likely to rise by 30%, when the scientific consensus implies that a cut of over 60% would be needed to mitigate dangerous climate change;

calls on;

* the US Government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and to take active steps to cut their greenhouse gas emissions to a safe level, and the UK Government;

** to redouble its efforts to seek ratification and implementation of the Protocol without the US if necessary; and

** with the European Union Commission and the Commonwealth to create an alliance of countries committed to cutting CO2 emissions based on Contraction and Convergence;

* the UN Security Council to declare global climate change to be a global security issue which requires intense effort under the UNFCCC to defeat.

(Passed unopposed).

Former CBI Boss appears to back C&C Aubrey Meyer

May 06, 2001 16:41 PDT

Adair Turner, former Director General of Confederation of British Industry and author of "Just Capital" (Macmillan), writes in the New Statesman (7 May 2001):

"Since the only equitable and politically feasible long-term vision would give each country a roughly equal right to emissions per capita, the emissions of the developed world will ultimately have to fall not by the 5-10 per cent agreed in the Kyoto protocol, but by 70 per cent or more."

http://www.newstatesman.co.uk/thisweek_index.htm

The current issue is not yet up, but the full article 'Kyoto is good for business' is worth reading.

C&C and "A Climate Community" Aubrey Meyer

May 17, 2001 03:35 PDT

The European <Federal Trust> has just published a paper called: - "A Climate Community - A European Initiative with the South"

It is authored by Christopher Layton, former Chef de Cabinet and Director in the European Commission.

Its central message is the need for an initiative - perhaps European led - to begin a North/South coalition of those willing to establish 'Contraction and Convergence' as the long term basis for resolving global climate change.

And it is downloadable from: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/fedtrust/Essay.pdf>

FoE Finland on Climate Equity Aubrey Meyer

May 17, 2001 07:00 PDT

A new report <The Whole Climate> from Friends of the Earth Finland has been published. The <Whole Climate Project> originated in 1999 with the three Finnish NGOs Dodo, FoE and Service Centre for Development Cooperation.

The report is the result of that work and is for the moment available only in hard copy if you visit:

-

<http://www.maanystavat.fi>

Its authors are Oras Tynkkynen of FoE and Harri Lammi a climate campaigner for Greenpeace Nordic.

They take up the global equity/survival challenge of climate change and seek to resolve it in terms of environmental space and formulations of contraction and convergence.

Draft to Bob Watson. Any comments/takers? Aubrey Meyer

May 22, 2001 13:33 PDT

17/05/2001 18:08

Robert T Watson
Chairman IPCC
The World Bank
Environment Department
Room MC 5-119
1818 High Street NW
Washington DC 20433
USA

Dear Bob

RESOLVING FALSE DICHOTOMY IN THE PREFACE TO IPCC THIRD ASSESSMENT
SYNTHESIS REPORT

Thank you for your letter of the 30th of April. I note your advice that I address my concern to the relevant Technical Support Unit (TSU) with a copy to you. GCI's concern relates to text in the preface to the Synthesis Report. Since TSU personnel tell me that you are the author of that preface, I am addressing this letter to you with copies to them.

I affirm to you our appreciation of IPCC and its Third Assessment Report (TAR). TAR is an important advance in the understanding of the causes and effects of climate change. Much credit is due. However, we remain concerned with the need to protect the credibility of IPCC as a whole and that, guided by this, the primary objective of the UNFCCC - indeed all of us - is with avoiding dangerous global climate change as a whole. This means coordination. Attempting to secure this objective in a dis-aggregated way is odds-on self-defeating if attempts are not guided by and index-linked to the global and precautionary decision already taken to establish the UNFCCC and its quantitative global objective.

Consequently, the wording in the opening paragraph of the preface to the Synthesis of the TAR is confused and misleading. If, as you say, the TAR "recognizes that there is no single global decision-maker and socio-political future, but rather that there are multiple decision-makers and multiple possible future worlds, each with their own plausible and consistent paths," then the central challenge to decision-makers - to consciously reconcile their efforts in an effective common account - is lost.

As is, the remark appears to project a perpetual future dichotomy between the singular global

atmosphere and the plurality of global decision takers tasked from now on with its protection. I find it hard to accept that this meaning is what you intend. Yet your statement conveys this and appears even to rebut the role and effort towards global governance already established in the UNFCCC.

Would it not be more appropriate for the TAR synthesis to reveal at the outset that this dichotomy must inevitably be resolved. For it is surely false if the rising atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gas equivalent is to be stabilized at some point in future time at a pre-determined level that prevents dangerous global climate change, by precautionary organizational intent and global design, rather than by accident.

If you don't reveal this, the implication is that the default may well be to the willful accident of failing to prevent dangerous climate change rather than success against the worsening odds we are already faced with. In this there are no rights, only wrongs.

WG3 says the design of Contraction and Convergence takes the rights-based approach to its logical conclusion and recognizes that to trade global emissions rights, they must first be established. As you know, many policy makers and decision takers are now guided by this logic for fear of the accident that awaits us without it. This choice faces us all and IPCC's role is to reveal rather than conceal it.

Yours sincerely

Aubrey Meyer

Cc: TSUs 1 2 3

New Economics C&C Eco-Debt Event Aubrey Meyer

Jun 07, 2001 11:19 PDT

IN THE RED: Rich people, poor people....who owes who, and what should be done in an age of global warming?

It is one year before we mark the 10th anniversary of the Earth Summit and a year before the international community, led by the United Nations, asks how the world can finance development and an end to poverty. But global warming caused by industrialised countries now threatens an end to 'development' for others.

IN THE RED takes place the week before the next crucial international talks on climate change, and two weeks before rich countries meet once again at the G7 summit to discuss ending Third World Debt.

Tuesday 10 July, 2001 At the ICA, The Mall, London 4pm- 8pm

Tickets, £10, £9, £8 concessions

Tickets and information, 020 7930 3647

For full details visit the New Economics Foundation website; www.neweconomics.org

Updated C&C Refs (with IPIECA included) Aubrey Meyer

Jun 07, 2001 11:26 PDT

An updated C&C Reference Document is available at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/refs/C&CUNEPIId.pdf>

This includes a reference from . . .

IPIECA - the International Petroleum Environment Conservation Association.

There recently glossary of climate terms includes the following entry: -

"Some have promoted the idea of "Contraction and Convergence" as a long-term strategy for managing greenhouse gas emissions. Contraction refers to a global cap which would be set on worldwide emissions, together with an overall strategy for the century ahead.

Emissions entitlements would be allocated on a per capita basis under the global cap and trading

would be permitted. Emissions entitlements would converge over time towards equal per capita emission rights for all countries, so that the total emissions allowances to countries are proportional to population.

Proponents of the system of "Contraction and Convergence" argue that it is equitable and that it would be truly global, involving the participation of all countries."

C&C in the Guardian Aubrey Meyer

Jun 18, 2001 23:02 PDT

Today the UK Guardian voices concern about the collapse of the Kyoto Protocol. The analysis suggests that Contraction and Convergence may be the way ahead.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/globalwarming/story/0,7369,509220,00.html>

" . . . hovering in the wings is a proposal, known to be acceptable to almost everyone in the developing world and increasingly by the developed countries. It would seem to resolve almost all US objections to the Kyoto agreement, and has the advantage of being demonstrably fair, pragmatic and politically neutral."

Mayor of London calls for C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 22, 2001 00:15 PDT

Contraction and Convergence is supported by Mayor of London.

At a public climate policy conference last Wednesday (20 06 01)organised by the the UK's LGA - the Local Government Association - Ken Livingstone the Mayor of London supported GCI's proposals for "Contraction and Convergence".

The chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP)Sir Tom Blundell, spoke to the conference about the RCEP's advocacy to the UK government of the need for policy to be developed in terms of C&C to equal per capital entitlements globally.

Identifying climate change as the greatest possible challenge, Ken spoke in support of the C&C proposal. He said he intends to find funds for the Greater London Authority to host an international climate policy conference in London early next year for representatives from threatened metropolitan areas around the world.

ZEW and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 26, 2001 07:13 PDT

ZEW - an esteemed European centre of economics analysis - published a paper by Christoph Bohringer last year backing C&C.

You can reach it at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/C&CZEW.pdf>

This paper was, according to the Dutch RIVM 'FAIR' modellers who publish a paper saying on balance C&C is the best way to proceed, the one that persuaded Jan Pronk to make the pro C&C statement relayed on GCN last year at: -

<http://www.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read/message.html?sort=d&mid=1701699730&start=49>

Pro C&C Interview in Current New Scientist Aubrey Meyer

Jul 05, 2001 11:45 PDT

Fred Pearce, the journalist who conducted this interview for the New Scientist Magazine,

(see <http://www.newscientist.com/opinion/opinterview.jsp?id=ns22985>)

says that - in conjunction with the previous pro C&C editorials in March and April - support from New Scientist is now pretty secure.

Good. Later this year 'Nature' is to launch a new climate website with C&C at the core of its policy section.

There is an interview on BBC Radio 4 "World Tonight" programme (10.00 pm) in which critics of C&C emerge (at last) to reject it as 'unrealistic'.

They either default to "there isn't a climate problem" or "Kyoto is the best we can do."

So the critics either have: -

- (1) a solution because that there isn't a problem, [i.e. they got God to revoke the laws of physics],
- (2) a problem with no solution, [getting the Japanese to back Kyoto without the US is now about like asking them to re-run Pearl Harbour].

Aubrey

C&C in the Sydney Morning Herald Aubrey Meyer

Jul 05, 2001 16:43 PDT

John Vidal's recent pro C&C piece in the UK Guardian was reproduced in the Sydney Morning Herald Thursday 12th July.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/0107/05/text/features7.html>

Thanks to Clive Hamilton Director of the Australia Institute for spotting this and pointing it out.

Sunday Independent - C&C the 5th way . . . Aubrey Meyer

Jul 15, 2001 05:16 PDT

The UK Independent on Sunday has editorial content today (Sunday) on the UN Bonn/Genoa climate negotiations.

And now "for something really daring," C&C is the '5th' way . . . (I thought the Guardian said it was the 3rd way . . . whatever) . . .

This INDI material is not all on their website.

The front page story is at: -

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/story.jsp?story=83562>

The C&C related material inside the paper I have posted at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/INDI.pdf>

Blueprint to avert global disaster Aubrey Meyer

Jul 15, 2001 21:09 PDT

Larry Elliot in today's UK Guardian

"Today in Bonn talks begin that are designed to keep alive the Kyoto agreement on cutting greenhouse gases. Plan A is to browbeat the Americans into supporting the protocol, even though it has been rejected as fundamentally flawed by the new Bush administration.

The plan (B), known as contraction and convergence, is simpler than Kyoto's Byzantine complexity, offers a way of getting the Americans to come on board, has built-in flexibility, and a market mechanism built into it."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/globalwarming/story/0,7369,522382,00.html>

C&C backed by USS Aubrey Meyer

Jul 16, 2001 16:20 PDT

USS - Universities Superannuation Scheme - the third largest pension fund in the UK has just pub-

lished a discussion paper: -

Climate Change - A Risk Management Challenge for Institutional Investors.

On page 28 and 29 the document endorses "Contraction and Convergence" see: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/USS.pdf>

Full report from: -

Dr Raj Thamotheram

e-mail rthamo-@uss.co.uk

UNEPIII at Bonn and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jul 18, 2001 01:12 PDT

Andrew Dlugolecki is a leader in, and spokesman for, the Expert Group of the UNEP Insurance (and now also Financial Services) Industry Initiative (UNEPIII) on climate change.

UNEPIII hold a public meeting and press conference at COP6.5 today (18 07 2001) in Bonn.

Briefing 'The Economist' (UK Weekly Magazine) this morning, Mr Dlugolecki said: -

"Our position is that we are very concerned about the risks which CC is creating . We want to see Kyoto implemented as a welcome first step. BUT, we also want to see leadership about the final destination. We believe large cuts in emissions will be needed and they should be achieved in an equitable way.

One good example of this is the principle of Contraction and Convergence as defined by GCI, and it is consistent with the principles of UNFCCC and the UNEP financial initiatives for sustainable development.

To achieve a sustainable world we will need to create a new carbon-light economy. This means there will be major new industries in the areas of energy efficiency and alternative energy. The financial sector is willing to support this change and already active in pilot schemes. But progress would be greatly enhanced with a more supportive and longterm framework."

These points will be made at the meetings.

C&C References will be updated at the end of the day.

The current set are at <http://www.gci.org.uk/refs/C&CUNEPIIIe.pdf>

C&C and World Parliament . . . Aubrey Meyer

Jul 19, 2001 00:09 PDT

17 07 01

Guardian columnist George Monbiot states: -

"Indeed, the only fair and lasting means of reducing CO2 (namely "contraction and convergence", which means working out how much pollution the planet can take, then allocating an equal pollution quota to everyone on Earth) would surely be impossible to implement without a world parliament."

Full story at: -

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4222852,00.html>

COP 6.5 - UNEP III & C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jul 19, 2001 03:39 PDT

The 9 year old Insurance Industry Initiative of UNEP (UNEPIII) has recently combined forces with the Financial Services Industry. Yesterday the UNEPIII held a public meeting and press conference at COP 6.5 in Bonn.

There message was: -

1. Promote sustainability
2. Implement the small step of Kyoto
3. Implement climate friendly policies and measures at national level
4. Create long-term framework such as C&C

They say we all need to know where we are going and that C&C is consistent with the principles of the UNFCCC and is a possible framework to take the whole process forward. The graphic used by UNEP III is at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&CC&T.pdf>

In case that was too cryptic; Aubrey Meyer

Jul 25, 2001 03:30 PDT

Today's Financial Times Climate Editorial

" . . . If future negotiations are needed, two crucial issues cannot be avoided. First, as the problem is global, the US will have to be involved. Second, developing countries will have to take part in target setting and emissions trading. Countries would ultimately have to agree to some form of target level of greenhouse gas emissions per person, one that bore some relationship to equality."

<http://news.ft.com/ft/gx.cgi/ftc?pagename=View&c=Article&cid=FT3TRQWZJPC&live=true>

Pro C&C letter in Guardian today Aubrey Meyer

Jul 26, 2001 01:29 PDT

Martin Quick writes: -

"While Japan and some other countries may be criticised for weakening the Kyoto agreements, to criticise countries for being reluctant to face fines for non-compliance with their targets (Leaders, July 24) seems unreasonable while the biggest polluter of all, the US, is outside the agreement. Unless some means of charging the US for additional damage to the environment caused by its opting out of the agreement is devised, the US will have an unfair advantage.

The agreement to allow emissions trading while Russia has huge surpluses of "reductions" to sell, will lead to a low price per ton of carbon traded, discouraging the introduction of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

Trading will only become fair when national targets are set in a rational way. The principle of "contract and converge", as proposed by the Global Commons Institute, where all countries' emissions quotas converge to a per-capita amount that can be sustained by the atmosphere's carrying capacity is such a framework. The Russian "surplus" would then be rapidly eroded."

Martin Quick

Stroud, Glos

mj.q-@virgin.net

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,3604,527366,00.html>

A Simms & G Monbiot - C&C in recent Guardian Aubrey Meyer

Jul 26, 2001 01:49 PDT

"There is a model called contraction and convergence rapidly gaining support. Already backed by many developing countries, its principles were endorsed in The Hague by Belgium, France and Sweden and it accords with the US desire for a truly global solution. Pioneered by the London-based Global Commons Institute it was also recently endorsed by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. It works by setting a global cap on greenhouse gas concentrations, with an emissions budget that is reduced over time. Tradable emissions rights are then pre-distributed on a per-capita basis, converging globally to equal shares per person by an agreed date, for example 2030."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4102812,00.html>

"Indeed, the only fair and lasting means of reducing CO2 - namely "contraction and convergence", which means working out how much pollution the planet can take, then allocating an equal pollution quota to everyone on Earth - would surely be impossible to implement without a world parliament.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4222852,00.html>

eFinanceNews on USS/C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jul 26, 2001 10:31 PDT

This article in eFinanceNews at: -

<http://www.efinancialnews.com/story.cfm?passedref=17000000000016517&xsection=16>

quotes Colin Maltby, head of investments at BP pension fund as saying:

"The authors of the USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) Climate Report) have put forward a framework that could enable us as institutions to assess and manage more effectively the risks to our investment portfolios."

The report itself at pp 28/29: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/USS.pdf>

says: -

" C&C offers a more robust framework than that outlined by Kyoto, and addresses the issue of equity, it also meets the fundamental objection of the US in that it also requires commitments from the developing world. As a global operational framework it also avoids many of the technical problems of Kyoto (such as defining baselines for emissions trading in countries not subject to an overall target, or the extent of international emissions trading that is permissible)."

C&C in the Lords Aubrey Meyer

Aug 02, 2001 02:48 PDT

26 Jun 2001 - The Lord Bishop of Hereford:

My Lords We need to take to heart the advice of the Royal Commission published last year to put in place a programme which takes account of the legitimate needs and aspirations of the developing countries and works on the principle of contraction and convergence of greenhouse gas emissions.

Full speech at: -

http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/cgi-bin/htm_hl?DB=ukparl&STEMMER=en&WORDS=contraction+J0bishop+J0hereford+J0of+&COLOUR=Red&STYLE=&URL=/pa/ld199900/ld-hansrd/pdvn/lds01/text/10626-04.htm#10626-04_spnew18

C&C in the House of Commons Aubrey Meyer

Aug 02, 2001 03:16 PDT

David Chaytor MP – House of Commons 9 Jun 1999

Prophetic Words "Therefore, I wish to comment on the state of negotiations on the Kyoto protocol, which will be enforced only when the signatory nations choose to ratify it. Currently, there is a problem with the position of the United States and of the major blocs representing the developing countries. The Americans will not agree to reduce emissions unless the Chinese and others agree to a reciprocal reduction, while the developing countries do not see why they should have to prejudice the chance of economic growth when the problem of climate change has been created by emissions from the industrial countries. It is crucial that we find a way forward to which the Americans, the Chinese, the Indians and the African nations can agree.

In many analysts' opinion, a policy of contraction and convergence provides the way out of the

logjam. Under such a policy, each nation would be allocated a quota of emissions based on population, and set in the context of agreed environmental limits. Over time, industrial nations would be required gradually to reduce emissions, while developing countries would be permitted gradually to increase theirs, until a point was reached at which the emissions quotas of all countries were relatively equal.

That seems to provide the only practical and principled resolution of the conflicting interests of the developed world and the developing world, based on equal rights for all human beings. I urge the Government to present the case for contraction and convergence as a realistic means of facilitating the ratification of the Kyoto protocol. I commend the research conducted by the Global Commons Institute in developing that model.

Another issue related to the Kyoto protocol has to do with the so-called flexibility mechanisms, and in particular with the use of emissions trading, whereby countries can buy pollution credits from other countries. Realistically, that is a necessary device to enable the United States to ratify the protocol and achieve some progress in reducing emissions. However, unless a framework of contraction and convergence is agreed, there remains the problem of the proportion of any country's total emission reductions that can be achieved through emissions trading. Above a specific figure--50 per cent., for example--it would be unlikely that any global emissions reduction would be achieved, as countries would merely buy and sell each other's permissions to emit. Emissions trading can provide an incentive to reduce emissions, but it could also be a device to defer indefinitely the reduction of emissions. To avoid the latter possibility, it is essential that a policy of contraction and convergence is established in advance of agreeing an emissions trading regime."

Full debate at: -

http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/cgi-bin/htm_hl?DB=ukparl&STEMMER=en&WORDS=contract+converg+&COLOUR=Red&STYLE=&URL=/pa/cm199899/cmhansrd/vo990609/deb-text/90609-02.htm#90609-02_spnew1

BT pro C&C? Aubrey Meyer

Aug 03, 2001 04:21 PDT

Mathis Wackernagel of the California-based Redefining Progress received a message from Chris Tuppen of BT (British Telecom) that said:

"I think there is lot of benefit that could arise from offering a per capita CO2 budget (eg the contraction and convergence theory of GCI). But that's not to say that people shouldn't then have a choice in how they spend their CO2 budget. Such an approach would automatically lead to people selecting more energy efficient products and cause companies to change via natural market forces." Maybe redefining progress is happening faster than seemed the case last month/year . . . ?

Future with/out C&C ? . . . Simms Guardian 6/8/01 Aubrey Meyer

Aug 06, 2001 09:21 PDT

"Whatever political agreement is signed, such as the Kyoto protocol, or another more logical and embracing deal like contraction and convergence, industrialised countries will need to radically change how they live."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,3604,532566,00.html>

C&C signal in noisy IPCC Third Policy Assessment Aubrey Meyer

Aug 06, 2001 09:40 PDT

Chapter One section 3.2

"A formulation that carries the rights-based approach to its logical conclusion is that of 'contraction and convergence'.

http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc_tar/wg3/058.htm

Chapter Ten section 4.5

"The concept of 'contraction and convergence' is the entitlement of ghg emissions budget in terms of future emissions rights. Such a global future emissions budget is based on a global upper limit to atmospheric concentration of CO₂, for instance 450 ppmv (contraction). This budget is then distributed as entitlements to emit CO₂ in the future, and all countries will agree to converge on a per capita emissions entitlement (convergence). Level of contraction and timing of convergence are subject to negotiations with respect to the precautionary principle."

C&C in MediaLens Aubrey Meyer

Aug 16, 2001 03:59 PDT

A search for Contraction and Convergence at this site: -

<http://www.MediaLens.org>

reveals a really useful site in general.

It is a skillfully conceived tool for correcting distortions in the media's portrayal of the planet and our prospects on it.

Perhaps that's not such a surprise when you discover it is linked with the efforts of Southampton University based oceanographer David Cromwell. His new book, "Private Planet" - see at this site:

-

<http://www.private-planet.com>

is really useful too.

Hopefully, as more scientists like David Cromwell, Sir John Houghton and others are prepared to speak publicly to the logic of equity and survival, the dither and drift towards climate disaster is somewhat arrested.

Notwithstanding the simplicity of the logic and the enormity of the challenge, it obviously takes some courage to do that from within academia.

C&C in Al Ahram Aubrey Meyer

Aug 27, 2001 00:56 PDT

'Al Ahram' is the leading English language newspaper in the Middle East.

In the current edition, journalist Nyier Abdou wrties two sparky articles concerning arguments over climate change and policy.

<http://www.ahram.org.eg/weekly/2001/548/fe1.htm>

<http://www.ahram.org.eg/weekly/2001/548/fe2.htm>

'Contraction and Convergence' gets an unexpected mention in what amounts to a subtle plug for the C&C book.

<http://www.greenbooks.co.uk/cac/cacorder.htm>

Julian E Salt (LPC/BRE) on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Aug 31, 2001 07:45 PDT

Commenting for the UN Observer, on the risk management of climate change, Julian Salt of the UK Loss Prevention Council and BRE writes,

" Contraction & Convergence" would be the driving principle behind the new approach.

Contraction & Convergence targets (upper global cap on emissions and convergence point) would be adjusted according to the latest scientific findings emanating from the IPCC. The upper carbon cap could be adjusted downwards if the latest findings showed that climate change was increasing at a dangerous rate.

Two new protocols would be created to deal with the issue of sinks (forestry) and new technology (renewables). Carbon credits for enhanced sink capacity and use of renewable energy would be

overseen by a Carbon Credit body.

Emissions trading would still exist but initial allocations of credits would be based on the equity principle (population based).

Ideally, the ultimate end time-frame for completion of the "C&C" process would be 2050 or sooner if possible. Emissions contraction should start immediately to be effective. Time is of the essence."

Julian E Salt - of the LPC Centre for Risk Sciences, BRE -

<http://www.unointlrep.com/juliansalt.html>

C&C submission to UK Energy Review Aubrey Meyer

Sep 17, 2001 02:46 PDT

GCI's C&C submission to the UK Government Energy Review can be found at:

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/PIU.pdf>

C&C Related Analysis from Corner House Aubrey Meyer

Sep 17, 2001 02:57 PDT

Corner House UK have published a paper about the future of the climate debate called, "Democracy or Carbocracy".

It can be found at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/24Carbon.pdf>

"In addition to slighting or ignoring many existing climate-friendly local practices, negotiators' technical advisers have also been slow to acknowledge an important and growing international climate movement.

This movement demands both that the discussion of rights in the atmosphere be brought out of the shadows and that a scientifically meaningful programme of aggregate emissions cuts be undertaken. It calls for all countries to agree, in line with evolving wisdom on climate, how rapidly world greenhouse gas emissions should contract each year. It proposes then allocating permits to emit to all countries in proportion to the number of their citizens. Countries unable to keep their emissions in line with their per capita allocations could buy extra ones from those whose emissions were under the limit.

This equitable, flexible "contraction and convergence" framework has been endorsed by many Southern countries including China, India and the nations of the Africa Group; European government ministers including Michael Meacher of the UK, Jacques Chirac of France and Svend Auken of Denmark; insurance industry associations; and organizations ranging from the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution to India's Centre on Science and Environment and Climate Network Africa. Unlike any other proposal on offer, the framework would enable the US's bluff to be called on all three of its objections to the Bonn climate agreement: that it doesn't commit the South to emissions limitations; that it's "unfair"; and that it doesn't address sources of future emissions.⁶³ It would thus advance the discussion in a way which could result in a better future agreement."

UK Lib Dems Adopt C&C Aubrey Meyer

Sep 26, 2001 21:52 PDT

The Libdem Party conference today adopted contraction and convergence as part of the Party's environmental policy. This is due in large part to the unremitting efforts of Chris Layton. As any activist will recognise, this is a substantial political achievement and I think Chris should get high praise for it.

Here's the text of the passage of the motion on climate change, with my amendment point 2:

"Conferencecalls on HMG to address climate change by: -

1. Ratifying the 1997 Kyoto Protocol by the Rio+10 world summit in mid-2002, and placing strong

pressure on other nations, in particular the United States, to ratify and implement the agreement, strengthen the targets further, and extend its remit to developing nations.

2. promoting a Europe-South initiative for a longterm global framework to cap CO2 concentrations by Contraction of greenhouse gas emissions to the level needed to stabilise the climate, Convergence to equal emission quotas per head of population, trading of emission quotas; with common institutions which ensure and support compliance under democratic control.

3. Establishing a new legally binding British target of a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2010 through a range of measures, including expansion of renewable energy to meet at least 10% of UK energy needs by 2010 (whilst phasing out nuclear power) and the creation of 'green jobs', that set a clear example to the world that improving the environment and improving livelihoods both today and for future generations go hand in hand."

The Australia Institute and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Sep 27, 2001 02:38 PDT

"RUNNING FROM THE STORM"

The Development of Climate Change Policy in Australia

by Clive Hamilton, Director of the The Australia Institute (TAI), is published by University of New South Wales Press, September 2001.

In the final chapter the author points to a future defined by the principles of C&C.

" . . . the longer time frame and the more broadly accepted ethical underpinnings of C&C ought to make negotiations less fraught than those leading up to and subsequent to Kyoto.

Is contraction and convergence pie in the sky? There is no doubt that it is a radical approach with far-reaching implications for the management of the Earth's common resources. It would redraw the legal and ethical relationships between nations and initiate an era of supranational management of those environmental issues that cross national borders. Difficult, yes; but what is the alternative?"

UK Greens Advocate C&C Aubrey Meyer

Oct 23, 2001 10:24 PDT

Advocacy of C&C has probably come longest from the UK Green Party. The relevant section of their current climate policy document can be found at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/GREENSandC&C.pdf>

Draft C&C Motion in UK HoC Aubrey Meyer

Oct 23, 2001 12:03 PDT

What follows is a draft C&C related EDM (Early Day Motion) that will be circulated by the GLOBE MPs to all in the UK House of Commons over the next few days, backed up by the C&C briefing that went to the PIU.

"International Terrorism, The UK Government Energy Review, The Kyoto Protocol and the Rio + 10 Conference"

"That this house: -

Welcomes the Government's commitment to resolve asymmetric conflicts such as global terrorism and climate change through the process of international coalition building;

Further welcomes the launch of the Energy Review and the Government's commitment to respond to the latest report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP), 'Energy - the Changing Climate';

Notes that terrorism is more likely to flourish in conditions of social injustice and environmental degradation;

Further notes the significant disparities in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions between developed and developing countries;

Welcomes recommendation three of the RCEP report that, "The Government should press for a future global climate agreement based on the Contraction and Convergence approach combined with international trading in emissions permits;

Is seriously concerned at the vulnerability to terrorist attack on Britain's nuclear power stations and the related transportation of radioactive materials;

Is encouraged by the rapid development of renewable energy technologies which offer the prospect of security and self sufficiency in energy supply to developed and developing countries;

And therefore calls on the Prime Minister to demonstrate further global leadership and the Rio + 10 conference in September 2002 by arguing the case for a policy of Contraction and Convergence as the only realistic means of managing the transition to from a carbon economy in a way that allows equitable access for all countries to safe, clean, renewable, low-intensity and decentralised forms of energy supply and equitable opportunities for their future social and economic development."

Original 'Proto' C&C Statement - 1990 Aubrey Meyer

Oct 24, 2001 01:59 PDT

On June 18th 1991, the original GCI climate statement that led to the C&C formulation, was published in the UK Guardian.

It was countersigned by around 250 people, fifty of whom were UK MPs. Many of these are still in Parliament and some are in Government.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/signon/OrigStatement2.pdf>

Meacher on C&C at Guildhall Aubrey Meyer

Oct 25, 2001 01:37 PDT

Titus Alexander reports from the Annual Lecture to the UK Social Investment Forum in the Guildhall in London, on 23 Oct 2001.

The meeting addressed preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa 2002.

Michael Meacher, UK Minister for the Environment, indicated that a long term climate change agreement based on contraction and convergence, is likely to be the eventual solution, "but there are considerable political obstacles at present" he said.

He went on to say that developing countries are opposed to any targets at all and the US is totally opposed to equal per capita allocations, so there is no possibility of agreement at present, "but it may come to that".

In other words, events are pushing the parties towards C&C. This was in response to a question. Afterwards in conversation he said it was a question of political judgement about when to push it, but the C&C argument "will win in the end".

Titus suggests that we should aim to build political support for a statement in principle by the World Summit on Sustainable Development for contraction and convergence as the most logical, durable and equitable basis for a long term framework for climate change.

He suggests that it would be very helpful if we could identify officials and politicians in the US and non-Annex One governments who are actual or potential supporters of C&C, so that we can encourage the UK government to be more proactive in building an international coalition of countries advocating C&C.

The EU and Commonwealth could play a major role, but the US is particularly important for British politics.

Some C&C Support in the US Aubrey Meyer

Oct 25, 2001 14:46 PDT

In response to recent queries about C&C support in the US . . .

John Porter, US Parliamentarian Chair GLOBE USA - Nov 1998

"Meaningful progress on confronting the challenge of climate change will only occur when countries from the North and the South are able to collaborate in issues of significant and sustainable development. The GLOBE Equity Protocol - Contraction and Convergence - and its mechanism for financing sustainable development is the only proposal so far which is global, equitable and growth-oriented.

It is precisely these issues that were endorsed at the GLOBE International General Assembly in Cape Cod, and form the thrust of our recently released (Nov 1998) paper, "Solving Climate Change with Equity and Prosperity."

Robert Stavins

Albert Pratt Professor of Business and Government

Director, Environmental Economics Program

John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

"This (Contraction and Convergence) is a long-term standard that is difficult to find fault with, and has much to recommend it on ethical grounds and in terms of parsimony.

I think it's quite reasonable that the ultimate greenhouse-gas emission standard (i.e. allocation mechanism of targets among countries) toward which the entire community of nations might work over the long term would be one linked with equal per capita emissions assuming that cost-effectiveness could still be achieved through simultaneous provision for international trading or some other mechanism that would facilitate the equating of marginal abatement costs."

"At the meeting of IPCC WG3 in Oslo in August 1997, the Energy Modeling Forum (EMF) at Stanford University introduced specifications for modelers that for the first time included the device of a "prescriptive" requirement on the future distribution of global emissions entitlements.

It was inter alia that the future costs and benefits of climate change control measures be evaluated in the context of carbon budgets which had been internationally distributed on the basis of a deliberate convergence to equal per capita shares globally by various predetermined dates.

One of the core group members, Richard Richels (EPRI), made the sanguine point that no economist can come up with sensible numbers for the international distribution of the costs of climate change policy "until the economists had been given the rules of distribution".

In the absence of agreement yet at the political level at the UNFCCC, the EMF had discontinued the pattern of "descriptive-only" distributional assumptions, as continued in the SAR, and admitted the expedient of at least theoretically prescribing a variety of formal convergence-based examples of distribution.

Elsewhere on the theme of "Burden Sharing", in the IPIECA "Symposium on The Economics of Climate Change" (1997) he and his colleague Alan Manne (Battelle), were even more specific.

"We begin with one widely discussed proposal: a transition to equal per capita emissions rights (globally) by 2030," again allowing the expedient of a "prescription" to "solve" what is otherwise insoluble.

It is worth emphasizing that there are three key decisions here.

One is that an assumption has been made that "prescriptivity" is unavoidably part of the process.

Two is that the "prescriptivity" is the result of the application of a central organising principle.

Three is that the choice of central organising principle (the convergence to equal per capita) is one which has been "widely discussed" which could be read as evidence of the reasonableness of the idea and that these economists share that judgement about that reasonableness.

[see <http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/zew.pdf> - page 10]

And then it is a logical and reasonable contention that - taken literally - the Byrd Hagel Resolution

is Contraction and Convergence.

WHY?

The US has affirmed: -

1. That 'a global solution' to the 'global problem' of climate change is needed.
2. The objective of the UNFCCC [stabilisation of ghg concentration in the global atmosphere] needs to be targetted and is ghg emissions 'contraction' by definition.
3. That all countries must be involved in emissions control.
4. That a 'central organising principle' is applied to distribution. (Initially said this was that 'all countries would reduce ghg emissions by x% pro rata'.
5. The 'Byrd Hagel Resolution' introduced the key addition of differentiation where this central organising principle was modified to combining 'Reductions' [controlled negative growth] with 'Limitations' [controlled positive growth] giving in turn 'convergence'.
6. That the 'commitments/entitlements' arising from this controlled 'contraction and convergence' must be tradable.
7. Even that inter-emissions-budget-period borrowing must be allowed.

CONCLUSION

As there is no other way to combine all the stated US requirements - other than with anti-precautionary guess-work - it is logical minima to observe that the US proposals are not in conflict with the framework of "Contraction and Convergence" to equal per capita tradable entitlements globally by an agreed date under a predefined global cap.

It follows that it is sensible to ask what other framework is there and what is intended if not this? Indeed it has been the sub-global randomness of UNFCCC proceedings to date which the US have said they regard as the problem.

In my judgement, the question - particularly for US-based campaigners - is to keep asking for a logical answer to these questions.

Some US negotiators over the last ten years have privately conceded the logic of the C&C argument above but been restrained from repeating that in public.

Hailes, Reinstein, Breidenich

C&C in UNEP Financial Institutions COP7 Position Aubrey Meyer

Nov 01, 2001 05:38 PST

Today at lunchtime the UNEP Financial Institutions launch their position paper on climate change. Citing C&C as an example of what is needed, they call for long-term planning to resolve the climate dilemma. There are about 300 major Financial and Insurance institutions from around the globe who are associated with this statement.

Also, the C&C Early Day Motion to the UK Parliament is circulating today. It calls on the Government to see C&C as a way to resolve the asymmetric conflict of climate change.

Echoing the recent words of UNEP's CEO, David Chaytor MP will today re-iterate to the UK Parliament that establishing C&C and so helping to reduce social exclusion and environmental degradation globally can only help to reduce the causes of terrorism and the terrors of climate change.

UNEP FI Statement COP7 Aubrey Meyer

Nov 04, 2001 15:24 PST

The UNEP Financial Institutions position paper C&C reference reads: -

"4.1.3. Construct a long-term framework to reduce emissions globally in order to achieve the necessary transition to sustainability.

The approach of Contraction and Convergence, which the IPCC TAR described as "the logical conclusion" of a rights-based approach, provides a possible example of such a basis."

It is viewable at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/FINALDRFTUNEPFI.pdf>

The financial organisations associated with this are listed at the end.

The slides of the UNEP FI side-event presentation at COP-7 can be downloaded from: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Insurers/COP7pospaper.pdf>

They reiterate the need for a long-term climate solution, "for example Contraction and Convergence".

C&C Article in UK LibDem News Aubrey Meyer

Nov 12, 2001 07:37 PST

Chris Layton's C&C article in last week's Liberal Democrat News is at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Layton.pdf>

C&C in 'FAIR' model (RIVM) Aubrey Meyer

Nov 15, 2001 07:16 PST

Authors Marcel Berk and Michel den Elzen publish shortly in Climate Policy, a journal published by Elsevier Press.

The abstract includes the following affirmation of C&C: -

"The Framework to Assess International Regimes for the differentiation of commitments (FAIR) is used to explore the implications of two possible regimes: -

(1) increasing participation (i.e. a gradual increase in the number of parties involved and their level of commitment according to participation and differentiation rules) and

(2) "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) with universal participation and a convergence of per capita permits.

It is found that in a regime of increasing participation, stabilising the CO₂ concentration at 450 ppmv by 2100 requires participation of major developing countries before 2050 in global emissions control irrespective of the participation and differentiation rules chosen.

In the case of stringent climate targets, a convergence regime seems to provide more incentives for a timely participation of developing countries, and opportunities for an effective and efficient regime for controlling global emissions than increasing participation."

It can be retrieved at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/C&CRIVM.pdf>

NEF/Jubilee Plus on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 23, 2001 05:55 PST

"An environmental war economy.

The lessons of ecological debt and global warming."

by Andrew Simms.

The C&C/GCN position has been put at the heart of a new and hard hitting report from the New Economics Foundation and Jubilee-Plus for the debt campaign beyond 2000.

" The first US argument is that it cannot "afford" to act. But if the wealthiest and most resource-hungry country in the world cannot "afford" to act, who can? Certainly not India where the average citizen emits 20 times less carbon dioxide than their US counterpart, or the average Mozambican, responsible for 300 times less.

The second American position stems from the so-called Byrd-Hagel resolution adopted in 1997 by

the US Senate. It commits America to "limit" or "reduce" emissions only if poor countries are also involved.

The Byrd-Hagel resolution accepts that global emissions must be both controlled and reduced. The implication is that a total global emissions budget must be agreed, capping greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Global emissions will then be lowered until they reach a point within the environment's limits of tolerance. The corollary is that the US, committed by its own declaration of independence to human equality, can embrace the contraction and convergence model pioneered by the London-based Global Commons Institute.

Contraction and convergence

According to Sir John Houghton, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, global greenhouse emissions need to be reduced by at least 60 per cent in less than 100 years. If governments agree to be bound by such a target, it is possible to calculate for each year over the next century the (diminishing) amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases the world can release, to stay on target for a 60 per cent reduction. This is the contraction part of the equation.

Convergence describes how each year's tranche of the global emissions budget is shared out among the nations of the world. The process is managed to ensure that every country converges on the same per capita allocation of carbon dioxide – the same personal emissions "allowance" – on the same date. The date is negotiable – Houghton suggested 2030.

Countries unable to manage within their allocations would, subject to agreed limits, be able to buy the unused parts of the allocations of other, more frugal, countries. Sales of unused allocations would give the countries of the South the income to purchase or develop zero-emission ways of meeting their needs.

"Contraction and convergence" provides an effective, equitable and efficient framework within which governments can work to avert climate change. The countries of the North would benefit from the export markets created by restructuring. The whole world would benefit by slowing the rate of damage. Its potential as an antidote to global warming has been widely endorsed, not least by industries such as insurance which are in the front line of climate change. Even some of the more progressive fossil fuel producers have acknowledged that it may offer a promising way forward. But "contraction" has a disturbing sound to it – it implies less rather than more. The next chapter explains why less may, in practice, turn out to be more."

CHEC on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 23, 2001 06:11 PST

CHEC - the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council

(see <http://www.ecommonwealth.net/chechq/>)

has just published its Journal no. 18/19 in preparation for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference (CHOGM). A C&C article is in the journal and can be viewed at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/CHEC.pdf>

This edition of the CHEC Journal is being distributed by CHEC to all the Commonwealth Heads of Government prior to the CHOGM.

The date of this CHOGM has been revised. It was to have been 6th to 9th October. It will now be on the 2nd to the 5th of March 2002, still in Brisbane Australia.

C&C 'Plan A-Plus' Aubrey Meyer

Nov 23, 2001 12:20 PST

At the UK Environment Council's climate conference for business in London yesterday,

(see announcement at: - <http://www.the-environment-council.org.uk/>)

UK Environment Minister Michael Meacher was the keynote speaker.

In answering questions from the Loss Prevention Council regarding the relationship between Kyoto Protocol and C&C, Mr Meacher gave a detailed explanation of C&C saying, 'C&C is not 'Plan B', it is 'Plan A-Plus'.

This tally's with his recent letter to GCI in which he says he continues to advocate C&C at all opportunities (including COP-7 Marrakech).

This is interesting in the light of the following information we just received informally. The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office has environmental attaches at UK embassies around the world. These were recently recalled. Inter alia they were told by Mr Prescott (the Deputy Prime Minister) in some form of words 'to prepare for the per capita argument'.

UK Tyndall Centre and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Dec 01, 2001 01:36 PST

The new Tyndall Centre in the UK is concerned with climate change and policy issues. It has announced a major research programme backed by substantial public funding.

Their research documentation identifies C&C in the context of some useful insights into the issue of stochastic behaviour.

http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/research/research_strategy.pdf

3.3 Strategic Assessments

The climate change literature is studded with fragments of scientific evidence as the typical products of disciplinary, methodology-oriented and funding-driven research activities of rather small teams of investigators. Comprehensive surveys exploring, for instance, the climate vulnerability of an entire region or sector are extremely rare.

Even the three IPCC Assessment Reports produced so far are not really integrated studies, but carefully edited compositions of thousands of disconnected results emerging from the research machinery in a more or less stochastic manner. What the crucial decision-makers request (and genuinely need), however, are strategic investigations that provide panoramic, but state-of-the art, views of complex issues, preferably condensed in a 10-page summary. The Tyndall Centre is, at present, the only institution in the UK which can generate such assessments that combine vertical integration (through problem and solution orientation) with horizontal integration (through trans-disciplinary capacity). There are many big topics that need to be approached this way, for example the differential vulnerability of the British coastline to sea-level rise and changing extreme-events regimes, the overall potential for slowing global warming offered by large-scale carbon sequestration, or the future design of the national built environment in view of climate change adaptation as well as climate change mitigation policies.

Some of the strategic assessments urgently needed could be initiated, or even drawn up, by special "Tyndall Symposia" convening the essential and representative communities on issues like nuclear power, geo-engineering, contraction-and-convergence.

C&C in UK Energy Review . . . ? Aubrey Meyer

Dec 01, 2001 09:15 PST

The GCI letter at the link below was sent today to the UK Energy Minister Brian Wilson.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Letters/Wilson.pdf>

The UK energy review is nearing completion. The Parliamentary EDM 325 now has 60 signatures . . .

C&C question in UK DTI Report to PIU Aubrey Meyer

Dec 02, 2001 03:54 PST

The UK Government's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) made a submission to the Government's Energy Review in June this year.

C&C is a *question* in it.

See: - <http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/piureview/incontrib.pdf>

(long document)

The Energy Review is now in its final stages.

The DTI submission contained the following C&C related commentary: -

see: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/DTI%20on%20C&C.pdf>

(Excerpted)

b) What targets should we be aiming for beyond 2010 and what position should we adopt on the RCEP's proposals?

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) published, in June 2000, a report (8) on the long-term challenges for UK energy and environmental policy posed by climate change.

One key recommendation is the following:

"The Government should now adopt a strategy which puts the UK on a path to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by some 60% from current (9) levels by about 2050. This would be in line with a global agreement based on contraction and convergence which set an upper limit for the carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere of some 550 ppmv and a convergence date of 2050."

The RCEP recommends that the Government should press for a future global climate agreement on a contraction and convergence approach (10), allowing also for emissions trading. It selects one path for achieving stabilisation of CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere at 550ppm that implies a convergence date of 2050. Many other paths to stabilisation at this level could be taken.

The Government has recognised that action now will lay the foundation for the more fundamental changes that will be needed in years to come.

(11) The 20% goal provides a signal of the direction in which policy is moving, but no commitment to any further figure for longer-term reduction has been made. Nor has the Government agreed the contraction and convergence approach.

The Government will need to reply formally to the RCEP report and clearly it will need to be a joint response as many of the RCEP proposals directly relate to areas of DTI policy such as renewables as well as DEFRA policy leads. On going work such as the PIU's studies on Resource Productivity and the Energy Policy Review mean that at this stage views on many of the proposals are not formed. Future targets will need to be part of a global effort to reduce GHG emissions; the UK is only responsible for around 2% of emissions. Whilst there is scope and potential benefit (as discussed in question 9 below) for the UK to take a lead in addressing global change, this has to be balanced against competitiveness issues, as well as not weakening the UK's hand in global negotiations of (probable) mandatory future targets.

8 Energy – the Changing Climate, RCEP, June 2000, Cm 4749

9 For "current" the RCEP report uses 1997 levels of emissions.

10 A contraction and convergence approach means that over the coming decades each country's emission allocation would gradually shift from its current level towards a level set on a uniform per capita basis. The allocations of developed countries would fall, year by year, while those of developing countries would rise, until all had an entitlement to emit an equal quantity of greenhouse gases per head (convergence). From then on the entitlements of all countries would decline at the same rate (contraction).

11 Climate Change: the UK Programme, DETR, November 2000,

C&C in FT - 30 11 01 (COP-7) Aubrey Meyer

Dec 04, 2001 15:08 PST

" Many politicians - and businesses making long-term investment plans - would prefer to agree on some overarching principles that would determine future emissions targets.

For some policymakers, the answer is "contraction and convergence", an ambitious proposal for stabilising greenhouse gases under which every country would converge on the same emissions allocation per inhabitant by an agreed date.

This simple, bold approach has commanded support from many sources, ranging from President Chirac of France to the Chartered Insurance Institute of the UK. But wealthy countries may balk at the stringency of the cuts it implies, which could be as much as 80 per cent by 2100.

Given the controversy surrounding the Kyoto Protocol, the international community has already achieved a stronger agreement than many sceptics thought possible. But as countries start to prepare the ground for the next stage of the global agreement on climate change, it is clear that past achievements are dwarfed by the magnitude of the challenges ahead."

<http://globalarchive.ft.com/globalarchive/article.html?id=011130001671&query=kyoto>

C&C in Gov. 'Strategic Futures' Aubrey Meyer

Dec 04, 2001 15:51 PST

UK Meteorological Office Presentation to Government 'Strategic Futures' section of Performance Innovation Unit includes C&C.

"Visions for Energy Policy: Efficiency, Environment and Security The fifth seminar examined the issues that impact on the ways in which we use energy, how this might change in the future and discussed what Government might need to consider to ensure that it can respond to these challenges. The briefing paper, the presentations that were delivered at the seminar and the seminar summary note are available on-site".

"Carbon Dioxide Contraction for 450 ppmv and convergence by 2030 to globally equal per capita emissions rights."

<http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/innovation/2001/futures/WhyCarbMat.ppt>

John Houghton Slide 21

Quakers on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Dec 16, 2001 08:27 PST

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) are publishing a series of articles on the causes of war and opportunities to avoid it.

The second is an article on climate change and Contraction and Convergence. It urges the adoption of C&C by Rio + 10.

See: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Friend.pdf>

More information on the Quakers at: -

<http://www.thefriend.org>

Co-Sign GLOBE C&C Letter to Blair? Aubrey Meyer

Dec 18, 2001 21:10 PST

David Chaytor, Chairman of GLOBE UK, is requesting co-signatories to GLOBE's pro-RCEP/C&C letter to Tony Blair today.

Please respond urgently if you wish to co-sign.

"Dear Prime Minister

Climate Change and the PIU Energy Review.

We are writing to you to urge you to ensure that the final version of the PIU Energy Review con-

tains a clear commitment to a policy of contraction and convergence as the basis of the Government's future approach to international climate change negotiations.

You will be aware that the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution recommended in its latest report, *Energy: the Changing Climate*, that; -

'The Government should press for a future global climate agreement based on the contraction and convergence approach, combined with international trading in emission permits. Together, these offer the best long term prospect of securing equity, economy and international consensus.'

We believe that the publication of the PIU Energy Review provides a unique opportunity to build on the work done by the Deputy Prime Minister at Kyoto and by Margaret Beckett and Michael Meacher at COP7 in Marrakesh earlier this year.

We attach a copy of Early Day Motion 325 which makes an appeal to you to grasp the challenge of once again providing global leadership on climate change negotiations by arguing the case for a policy of contraction and convergence at next year's World Conference on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

Such a courageous move would represent a giant step forward for humanity by prioritising the building of social and economic prosperity on the foundations of environmental security and global equity.

It would enhance the Government's reputation, at home and abroad, amongst all those who care about the long term future of the planet and the peaceful co-existence of all nations.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

David Chaytor

Chairman

GLOBE UK

C&C in Testimony to UK Parliament Aubrey Meyer

Jan 16, 2002 12:54 PST

"Contraction and Convergence - A very powerful idea."

Ministerial testimony [October 2001] to the UK House of Commons Select Committee on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

C&C specific text at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/UKParliament/DEFRACOM.pdf>

Full transcript hearing transcript at: -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200102/cmselect/cmenvfru/306/uc30602.htm>

SERA seeks C&C champion . . . Aubrey Meyer

Jan 26, 2002 15:47 PST

SERA - "Socialist Environment and Resources Association"

International Climate Change Position (21 01 02)

In ten points, "SERA recommends to the UK Government:

5. Champion an accelerated round of UN negotiations leading to emissions reductions based on safe, global per capita limits to greenhouse gases (so-called Contraction and Convergence).

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/globalclimate.pdf>

SERA is the environment campaign affiliated to the UK Labour Party, yet an independent think tank and green pressure group.

SERA works to bring green ideas to the Labour Party through organising events, publishing reports and briefings and through running membership campaigns.

<http://www.serauk.org.uk>

GLOBE UK takes C&C to US Aubrey Meyer

Jan 29, 2002 05:02 PST

At a recent meeting at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, GLOBE UK chairman indicated his intention to take C&C to the US.

See: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/GLOBE/FCOMEET.pdf>

Slides for this meeting and the US visit are viewable at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/GLOBE/USTRIP_files/frame.htm

<http://www.gci.org.uk/GLOBE/USTRIP.ppt>

C&C "provide more incentives" (Elsevier) Aubrey Meyer

Jan 30, 2002 05:55 PST

In a new paper for 'Climate Policy' (Elsevier) entitled: -

Options for differentiation of future commitments in climate policy: how to realise timely participation to meet stringent climate goals?

The authors reach the following conclusion: - "Where climate change limits are stringent, a C&C regime seems to provide more incentives for a timely participation of developing countries, and better opportunities for an effective and efficient regime for controlling global GHG emission control than increasing participation."

Marcel M. Berk, Michel G.J. den Elzen.

Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), P.O. Box 1, 3720 BA Bilthoven, The Netherlands

Paper retrievable at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/berkelz.pdf>

IIED/RING "require C&C" Aubrey Meyer

Feb 01, 2002 08:38 PST

"KEY CHALLENGES for the WORLD SUMMIT in JOHANNESBURG

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)with the Regional and International Networking Group (RING)

Even if the Kyoto Protocol is implemented in full, the impacts of global climate change will start being felt within the next few decades and the most vulnerable communities and countries are those which are already the poorest and least able to adapt to these changes.

It is time now to refocus on the longer-term objectives of the UNFCCC, particularly its stated goals regarding sustainable development.

WSSD provides an opportunity to re-initiate the discussion on the larger architecture of the future climate regime. The goal of the post-Kyoto phase should be clearly tied to atmospheric stabilization with a defined focus on emissions limitation and a clear sense of the rules for the future entry of developing countries into the regime.

In all likelihood this will require moving to per capita emission targets and a 'contraction and convergence' policy scenario."

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/C&CIIEDShort.pdf>

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/C&CIIEDLong.pdf>

(no subject) Aubrey Meyer

Feb 05, 2002 05:48 PST

A new discussion document (draft) from DFID and its partners is in circulation. It is called: -

"Global public goods and multilateral environmental agreements".

It is part of their preparations for the WSSD.

This is described as, "an opportunity for us all to focus on what is most important and to forge agreements that can lead the way forward."

They go on to say, "there can be no more important goal than to reduce and ultimately exterminate poverty on our planet." see: -

<http://wbweb4.worldbank.org/nars/eworkspace/ews004/doc/LPR%20a%20EM%20-%20web.pdf>

In paragraph 105 the document quotes the Third World Network; -

" . . . the impact of global warming and the resulting climate changes, (is) where the developing countries will be the worst victims".

In paragraph 106 it says: -

"The global community needs to develop an equitable way of engaging the developing world in the fight against global warming. A binding international agreement must be found that effectively and equitably reduces the emission of greenhouse gases."

An on-line discussion of the document is being hosted by the World Bank at: -

<http://vx.worldbank.org/cgi-bin/lyris.pl?enter=env-rio-10>

This is an opportunity to argue in favour of C&C. People on GCN may want to interact with these discussions.

GCI's contribution to the list is also the substance of our letter to the UK Development Secretary.

See: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/Letters/Short2.pdf>

C&C & Swedish Government Aubrey Meyer

Feb 08, 2002 09:30 PST

"Financing and Providing Global Public Goods; Expectations and Prospects"

Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2001

"Inter-generational justice also enters the climate change equation. Many of the rationales for taking costly action now in order to tackle a problem whose worst effects may not be felt for many decades, is that we have a responsibility to future generations.

Both the 'precautionary principle' and the principle of 'contraction and convergence', which has entered the climate negotiations in recent years are aimed at addressing these problems. They provide a road map for policy responses, by, in the latter case, establishing ceilings for GHG emissions above which dangerous climate change is likely, and then devising a global carbon budget within which nations have a per capita entitlement to use carbon. Moving towards an optimal and safe level of carbon usage requires that some nations, in the first instance developed countries, would have to contract their use of carbon-intensive activities and others, primarily developing countries, would be entitled to expand their use of fossil fuels to meet basic development needs and so converge towards a per capita entitlement, which applies equally to all countries."

<http://www.ud.se/prefak/files/gpg.pdf>

CICERO & C&C Aubrey Meyer

Feb 08, 2002 18:02 PST

Long-term climate targets:

To each his own quota

Hans H.Kolshus, Cicerone 3/2000

"While the Kyoto Protocol may represent an important political achievement, its expected impact on the climate is marginal at best. The agreement is nowhere near sufficient for stabilizing or reducing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, partly because developing countries have not committed to reducing their emissions in this round. Future climate negotiations must therefore contain more ambitious targets as well as the participation of developing countries. In attempt to realize this aim, the Global Commons Institute has proposed that emissions entitlements be allocated on a per capita basis.

The method, called "contraction and convergence" (C&C), was first developed by Tony Cooper and Aubrey Meyer in the spring of 1996.

A team from GCI then presented the idea to the second Conference of the Parties (COP 2) in Geneva, in July 1996. Since then, the idea has garnered support from more and more governments and NGOs."

<http://www.cicero.uio.no/media/549.pdf>

UCL and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Feb 12, 2002 04:01 PST

The Benfield Grieg Hazard Research Centre at University College London have taken a view on Contraction and Convergence in their current news letter.

See: -

<http://www.bghrc.com/CentreNews/Newsletters/Alert4Winter2001.PDF>

Perhaps this is a good moment to welcome the diversity of new subscribers to GCN. Also to say that postings such as this one result from GCN subscribers sending C&C related items to me to re-

lay. If anyone has material of this nature they would like airing, please send it - ideally with a URL - and it will be aired.

C&C and Delhi Summit. Aubrey Meyer

Feb 12, 2002 16:27 PST

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2002

Ensuring sustainable livelihoods:

Challenges for governments, corporates, and civil society at Rio+10 8 - 11 February 2002, New Delhi

Just concluded, conference output included the following: -

"The UNFCCC addresses the equity issue through 'common but differentiated responsibility'.

Per capita energy consumption and GHG emissions of developing countries are far lower than that of the industrialized world.

In a convergence of emissions at a sustainable level, developing countries can increase emissions to a safe limit while developed ones reduce to the same level."

<http://www.teriin.org/dsds/dsds2002/day4/plenary8.htm>

C&C in Dutch Parliament Aubrey Meyer

Feb 14, 2002 03:24 PST

Thanks to Marcel Berk (RIVM), who writes today: -

"This morning I came across some minutes of the Dutch House of Parliament published late October 2001 with answers of the Dutch government on questions from parliamentarians on the Fourth National Environmental Policy Plan.

It includes a explicit question about the future differentiation of commitments. I reproduce the question and answer below.

[In Dutch, source: House of Parliament, second chamber, meeting year 2000-2001, doc. no. 27801].

Here is the question posed: -

Which option for the distribution of global emission space is preferred by the government? Will the government propagate its preference in international bodies?

Here is the answer: -

The government makes clear that the distribution of emission space should not hinder the socio-economic development of less developed countries but enhance it.

Other criteria include: ensuring developing country participation, cost-efficiency, preventing carbon leakage and stimulating the development and implementation of national climate policy programmes in less developed countries.

It is left to the next cabinet (there will be national elections in the Netherlands in spring 2002) to develop a formal position on a preferred option for the future differentiation of commitments, but it closes off in stating that a distribution of global emission space on a per capita basis in the course of the century (2030/2050) seems an obvious choice.

C&C and the UK Gov? Aubrey Meyer

Feb 14, 2002 05:04 PST

"Long term Reductions in Greenhouse Gas Emissions"

C&C related documentation generated by the government's inter-ministry group and just published by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) can be retrieved at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/UKGovernment/DTIAG.pdf>

On page 30 the documents states: -

"The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) recommends that the Government should press for a future global climate agreement on a contraction and convergence (C&C) approach, allowing also for emissions trading.

It selects one path for achieving stabilisation of CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere at 550ppm that implies a convergence date of 2050. Many other paths to stabilisation at this level could be taken. The Government is keen to establish a dialogue on possible approaches to future target setting.

However, contraction and convergence is only one of a number of potential models, some of which may be more attractive to developing countries and still promote the objectives that we are striving to fulfil."

Then - in what hovers in a blind date between red-rag and bull - the group go on to state: -

"Other possible approaches, for example, include setting dynamic targets linked to GDP*, or setting limits on the basis of countries' historical emissions (the "Brazilian Proposal"). The Government believes that it would be premature to rule out any options at this stage and plans to engage constructively in future debates."

Phrasing to this effect is now being re-iterated in volumes of correspondence from UK Minister and bureaucrats. No information has been forthcoming about the 'other approaches' beyond the two specific items mentioned.

GCI has responded in the following vein.

C&C embraces the issue of 'historical responsibilities' by definition. Quite simply, the more rapid the convergence in relation to contraction, the more the issue is embraced. Seeing 'commitments' as 'tradable entitlements' brings this function into play.

C&C also embraces the issue of 'GDP related targets' as long as these ('efficiency targets') are understood and pursued as a <subset> of C&C, in other words as C&C-target related GDP.

The graphic analysis (no politics, just data) at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Efficiency.pdf>

shows that when currencies are corrected of exchange rate distortions, there is a massive disparity between the performances of developed and developing countries. Developed countries are orders of magnitude more inefficient than the developing countries.

With climate related damages going at four times the rate of economic growth, the big reinsurers project bankruptcy within about sixty years.

However, since industrial economies are generally discounted to near-zero within half that time, there are grounds for wondering whether we will notice.

C&C in the PIU Energy Review Aubrey Meyer

Feb 14, 2002 06:47 PST

Today the PIU Energy Review to the UK government is published.

In a section called: - "The centrality of carbon and the climate change issue"

It states: -

3.69 A "leading" approach to climate change implies three separate policy timelines:

- * measures to comply with agreed targets;
- * measures to prepare for future targets not yet agreed but probably involving not all countries and operating for limited time-periods;
- * measures to prepare for a world of long-term emission limits agreed between all countries, possibly based on the principles of contraction and convergence. (16)

3.70 There is no clear dividing line between these phases.

Post-Kyoto targets affecting the UK could be finalised by 2005 but agreement might take longer,

perhaps a lot longer, and the scale of the next targets is uncertain. Likewise, it is possible that we could be in a world of long-term universal targets by 2010.

There is even a remote possibility of moving directly to the final phase from the current position.

3.71 In the same way, it is far from clear what the scale of future targets will be. The RCEP suggested that a 60% reduction for the UK by 2050 would be needed within a contraction and convergence agreement, but the exact figure is very uncertain.

All that is certain, whether we move to a contraction and convergence world, as suggested by the RCEP, or follow the guidance produced by the IPCC about global levels of emission reductions that will be needed to avoid dangerous climate change, is that developed countries will need to make very substantial cuts from current emission levels over the century ahead.

The report can be downloaded from: -

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/theenergyreview.view.pdf>

<http://www.gci.org.uk/UKGovernment/TheEnergyReview.pdf>

C&C - Adair Turner in Green Futures Aubrey Meyer

Feb 15, 2002 07:36 PST

Green Futures (Jan/Feb 2002)

The Magazine of Forum for the Future

Interviews Adair Turner, a former Director of the CBI, strongly in favour of C&C.

(His) "... analysis really starts to pack a punch when he turns to the environment. Here, after all, is a case of massive market failure.

Take climate change, which "is likely to impose massive economic costs... The case for being prepared to spend huge resources to limit it is clear," he says, arguing that the cost will be repaid many times over by the avoidance of disaster.

In any case, "the developed world does not have the moral right to increase the risk of flooding in Bangladesh", and, he adds acidly, "European executives worried about the cost of action should perhaps consider it the necessary price for preserving at least some skiing in the Alps."

Long term, says Turner, the only sound strategy is that of 'contraction and convergence' – cutting greenhouse emissions to the point where they are shared equally, worldwide, on a per capita basis."

<http://www.greenfutures.org.uk/features/default.asp?id=905>

C&C in American Prospect Aubrey Meyer

Feb 24, 2002 09:19 PST

In "The American Prospect" (Feb 25th)

Ross Gelbspan goes, "Beyond Kyoto Lite" suggesting that: -

"The Bush administration's absence from the global-warming talks could actually lead other nations to pursue a bolder approach."

Ross is a brilliant champion in the cause of responding seriously to climate change.

He contrasts 'ingenious' Contraction & Convergence with the 'even bolder' World Energy Modernization Plan.

[<http://www.prospect.org/print/V13/4/gelbspan-r.html>]

" The world needs global strategies that will enable countries like India, China, Mexico, and Venezuela to replace their coal- and oil-based energy economies with wind, solar, hydrogen, and biomass sources--and provide sufficient clean energy for future development. That transition would create huge numbers of jobs abroad and allow the world's poorest citizens--many of whom

feel abused and exploited by the wealthy nations--higher living standards, without the assault on the environment that characterized Western development.

One such plan, called Contraction and Convergence, was developed by the Global Commons Institute in Britain. It addresses a fundamental inequity embedded in the Kyoto Protocol, which essentially allows high-polluting nations to keep on polluting by using their past emissions levels as a baseline. The burden of reducing global emissions would fall disproportionately on less-developed nations. Not surprisingly, those nations want a single global per capita allowance for carbon emissions so that they have room to develop.

Contraction and Convergence provides an ingenious mechanism for the world both to set a maximum carbon limit by a date certain and to achieve convergence in the nations' emissions rights, which would gradually be redistributed so that the world would achieve a uniform per capita allocation. This would put appropriate pressure on rich nations, which generate the most pollutants, to shift to nonpolluting renewables.

An even bolder approach, the World Energy Modernization Plan - drafted by a group of energy-company presidents, economists, energy-policy specialists, and others (including this writer) - proposes a combination of three policies that would reduce carbon emissions by 70 percent. The plan calls for the redirection of energy subsidies away from fossil fuels to renewable sources in industrial nations; the creation of a fund on the order of \$300 billion a year to transfer clean energy to developing countries (financed either through a .025 percent "Tobin tax" on international currency transactions or through carbon taxes in industrial countries); and the replacement of the Kyoto framework of international carbon trading with a progressively more stringent fossil-fuel efficiency standard.

Under the stricter standard, every nation would increase its fossil-fuel efficiency by 5 percent a year until the global 70 percent reduction is achieved. Since few economies can maintain a 5 percent annual growth rate, emissions reductions would outpace economic growth. This would be much easier to monitor than measuring emissions; it would simply entail comparing the ratio of carbon-fuel consumption with gross domestic product. Countries would initially realize their goals by implementing inexpensive energy efficiencies, such as better conservation and more-fuel-efficient cars. As those efficiencies became more expensive to capture, countries would meet gradually tougher standards by drawing more energy from renewable sources. That shift, in turn, would create the mass markets and economies of scale for renewables that would make them as cheap as or cheaper than coal and oil."

IMHO there is no inherent conflict between the two formulations discussed by Ross. At the same time, as George Bush has just so aptly - if unintentionally - demonstrated, leading with 'efficiency' (in Bush parlance 'intensity') arguments can be mis-leading.

His White House Press release quotes a current efficiency value for the US of \$5,464 per tonne of carbon rising to \$6,623 per tonne over the next ten years.

These values and this 'efficiency gain rate' are held up as: -

"A More Practical Way to Discuss Goals with Developing Countries."

With their currencies corrected for exchange rate distortions, developing countries remain consistently orders of magnitude more efficient (on this measure) than the countries of the OECD. They may be poor, but they are more efficient;

[See <http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Efficiency.pdf>]

Even the PEW centre acknowledged that.

[http://www.pewclimate.org/projects/pol_equity_new.cfm App. 1 p. 26]

At the rate of gain projected by the White House, the US might become as efficient as Nepal or Namibia (\$100,000/tonne) by the late 22nd Century.

Furthermore, depreciating for the energy content of its imports, the US produces net probably nearer \$3 than \$5,000 of income per tonne of fossil fuel burned domestically.

With the US trade deficit alone now accumulated at nearly three trillion dollars, this is equivalent

to 3 billion tonnes of the extra atmospheric carbon forcing Tuvaluans to flee the rising seas of climate change.

3 billion tonnes is not only twice what the US emits annually, it is twice what the <world> should mid-term limit emissions to annually if rising ghg concentrations, temperature and damages are to be slowed and stabilised.

As if that wasn't bad enough, Dr. Thomas Barnett in U.S. Naval Institute, 2002 (January issue, pp. 53-56) under the title 'Asia: The Military-Market Link' clearly foresees that this 'deficit' ensures we're all on our way to Tuvalu

[<http://www.nwc.navy.mil/newrulesets/AsiaTheMilitary-MarketLink.htm>]

He says: - "The good news is that there's plenty of fossil fuel to go around.

Confirmed oil reserves have jumped almost two-thirds over the past 20 years, according to the Department of Energy, while natural gas reserves have roughly doubled. Our best estimates on coal say we have enough for the next two centuries. So supply is not the issue, and neither is demand, leaving only the question of moving the energy from those who have it to those who need it - and therein lies the rub.

U.S. naval presence in Asia is becoming far less an expression of our nation's forward presence than an "exporting" of security to the global marketplace. In that regard, we truly do move into the Leviathan category, for the "product" we provide is increasingly a collective good less directly tied to our particularistic national interests and far more intimately wrapped up with our global responsibilities.

And in the end, this is a pretty good deal. We trade little pieces of paper (our currency, in the form of a trade deficit) for Asia's amazing array of products and services. We are smart enough to know this is a patently unfair deal unless we offer something of great value along with those little pieces of paper.

<That product is a strong U.S. Pacific Fleet, which squares the transaction nicely>."

No wonder the US Government slipped that little clause in just before Kyoto about military emissions being on the global account.

Aubrey

C&C in UK Parliament Aubrey Meyer

Mar 08, 2002 02:30 PST

An encouraging exchange about C&C between David Miliband (former head of Tony Blair's No 10 Policy Unit, now an MP) and Margaret Beckett (Secretary of State at the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs - DFRA) yesterday in the House of Commons debate on the ratification of Kyoto?

Mr. David Miliband (South Shields):

I am delighted to welcome my right hon. Friend's strong efforts to take forward this important agenda. Kyoto is the key test for those of us who think that an interdependent world requires multilateral engagement.

Will my right hon. Friend update the House on the technical and political work that is being done inside her Department on the so-called contraction and convergence approach to global pollution reduction? Many people believe that it is an innovative and equitable approach to tackling global climate change, and I would very much welcome her thoughts on its potential contribution.

Margaret Beckett:

My hon. Friend makes an interesting point. There is no question that the contraction and convergence model is a serious proposal. My Department is considering it along with a range of other models. There is a strong case to be made for such a proposal, and it has a certain appealing, simple logic. However, it has serious implications for what is required of different nations so, in that sense, it must be weighed against the wish to get everyone moving in the same direction.

C&C @ 3 Conferences Soon Aubrey Meyer
Mar 14, 2002 07:12 PST

CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT CAN BE DONE?

663rd WILTON PARK CONFERENCE

In association with IIED & LEAD International

13 – 17 May 2002

"How can the UN Convention on Climate Change best be implemented, given the US stance? Will the "flexible mechanisms" under negotiation make implementation more effective?

How can threats posed by climate change to the economy, environmental sustainability, health and welfare be reduced?

What effective new technologies can be developed against greenhouse gases? How much can renewable sources of energy contribute?"

<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/web/conferences/wrapper.asp?confref=WP663>

RISK - GOODENOUGH-CHEVENING CONFERENCES

Goodenough College

Thursday/Friday, 11/12 April 2002

"Are we now living in a Risk Society in which the threats we face are quantitatively and qualitatively different from those of the past? Is science creating new risks faster than it is removing old ones?

Is the compensation culture overdone, or redressing historic unfairness? Does the precautionary principle require that we tread lightly upon the earth, or strive for as much control over nature as possible?

How should "society" respond to such questions in the absence of scientific or societal consensus? Is the process of globalisation precluding the possibility of managing risks democratically?"

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Goodenough.pdf>

RESTORE THE EARTH

Findhorn Foundation and Trees for Life

An international conference

March 30th — April 5th, 2002.

"The conference will highlight the inspiring and innovative Restore the Earth project, which aims to catalyse substantial restoration action around the world, and to gain UN support for the declaration of the 21st century as the Century of Restoring the Earth.

Keynote speakers will outline inspiring, coherent and achievable visions for a new human culture based on the revitalisation of the Earth. The conference will feature restoration projects which are already achieving significant results."

<http://www.findhorn.org/events/conferences/restore/display.html>

C&C and Friends of LMD UK Aubrey Meyer
Mar 21, 2002 04:27 PST

Friends of Le Monde Diplomatique (LMD) presents: -

A Talk on Climate Change and "Contraction & Convergence"

by the Global Commons Institute

Saturday 23rd March 11am - 12.30pm

French Institute,

17 Queensberry Place, SW7

Entrance Fee: £2 or £1 members of Friends of Le Monde Diplomatique or the French Institute

Queries: Adam Hayes 0777 617 5086

Synopsis of Talk:

During the 1990's, the Global Commons Institute in London (GCI) developed the case for the global climate policy framework known as 'Contraction and Convergence' (C&C) in the policy working group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

This arose from the campaigning for C&C by GCI during that decade at the parallel United Nations negotiations on climate change.

As a result of the essential soundness and simplicity of the concept, C&C is now gradually becoming the most widely supported global framework within which to co-ordinate policies and measures to avert dangerous climate change.

IPCC Third Assessment Report describes C&C as, "taking the rights-based approach to its logical conclusion."

GCI will present the substance of the C&C initiative and how it has fared to date.

C&C - New Internationalist (Jan 02) Aubrey Meyer

Mar 21, 2002 08:56 PST

Two C&C related articles in the Jan/Feb issue of the New Internationalist Magazine

www.newint.org

A Parliament for the Planet

"The only fair and lasting means of reducing CO2 (namely 'contraction and convergence', which means working out how much pollution the planet can take, then allocating an equal pollution quota to everyone on earth) would surely be impossible to implement without a world parliament."

George Monbiot

Author Captive State

Going Down in History

"The legacy of ecological debt can be recognized and dealt with by adopting a forward-looking plan on climate change. Developing countries can argue for a global deal that acknowledges their logical entitlement to an equal share of the global commons of the atmosphere. Instead of the historical expansion of greenhouse-gas emissions and divergence between the world's rich and poor, there needs to be a plan for both contraction and convergence.

Fortunately, just such a plan, stemming from the London-based Global Commons Institute, is gaining favour among governments, the financial community and in developing countries.

Contraction and convergence requires setting a maximum greenhouse-gas concentration target for the atmosphere. After that, all countries logically claim their right to share the 'emissions pie', but can trade their entitlements if they wish. This way, if rich countries want to continue taking up more than their fair share of the world's environmental space, they will at least have to pay for the privilege, generating much-needed resources for countries that need them."

C&C and the World Bank Aubrey Meyer

Mar 24, 2002 10:21 PST

GCI wrote recently to the authors of the World Bank, DFID, EC, UNDP WSSD discussion document - "Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management" - linking their environment/poverty concerns to C&C.

It is at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Letters/Johnson.pdf>

An interesting reply came back from the bank suggesting ways in which they may integrate C&C in

their documentation. It is at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Letters/Bojo.pdf>

A similar letter came from the DG Development at the EC.

C&C and Sky Trust Aubrey Meyer

Apr 02, 2002 03:27 PST

"Who Owns the Sky?"

This really useful book by Peter Barnes was published by Island Press in 2001. The ISBN number is 1-55963-855-9

The book seems primarily intended for a US audience. It suggest how citizens there might receive an equal-per-capita-dividend from a "Sky Trust" where the proceeds of future US ghg emissions management could be deposited.

As an electoral idea it cleverly implies, 'we're the guys who got you the climate-dividend' (rather than 'we're the guys who hit you with the 'sky-tax').

More info at: - <<http://www.skyowners.org>>

The book doesn't pick up on C&C in the main text.

However, in the endnotes to Chapter 4. Page 47 it says: -

"On Roman law, see the Institutes of Justinian, especially the section on the classification of "things" <www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/535mstitutes.html>. The seminal work on the public trust doctrine is Joseph L Sax's 1970 "Michigan Law Review" article.

Also helpful is Harry R. Bader's "Antaeus and the Public Trust Doctrine." According to the latter, courts have identified hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, retaining open space, preserving wild-life habitat, maintaining aesthetic beauty, and preserving ecological integrity as legitimate pulic expectations protected by the public trust doctrine.

On the question of global equity, which I have avoided in this book, the reader may want to explore the Web site of the London-based Global Commons Institute. GCI is promoting the concept of "contract and converge" as a way to resolve the dispute between rich and the countries about how to share the global atmosphere. Under "con-tract and converge, the per capita emissions of the rich and poor would converge to equality over' say fifty years. During this time, global emissions would contract. But because poor countries per capita emissions are far below the rich countries' (the average American emits six times as much carbon dioxide as the average Chinese person), the poor countries' emissions would actually rise at first.

Though considered a radical idea just a few years ago, "contract and converge" is slowly gaining acceptance. www.gci.org.uk

The World Council of Churches also takes a strong position in favor of globa equity. It states, "The atmosphere is global commons. It envelopes the Earth' nurturing and protectin life. It is part of God's creation. It is to be shared by everyone today and in the future. The WCC recommends a Global Atmospheric Commons Model based on a per capita allocation of global emissions rights, as opposed to an allocation based on historical emissions. (Statement adopted in Saskatoon, Canada, May 14 2000)."

C&C and the 'Quiet Revolution' Aubrey Meyer

Apr 13, 2002 09:02 PDT

Writing in the March/April issue of 'Green Futures Magazine', Caspar Henderson looks for signs of 'strategic joinery' in government thinking and asks who - out of the commercial sector, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the government in general - is pulling together a 'coherent policy framework' for relating 'climate change', 'security' and 'sustainability'.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Caspar.pdf>

Making many wide and interesting connections, he notes that some major investors, insurers and

pension funds, are beginning to speak to this agenda with a 'coherent voice' by joining with the advocacy of 'Contraction and Convergence (C&C); - what he calls 'the quiet revolutionary in the ranks of climate change strategies, which requires equal greenhouse gas emissions for all and big cuts for the rich countries'.

The appearance of this article coincided with an unexpected request to GCI from the 'Joint Doctrine and Concept Centre' at the MOD for C&C related materials.

Early Day Motion 325 is presently backed by 96 MPs from the UK parliament. With the Royal Commission they are pressing the Government and the Prime Minister to 'lead' the advocacy of C&C at Rio+10 for guidance of the climate process beyond Kyoto.

<http://edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=325>

The option of writing to constituency MPs seeking their support for EDM 325 remains current until this year's summer recess. Its call to resolve with C&C the asymmetric conditions leading to poverty, terrorism and climate change, will be remain beyond the summer.

To support this with facts, GCI has been making C&C concept and analysis materials available to all comers on request.

If any on the still growing GCN list have practical suggestions as to how GCT (Global Commons Trust) might attract funds to help service this rising interest, they'd be very pleased to hear from you.

The creatively delightful 'Restore the Earth' Conference at Findhorn in Scotland revealed the musical essence of the C&C agenda.

Contraction and Convergence is the 'Perfect Cadence' to end to the asymmetric conditions of fossil fuel dependency, poverty and terrorism (EDM 325): - in a nutshell it can be, "Amen" to all of that . . . and to climate change.

The government's number one bureaucrat dealing with sustainable development – the estimable Derek Osborne of the FCO – was there to report on Rio+10 Preparations. He unexpectedly revealed his affection for the 'Four Noble Truths of Climate Change'.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/4NobleTruthsC&C.pdf>

And the invincible Kathleen Sullivan was side-splittingly funny and deadly serious (in equal measure and a Marilyn Monroe fur coat) about radio-active waste. As 'Dorothy' singing . . . "Somewhere . . . over Chernobyl . . ." and in close proximity to John Seed - the tree-planting Wizard from Oz(tralia) - she said the r/a waste should be 'consecrated' above-ground . . . lest we forget.

'Climate Change Contrarians' from the left and the right, present at the subsequent conference on 'Risk' at Goodenough College in London, agreed to withhold generous amounts of laughter in favour of comparable amounts of D&D (dither and drift), failing nonetheless to bring acceptance of the Precautionary Principle to net zero.

IPC&C ? Aubrey Meyer

Apr 20, 2002 04:28 PDT

TERI INDIA website announces that their Director . . .

"Dr R K Pachauri has been elected as the Chairman of the IPCC.

Out of 132 votes: -

Dr Pachauri 76 votes

Dr R Watson 49 votes

Dr J Goldenberg 7 votes"

TERI recently hosted a major international conference: -

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2002 Ensuring sustainable livelihoods:

Challenges for governments, corporates, and civil society at Rio+10

8 - 11 February 2002, New Delhi

<http://www.teriin.org/dsds/index.htm>

The conference proceedings include the following call for Contraction and Convergence.

"... global commons such as ... the atmosphere ... and in the context of climate change, it is imperative to integrate climate policy with the larger body of policy and initiate early action in implementing these options through comprehensive international participation and agreement on the final level at which to stabilize the concentrations of GHGs and on medium-term targets for reducing emissions. Carbon trading arrangements based on an equitable per capita allocation also need to be adopted."

See Page Seven in rapporteur's report.

<http://www.teriin.org/dsds/dsds2002/synopsis.pdf>

Bob Watson was alleged by US Oil Interests to have had a 'personal agenda' in his tenure as Chairman of the IPCC. This appears to have been an attack on his upholding the scientifically backed judgement of the IPCC that ghg emissions contraction globally is pre-requisite to avoiding dangerous climate change.

In the round, Convergence is logically an unavoidable function of Contraction. Dr Pachauri shares the IPCC's scientific judgement. He now faces an interesting scenario of defending the need for C&C in preference to banners of D&D (Dither and Drift) still straggling at the mast-heads of flat-earth.

Stay well Bob and Pachi

C&C in World Bank Report 2003? Aubrey Meyer

Apr 22, 2002 11:49 PDT

The World Bank has posted a draft of its World Development Report for 2003 on sustainable development to its website.

Chapter 8 - Solving Global Problems

"Who will pay for (greenhouse gas)emissions reductions?

A wide variety of visions for long-run burden-sharing arrangements have been proposed. These include assessing contributions based on cumulative past emissions, allocating emission rights according to current emissions (that is, grandfathering), converging towards equal per-capita allocation of emissions rights, assessment of carbon taxes, and combinations of these.

Agreements may have been stymied in part by uncertainty about the actual economic burden that any of these systems would entail."

Anyone can comment on it, but the deadline is 25 April!

The WDR draft is at: -

http://econ.worldbank.org/wdr/structured_doc.php?sp=2433&st=&sd=13545

GCI feels that understanding the 'economic burden' is a function of understanding the insurers who point out that that climate-change related damages are going between two to four times the rate of economic growth.

Also the draft presently suggests a 'policy contradiction' where this doesn't really exist.

Once all the named approaches are understood as functions of the 'contraction and convergence' proces that is necessary to correct the expansion and divergence embedded in the current trends, this is necessarily corrected.

1,000 Corporate CEOs at Davos recently described the trends of climate change as "devastating."

Data on these trends is shown in the few slides at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/WBANK_files/frame.htm

C&C effectively supports the Bank/UNDP/EC/DFID stated mission to link saving the environment and eradicating poverty.

C&C on EC Agenda Aubrey Meyer

Apr 24, 2002 03:22 PDT

"Thank you for your letter of 5th February and appended information on the contraction and convergence approach, which I studied with interest.

The negotiations on the next commitment period will have to start by 2005 and to finish by the end of 2007, In these negotiations, all options to limit and reduce emissions in a fair and equitable way will be discussed. Contraction and convergence is one of the interesting alternatives in this regard."

Jean-Francois Verstrynge

Acting Director-General

DG Environment

European Commission

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Verstrynge1.pdf>

C&C - Reports and 'Vision' Aubrey Meyer

Apr 24, 2002 22:28 PDT

Thanks and well done for the several GCN/C&C contributions to the World Bank's draft report. These are being published and this is encouraging evidence of increased openness in the process.

<http://econ.worldbank.org/wdr/comments/featured.php?sp=2433&sd=13545&ss=2390>

Although billed as WDR 2003, this influential and widely circulated report is due to be published at the September World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg this year.

If C&C is in this document it will be one of several similarly influential expositions being published around this time.

For example the environment/climate/poverty report of the European Commission, the Department of International Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank (different report).

Comments to this are still possible: - see details

<http://www.igc.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read/message.html?mid=1709567976&sort=d&start=185>

Munich Reinsurance (congratulations to Thomas Loster, Gerhard Berz, Angelika Wirtz and their colleagues in America) have produced a superb and detailed report on "Natural Catastrophes in 2001" - download from: -

http://www.munichre.com/pdf/topics_2001_e.pdf

It includes some anxious remarks about the 'meagre results' at the UN climate negotiations.

The industry as a whole has previously made approving noises about C&C in their 'Financial Initiative' with UNEP (UNEPFI). The UNEPFI is very soon to agree material for publication for the WSSD. Considering the scale and the trends of the losses this industry is now contemplating, their helping consensus towards C&C has to be preferable to further D&D (Dither and Drift) - (or was it Damages and Disasters)?

Let's C&C . . . and say 'Amen' to climate change.

The government here has quietly said if they get partners they will.

More Time for WDR Draft . . . Aubrey Meyer

Apr 25, 2002 02:52 PDT

The World Bank have written to say there is more time to respond to the draft.

"Regarding the issue of time, we realize that it is being posted for a short period of time but unfortunately the compressed time frame of the entire report writing process has been such that we

had little time for posting the report for comments.

On the other hand, the report will be left live on the web site until May 30 and comments will continue to be posted and viewed by the research team during this time."

John Garrison

Civil Society Team

External Affairs Department

World Bank

PHONE: (202) 473-4742

WEB: <http://www.worldbank.org/ngos>

See details at: -

<http://www.igc.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read/message.html?mid=1710114614&sort=d&start=186>

CAN & CONTRARIANS converge? Its not very IPC&C. Aubrey Meyer

May 02, 2002 03:49 PDT

Inadvertently challenging the IPCC, an awkward convergence between some activists in CAN (Climate Action Network) and the 'Contrarians' (Climate Skeptics) has emerged.

On the eve of their 'Climate Equity' conference in Bali, CAN's Energy Specialist Mr Rob Bradley of CNE (Climate Network Europe) said, "forecasting 50 years in advance is too unrealistic to be useful."

He was joined by Mr Lars Jensen speaking for WWF Denmark who said, "looking at fifty years into the future is too theoretical."

Noting this convergence between 'CANtrarians and Contrarians', the climate sceptical bio-geographer Philip Stott agreed, "... 50-80 year predictions are not feasible, even at a general world scale."

Although speaking for the contrarians, Stott could have been speaking for these European CANtrarians.

But do these CAN/contrarians speak for CAN?

There are different properties between predictions, prescriptions, proscriptions (prohibitions) and projections.

Jensen prescribes, "we need to look at short term targets. We need to focus on how to create welfare for societies without allowing them to pollute."

Awkwardly, this prescription depends on accepting the predictive capacity in the IPCC climate models.

Now Jensen and Bradley have challenged the very notion of prediction, they help to weaken all arguments in favour of avoiding dangerous climate change and strengthen contrarian resistance to these arguments.

With a history of hares, will CAN now be hounded by its CAN/contrarians?

Adding proscription, Bradley goes on to say that, "Contraction and Convergence is political fantasy and destructive", prescribing instead, "short-term targets, markets and science."

It is the case that Contraction and Convergence (C&C) is based on accepting the science driving the IPCC's models.

However it then goes on to 'project' how to shape negotiations at the UN Climate Convention,

(a) in a non-random

(b) damage-cost-effective manner

(c) consistent with the UNFCCC's already agreed legal basis of Precaution and Equity

(d) in a model that is easily revisable in the light of new social and scientific evidence of danger.
This means establishing: -

- (1) an atmospheric Greenhouse Gas concentration target
- (2) a global carbon emissions budget to match
- (3) a formal convergence to equal per capita shares of this budget by an agreed date and
- (4) legal entitlement to this equity, if these shares are to be internationally tradable
- (5) where simply the rates of C&C are revisable.

This makes possible the compromise between the still entrenched and polarised positions of: -

(a) 'historic responsibilities'

versus

(b) 'grand-fathering'.

Thus it is the task of international community - perhaps as six regions overall [like CNE's habitat, the European Bubble] - to negotiate the overall rates of C&C and hopefully leave the regions to deal with their own regional politics. The European Union have already set the precedent for this by not doing their regional laundry at the UN.

In other words C&C projects a model that guides everyone, in a flexible but non-stochastic model, from the expansion and divergence of the status quo where rights are proportional to income, to a future in which rights to the global commons have become proportional to people.

CAN/contrarian arguments simply defend the idea that a little fiscal and technological purchase on the destructive trends of expansion and divergence embedded in the causation of global climate change is commensurate with avoiding dangerous rates of climate change.

The insurers say continuing these trends sees them bankrupted within a generation and the world within two.

C&C cuts to the chase away from these trends.

And an increasing number of institutions and ordinary people now accept that C&C is preferable to exhaustion by continuing beyond Kyoto the noisy and stochastic model of the negotiations thus far.

Many of them are in CAN and many of them are at CAN's equity summit in Bali.

CAN can C&C.

Just follow the music.

Aubrey Meyer

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C&C Refs <http://www.gci.org.uk/refs/C%26CUNEPIIIg.pdf>

GCN <http://www.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read>

GCN signon <http://www.gci.org.uk/signon/indlet.html>

Dr. Pachauri - IPC&C? Aubrey Meyer

May 02, 2002 09:22 PDT

On his recent election to Chairman of the IPCC Dr. Pachauri published an essay on the challenge of global emissions management.

It includes the following C&C-type observations: -

"The IPCC can only explore policy choices because it is not a policy-prescriptive or even a policy-recommendatory body. Its mission is to carry out policy-relevant work on climate change, leaving decisions and actions to other bodies such as those under the UNFCCC.

The Holdren-Pachauri paper (of 1992) developed scenarios and trajectories of future energy use in the world as a whole and by the two major country groups namely, industrialized as well as developing countries respectively.

For a sustainable future and a global system that counters the threat of climate change, it was projected that developing countries would continue to increase energy use from around 770 watts per capita in 1990 to 2300 watts by 2030. In the same period, the industrialized countries would reduce their consumption from 7255 watts in 1990 to 6285 watts in 2030. In a sense, these figures were predicated on a convergence of energy consumption and emissions of GHGs over a period of time. I believe there is an urgent need for countries of east and west, north and south to focus on a future path that is essential for managing emissions of GHGs in the future.

Unfortunately, far too much time and effort has gone into debating immediate targets and actions under the Kyoto Protocol at the neglect of developing a set of driving forces that would not only generate immediate action but also help in providing direction in the medium and long terms.

I think, if the work of the IPCC provides compelling scientific evidence and an exposition of a range of policy choices, then action will naturally follow through an understanding of the issues by the public, the scientific community, and certainly the leaders of democratically elected governments. We all need to strive towards such a condition for future action in the field of climate change."

The essay and a frank interview are at: -

<http://www.teriin.org/terragreen/issue11/essay.htm>

C&C in H. Boell Fdn. WSSD report Aubrey Meyer

May 20, 2002 05:51 PDT

The Heinrich Boell Foundation has published an excellent and detailed report on the issues for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

It takes a clear position in favour of C&C beyond Kyoto.

"The vision of "contraction and convergence" combines ecology and equity most elegantly; it starts with the insight that the global environmental space is finite and attempts to fairly share its permissible use among all world citizens taking into account the future generations as well."

<http://www.worldsummit2002.org/publications/memo-mF.pdf>

C&C at Wilton Park Conference Aubrey Meyer

May 20, 2002 06:21 PDT

The C&C exposition was made at the Wilton Park Conference last Wednesday. It was a useful and quite international event.

An updated C&C PowerPoint Slide Show was presented.

Print-outs of these with updated References for C&C were provided for all participants in good colour quality volumes robustly bound.

Volumes available to GCN on request to: -

aub-@gci.org.uk

C&C Slides – A Syntax for Survival

Globalisation of Consciousness

Slides 1- 8

Climate Science – Rising Risks

Slides 9 - 16

Economic Fundamentals

Slides 17 - 22

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Essential Proposition of C&C

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Overview of trends with and without C&C

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UNFCCC, C&C and the Kyoto Protocol

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UNFCCC, C&C and Byrd Hagel Resolution

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Statements by Individuals

Electronic files (large) for these are also retrievable at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/refs/Wilton%20pening%20Pages.pdf> (1.1 Mega bytes).

<http://www.gci.org.uk/refs/C&Cshow.zip> (3.1 Megabytes).

C&C in World Bank Report Aubrey Meyer

May 24, 2002 21:53 PDT

"Global warming requires international collective action. There are many ways of achieving effective restraint. The Kyoto protocol approach is for rich countries to set themselves targets for emissions reductions, and the recent agreement between European nations and Japan to move ahead with the protocol is a positive step forward. Looking further down the road, it is critically important to get at least all of the E-7 involved.

The Global Commons Institute, an NGO, has come up with an innovative proposal for how to do this. The proposal entails agreeing on a target level of emissions by the year 2015 and then allocating these emissions to everyone in the world proportionally. Rich countries would get allocations well below their current level of emissions, while poor countries would get allocations well above. There would then be a market for emission permits.

Poor countries could earn income selling some of their permits; rich and poor countries alike would have strong incentives to put energy-saving policies into place; and private industry would have strong incentives to invent new, cleaner technologies. One of the hopeful things about globalization is how an innovative idea like this can quickly gain currency and support."

"Globalization, Growth and Poverty" - described as a 'high-profile publication' - a World Bank Policy Research Report, published in 2002.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2002/02/16//000094946_0202020411335/Rendered/PDF/multi0page.pdf

Pro C&C at UK Tyndall Centre Aubrey Meyer

Jun 08, 2002 08:24 PDT

Two useful C&C oriented Working Papers from UK based Tyndall Centre

Suraje Dessai

"The climate regime from The Hague to Marrakech: Saving or Sinking the Kyoto Protocol?"

4. The Bonn Agreement

"The other 'crunch issue' the Bonn Agreement tackles are the Kyoto mechanisms. Surprisingly, the text's language referring that emissions should be reduced "in a manner conducive to narrowing per capita differences between developed and developing countries" paves the way for a contraction and convergence framework (Meyer, 2001)."

Full report at: -

http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/publications/working_papers/wp12.pdf

"The Use of Integrated Assessment: An Institutional Analysis Perspective"

Simon Shackley and Clair Gough
Box 1 - The Dilemma of Complexity

" . . . by contrast, the 'Contraction and Convergence' idea developed by the Global Commons Institute has been rather widely adopted (Meyer 2000).

It connects well with the more explicitly political formulation of the climate change issue in equity terms of the North-South divide, and allows for national differences to be acknowledged in the short to medium term.

Its lack of integration (e.g. through not including analysis of the economic costs of mitigation) may be an advantage in its acceptability to policymakers.

Interestingly, the contraction and convergence concept has engendered significant political support as well as attracting support from assessment organisations (e.g. the influential Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in the UK (2000)) without recourse to a complex numerical model.

Full report at: -

http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/publications/working_papers/wp14.pdf

Pro C&C at Uranium Institute? Aubrey Meyer

Jun 08, 2002 08:34 PDT

"The Influence of Climate Change Policy on the Future of Nuclear Power"

Jonathan Cobb at 25th Annual Symposium 2000

"In order for atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations to be stabilised at a sustainable level it will be necessary to reduce emissions by around 60% from the 1990 level.

Advocates of a policy of "convergence and contraction", where developed and developing countries are to be allowed similar levels of emissions on a per capita basis, state that developed countries may have to reduce emissions by 80%."

Full statement at: -

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/sym/2000/cobb.htm>

C&C and CCKN Aubrey Meyer

Jun 11, 2002 03:34 PDT

Climate Change Knowledge Network (CCKN) and C&C

Business Perspectives - A Quickly Changing Tune (11 06 02)

"The mixed response to the Bush administration's move partly reflects the perception that tackling climate change will create winners as well as losers. Some companies would benefit from curbs on carbon dioxide emissions. Others might not benefit but would prefer governments to face the issue rather than be left in a state of uncertainty about when and how it will be tackled. Continuing support for limits on carbon emissions comes largely from companies that make energy-efficient products and sophisticated controls. A more surprising source of support comes from certain car companies, despite the industry having to cope with more stringent regulations. The explanation, according to an article in Harvard Business Review in July, was that companies such as General Motors and Ford Motor "see climate change as an opportunity to gain advantage over their less technologically sophisticated rivals."

Some go so far as to claim that Bush's stance could damage the US economy because it would give its competitors a head start in developing and using climate-friendly technologies. They draw an analogy with the oil price shock of the 1970s, which spurred the Japanese car industry into producing highly efficient cars that won new markets.

At the other end of the spectrum, some companies are now lobbying for surprisingly radical solutions to the problem of climate change. The Chartered Insurance Institute, a professional body for the UK insurance industry, recently called on governments to replace the Kyoto protocol, which

calls for a 5 per cent cut in emissions by 2010, with a proposal known as "contraction and convergence", a longer-term plan to reduce global emissions by 60 per cent. The Respect Group, a Europe-wide business network based in Stockholm, is putting another business initiative forward. It says it is "critical" that the EU introduce policies that make the use of fossil fuel more expensive. Most businesses will take the opposite tack. Lobbying efforts will center on avoiding extra taxation and promoting flexible, cost-effective ways of reducing emissions."

http://www.cckn.net/compendium/business_background.asp

The CCKN is made possible by the generous support of:

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Canada

Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada

C&C, Oil Depletion & Currency Reform Aubrey Meyer

Jun 11, 2002 04:57 PDT

Building Limited Fossil Energy Supplies into the World Monetary System

Paper presented at the International Workshop on Oil Depletion University of Uppsala Sweden

May 23-24th, 2002.

Richard Douthwaite

full paper at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/EBCUS.pdf>

"Contraction and Convergence (C&C), a plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions developed by the Global Commons Institute in London which has gained the support of a majority of the nations of the world, provides a way of linking a global currency with the limited capacity of the planet to absorb or break down greenhouse gas emissions."

C&C and LE MONDE Diplomatie Aubrey Meyer

Jun 13, 2002 13:26 PDT

". . . . Asymmetric conditions in the economy make 'carbon' cheap and renewables expensive. They also decrease sustainability and increase poverty.

However, imagine a future where climate change has been avoided and humanity's long-term prospects are more secure than now. Looking back from there we see that by definition greenhouse gas emissions have contracted to a safe level and that within this contraction, the per capita emissions levels of different countries have converged.

The fact is this "Contraction and Convergence" process is intrinsic to any emissions scenario that stabilises the rising concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

So the real questions are only, does this come about by chance and guesswork or by building it formally into an international framework. This largely determines the second question; - at what rate will C&C occur?"

Full article at: -

<http://www.amisuk.f9.co.uk/ourarticles/Apr02art4.html>

C&C Archive . . . Aubrey Meyer

Jun 20, 2002 08:51 PDT

Some GCI/C&C items since being inspired to act by the Penang Manifesto (1989) can be found at:

-

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/GCIArchive1989to2002.pdf>

Contraction is Convergence Aubrey Meyer

Jun 21, 2002 05:45 PDT

IPCC Third Assessment - usefully - said: -

"C&C takes the rights-based approach to its logical conclusion."

This conclusion was reached despite a challenge by the US State Department which read: -

"The notion that climate policies per se should be designed to promote greater equity in the use of global resources, and that specific contraction and convergence formulas are a good path to this end, are by no means universally accepted intellectually, let alone politically."

[US Government documents recently revealed - see: -

http://www.state.gov/www/global/global_issues/climate/000800_ipcc1_subm-ch01-02.html]

To repudiate the need for global contraction is to deny the reality of human-induced global climate change. The US Government does not do this.

Intellectually, convergence inside contraction is like falling down a funnel - you can't help it as there is no room for anything else. Not even guesswork makes it possible to escape this, unless zero is to have more than one value.

Politically, Contraction and Convergence is simply a constitutional framework. It is a non-guess-work means to survival, just as the middle way is a just a means to enlightenment.

At the same time, the growing intellectual and political acceptance of the 'rightness' of C&C (even including for 'moral' reasons) should be a source of reassurance to the new US State Department as C&C uniquely clarifies the Byrd Hagel Resolution in a way that nothing else does. [How logically could BHR be possibly done without C&C?].

This acceptance is also a bouquet to the IPCC authors who made the essential point: - "C&C is the <logical> option". In other words C&C is a synthesis beyond the moral dichotomies of left and right not-to-mention the dangers of further D&D - alias dither and drift, damages and disasters , all from the dangerous dichotomy between logical and ethical

C&C is the carrot; D&D is the stick.

World Bank and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jul 03, 2002 03:38 PDT

In response to several C&C related submissions from GCN the World Bank seems to be appreciative and interested.

4. Climate change, GHG emission:

World Bank

Summary of the E-Discussion on the Environment and Poverty

"Thanks for drawing our attention to the approach for "Contradiction and Convergence" and providing several useful references to sites where this is further discussed.

This is the kind of constructive feedback that we hope to get more of!

We will pursue those as a team, and discuss how we might discuss this approach in the final version of the paper.

In our final summary of the e-Dialog in July, we will come back to the details of this."

Jan Bojö

The World Bank

On behalf of the authors of the Consultation Draft.

http://info.worldbank.org/etools/eWorkspace/ews004/groupware/GI_View1707.html

C&C is a broad church . . . Aubrey Meyer

Jul 08, 2002 04:11 PDT

Remarks by

John Ritch

Director General

World Nuclear Association

British Nuclear Energy Society

40th Anniversary Celebration

London

2 July 2002

include clear-sighted C&C advocacy as follows

" A serious climate regime – if one is to evolve – must go far beyond Kyoto, by encompassing all nations and by employing some variation of the concept known as "contraction and convergence":

Contraction means that over the century ahead we must plot a path that will reduce overall global emissions by at least 50% – even as populations and economies expand.

Convergence means that, in this process, we must accept the principle that every person on Earth is entitled to an equal per-capita level of emissions.

Stated in this stark manner, the goal of 50% contraction seems draconian, while the principle of equal entitlement to emissions seems utopian. In fact, both concepts are eminently practical.

As to contraction, nothing short of a 50% emissions reduction offers any hope of averting catastrophic climate change. This cutback – entailing a 75% reduction in today's advanced economies – accomplishes no more than stabilizing global greenhouse gases at a level over twice that which existed just two centuries ago.

As to convergence, nothing other than the principle of equal entitlement offers a basis for the global consensus on which an effective climate regime must depend. Equal entitlement does not mean equal emissions; it is, rather, the basis for an allocation of rights on which a fair and rational emissions trading system can be built.

A system based on this principle – and, I venture to say, only a system based on this principle – can be designed to produce the sense of equity, the predictability, and the sound economic incentives needed for smooth transition into a clean-energy future. These incentives can work constructively in developed and developing countries alike.

In this schema, the sense of equity and predictability are created at the very outset of the regime. A nation's population size at an agreed point would be the basis for establishing its long-term emissions ceiling, toward which it would be committed to move on a steady path.

To facilitate a smooth and economically rational transition toward that goal, emissions trading would enable countries and companies to chart their own best path – selling permits where possible, buying them when necessary.

The rate of convergence to a common level would be designed to ensure that, during the long transition, already-industrialized nations as a whole would find it advantageous to purchase emissions permits from countries less developed.

This capital flow could serve the common interest in sustainable development by financing clean-energy infrastructure in the developing world.

Building this regime is not beyond human wit. Indeed, its simplicity and feasibility stand in favourable contrast to the chaos, social dislocation, vast expense and human misery that unrestrained climate change could bring – and from which no nation would be immune."

C&C - the Way for the Future? Aubrey Meyer

Jul 18, 2002 02:53 PDT

Wilton Climate Report now available.

It is based on the climate conference: -

CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT CAN BE DONE?

[June 2002 - Wilton Park Paper]

Held at WILTON PARK - An arm of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office -

Monday 13 to Friday 17 May 2002

It is by Wilton Park's Associate Director, Roger Williamson

The report also asks and suggests an answer the question: -

C&C - the Way for the Future?

The report as a whole can be found at URL: -

<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/web/conferences/reportwrapper.asp?confref=WP663>

or as a downloadable rtf file at: -

<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/web/publications/papers/wpp663.rtf>

or as a downloadable pdf file at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/WPCProceedings.pdf>

The remarks of The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP - UK Environment Minister - to this Conference are at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/MeacherWPC.pdf>

The remarks of Dr. Harlan L. Watson

Senior Climate Negotiator and Special Representative

U.S. Department of State

Remarks on The Evolving U.S. Change Policy

to this Conference are at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/WatsonWPC.pdf>

C&C platform in World Review of Books Aubrey Meyer

Jul 19, 2002 07:30 PDT

" . . . winning the argument is not winning the war as the C&C book only partly records . . . Dr. Thomas Barnett* under the title Asia: The Military-Market Link clearly foresees . . . that we're all on our way to Tuvalu . . . "

* Professor at the U.S. Naval War College, currently serving as the Assistant for Strategic Futures in the Office of Force Transformation within the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

(US Naval Institute, 2002; January issue, pp53-56).

<http://dandini.emeraldinsight.com/pdfs/wrvol5no1.pdf>

C&C in UK Parl DFID Com Report Aubrey Meyer

Jul 23, 2002 09:25 PDT

C&C in DFID Select Committee Report

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Published today at: -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200102/cmselect/cmintdev/519/51902.htm>

This report roundly upholds DFID's poverty eradication focus.

It also challenges them to help in bringing Developed and Developing countries together to save the global climate while doing this.

Setting emissions targets fairly

82. Both atmospheric stabilisation of greenhouse gases and the entry of developing countries into the climate regime are likely to require a move to per capita emission targets.[243] David Crichton and the Corner House both suggested DFID should consider the 'contraction and convergence' model set out by the Global Commons Institute.[244] Contraction and convergence is based on per capita emissions and offers an opportunity to address issues of equity. With emissions shared on a per capita basis, developed and developing countries could trade surplus emissions rights.[245] Advocates of contraction and convergence point to its inherent equity and its ability to bring together developed and developing countries in a single framework. However, contraction and convergence recognises that emissions from developing countries will grow and does *not* hold back their development in order to rectify damage caused by developed countries.[246]

* - Typo in original <ommitted> the word 'not'. It should have been included . . . (error confirmed by committe clerk 5.00 pm GMT)

84. UK policy on emissions reduction has focused on bringing the Kyoto Protocol into force. DFID recognised that the targets in the Protocol were probably inadequate but argued that the Protocol would provide a starting point from which to make further progress. DFID acknowledged that contraction and convergence models had an intuitive logic, but noted that their success depended on developed countries making significant cuts in emissions. There has been little evidence that developed countries are willing to do this.

DFID stated . . . (fatalistically?) . . . that, without agreement to reduce emissions, contraction and convergence was " . . . interesting but . . . little more than that".[247]

(I don't believe that's really DFID's view - adaptation without prevention/mitigation equals three daft and alienated monkeys saying why bother . . .?)

If anyone would like a copy of the WRI draft "A Climate of Trust" - a document due to be published in October - please ask.

C&C in "the Hindu" Aubrey Meyer

Jul 24, 2002 03:56 PDT

" . . . French Environment Minister Dominique Voynet support(s) the strategy of contraction and convergence.

According to this strategy, all countries will be allotted entitlements to pollute on the basis of a single per capita allowance. While the rich countries will have to contract their emission levels to reach this target, the poor countries will be allowed to develop their economies by increasing their emission to that level. This convergence target will have to be reached in a given time-period and, thereafter, will decline uniformly for all countries.

The per capita emission and the time for convergence will have to be negotiated internationally, taking into account the safe levels of CO2 concentration that can be allowed in the atmosphere. If these entitlements are permitted to be traded, developing countries can get substantial resources as a matter of right and not as handouts. These resources would help them leapfrog into clean technologies for power and transport and for overall development as well, without having to worry about losing their bargaining positions."

<http://www.flonnet.com/fl1915/19150840.htm>

Global Climate View in US "Village Voice" Aubrey Meyer

Aug 01, 2002 02:17 PDT

"The Kyoto agreement was formulated based on a fundamental tenet of democratic public law, the concept of the commons—property belonging in equal measure to all citizens for all time.

Leadership on this issue must value the hard commitments required of democratic thinking, and not simply trot out the term to justify the current mania for sabre rattling."

<http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0231/romoth.php>

C&C debate in "Open Democracy" Aubrey Meyer

Aug 01, 2002 10:19 PDT

Benito Müller

"As for the issue of an equitable distribution of (global) emission targets, there have been, as you know, numerous proposals.

One of the best known is the 'contraction and convergence' model suggested by the Global Commons Institute."

Open Democracy

"This is based on the idea that, ultimately, everyone in the world has an equal right, as it were, to emit greenhouse gases; and that the expression of this right must be limited, so that the aggregate amount of emissions is safe for the global climate "

Benito Müller

"In my view, the main drawback with 'contraction and convergence' is that it starts out with a 'grandfathering' allocation – essentially a uniform percentage target across the board – and only moves towards presumably the fair per capita solution over time.

Depending on the speed of the convergence and the contraction, it is thus not only likely to impose initial reduction targets on even the least developed countries, but it deprives them of their legitimate surplus permits at the time when they need these most in their quest to reach a path of sustainable development – namely now.

In contrast, I think it would be feasible, affordable, fair and sensible to give everyone in the world an equal per capita allocation now. Each person would also have the right to trade emissions so that the poor low emitters could benefit from this legitimate asset "

Aubrey Meyer

"In fact, the C&C model remains possibly the only calculating device put forward so far that not only embraces exactly what Benito is arguing for, but which is capable of calculating in full the necessary international accounting figures.

It is not accurate to say that C&C "starts out with a 'grand-fathering' allocation, essentially a uniform percentage target across the board".

From day one, C&C removes grandfather rights at a rate that is determined by the disparate initial per capita emissions levels internationally, in favour of equal rights by an agreed date.

However, this process would apply the principles of C&C at rates that have been negotiated by the parties themselves, rather than those pre-determined and handed down by experts and observers.

If the international community commands an immediate convergence within a staged contraction, the model will calculate it.

It is not GCI's role to decree the content of decisions that can only be reached by negotiation, but it is our role to point out their detailed consequences in the light of the C&C model."

Full articles at: -

http://www.opendemocracy.net/forum/document_details.asp?CatID=99&DocID=1638&DebateID=177

and

http://www.opendemocracy.net/forum/Message_Details.asp?StrandID=83&DebateID=177&CatID=99&M=1308&T=1308&F=177

Benito Mueller - D.Phil. Oxon. (Philosophy), Dipl. Math. E.T.H.

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C&C Refs <http://www.gci.org.uk/refs/C%26CUNEPIIIg.pdf>

GCN <http://www.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read>

GCN signon <http://www.gci.org.uk/signon/indlet.html>

C&C Nominated for WSSD Award Aubrey Meyer

Aug 17, 2002 09:19 PDT

C&C Nominated for Earth Summit 2002

Sustainable Development Awards

C&C is one of around 25 varied nominations.

You can vote for your preference(s) at: -

<http://www.sage-rsa.org.uk/poll/>

voting ends Monday 26th August 2002

"The Earth Summit 2002 Awards aim to encourage further implementation of sustainable development through recognising, rewarding and publicising 10 years of global stakeholder best practice, which have inspired and will continue to inspire others to work towards the ideals of Agenda 21, as set out at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992"

Entries broadly fit into the three main themes identified for the decade at the Rio Summit, namely:

Environmental protection is maintained such that economic development and other needs of society, such as recreation, are achieved in ways, which do not cause any lasting damage to the environment.

Economic development is achieved such that the needs of the present are met whilst not compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Social equity, nationally and internationally is practised such that the basic needs of all in society are met and all in society have a democratic opportunity to participate in making, and benefiting from, decisions.

The Initiative is managed by: -

Beth Hiblin

International Administration & Policy

Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future

(formerly UNED Forum)

3 Whitehall Court

London

SW1A 2EL

Te:l +44 (0) 20 7839 7171

Fax +44 (0) 20 7930 5893

Email: bhib-@earthsummit2002.org

Web: www.earthsummit2002.org

UNPO press C&C on WSSD Aubrey Meyer

Aug 18, 2002 05:21 PDT

Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation UNPO)

World Summit on Sustainable Development

Indigenous Peoples, Energy and Climate Change

18. Balance narrow econometric and technical approaches in the climate negotiations by applying the principles of contraction and convergence, full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and civil society and complementary scientific and indigenous knowledge.

<http://www.unpo.org/WSSD-letter.htm>

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EMAIL: Send comments to UNPO

Church takes C&C to WSSD Aubrey Meyer

Aug 18, 2002 11:33 PDT

John Oliver (UK) - The Rt Honorable Bishop of Hereford - leads the Anglican Community's (AC) advocacy of C&C at World Summit on Sustainable Development.

You can listen to AC's very focused C&C message from Johannesburg in the interview John Oliver gave BBC Radio Four this morning at: -

http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/tv_radio/sunday/index.shtml

GCI's exchange with geographer Philip Stott on the World Service goes out tonight (Sunday) an hour or so before midnight GMT.

C&C is "Silver Lining" Aubrey Meyer

Aug 29, 2002 00:16 PDT

HSSFC/CIDA's COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM ON

SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

CONGRESS OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

1st JUNE, 2002

"CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE: - THE SILVER LINING IN THE CLIMATE CHANGE CLOUDS"

Rodney R. White
Department of Geography
& Institute for Environmental Studies
University of Toronto

Today I am going to take the position that an essential part of a successful implementation phase for the (Kyoto) Protocol is a progressive reduction in emissions, moving towards equal per capita emissions rights throughout the world.

This position is sometimes called 'contraction and convergence'. It may seem like the other end of the traditional ideological spectrum compared with a position that espouses emissions trading.

Contraction and convergence is based on equity – in the justice sense. It may seem absurdly optimistic. However, I think it has to be part of the plan, so that we can all share a common sense of direction."

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/SilvLining.pdf>

WCC call for C&C at WSSD Aubrey Meyer

Aug 30, 2002 09:43 PDT

The World Council of Churches (WCC)

"Call to Action" to the WSSD,

" . . . highlights two requirements:

1. Stabilisation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that is in accordance with the overall objective of the Climate Convention.

2. A fair distribution of rights and obligations, i.e. establishing per capita emissions rights for all countries as proposed in the 'Contraction and Convergence' scheme.

The goal is to prevent increasing dangerous interference with the natural climate system. The IPCC Third Assessment Report indicates that the six Kyoto greenhouse gases, measured as carbon dioxide equivalents, should not exceed the level of 450-550 ppm.

This leads us to the conclusion that the next commitment period must start building a system for targets related to a specific "secure" greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere and an equity burden of the emissions that allows for this. We foresee targets related to per capita emissions.

Proposals of the Global Commons Institute (United Kingdom) on "Contraction and Convergence" have gained support from churches and Christian development agencies. For high emitters this would lead to a step-by-step approach over the commitment period during which the emissions are reduced, while for the least developed countries and low emitters, a step-by-step approach for the possibility to increase emissions, while at the same time building up and investing in sustainable energy use, could be foreseen."

<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/action-in-solidarity.html>

Transcript of Bishop of Hereford C&C Interview on BBC 18th August

"Contraction and Convergence...is a system whereby everybody in the world, every human being, is given as it were a permit to pollute, and a financial value is put on that. Countries that are polluting more than their fair share at the moment, including in particular the United States would obviously have to buy permits from the poorer countries. That money would help the poor countries in their own development while the process of convergence took place"

Right Reverend John Oliver - Anglican Communion

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Interviews/Hereford.pdf>

Anglican Congress at WSSD Jo'burg

"He (the Bishop of Hereford) strongly supported the "Contraction and Convergence" (C & C) approach to cutting emissions of greenhouse gas. This meets US concerns, "and is supported by

China, India, France, Belgium, Sweden, the European Parliament, the Non-aligned Group, and South Africa", he said.

"I hope the Anglican Communion will formally endorse C & C in Hong Kong*.""

http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/templates/NewsTemplate_1.asp?recid=1349&table=news&bimage=news&issue=7278&count=0

* 14th of September 2002, Hong Kong 12th, Meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council

UK Royal Society fumble C&C Aubrey Meyer

Aug 31, 2002 03:10 PDT

A climate policy document is published today by the UK Royal Society.

It is the report on a conference last December.

"Various options for regimes designed to limit global climate change were discussed. These include multi-stage approaches with increasing participation; contraction and convergence; and sustainable development agreements (commitments to encourage low emissions and sustainable development with technical and financial support)."

http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/policy/climate_report.pdf

C&C aired by IPPR Aubrey Meyer

Sep 02, 2002 06:59 PDT

"Towards a global new deal?

The World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002"

Alex Evans writes in the upcoming edition of "New Economy" from the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)

(UK based policy think-tank much favoured by the Blair Government)

" . . . perhaps the single most useful action that negotiators could take at WSSD would be to acknowledge explicitly the need for this logic to be applied to the most pressing environmental challenge of all: climate change. The London-based Global Commons Institute, which originated the concept of Contraction & Convergence, has assembled a wide coalition of support for applying the proposal to the area of climate change, which would involve defining a safe upper limit for greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere (which would by definition require all countries to accept emissions targets), and a date by which national emission entitlements would reach per capita equality."

observing copyrights restrictions

off-print of full article (as electronic file)

available on request to: - aub-@gci.org.uk

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UK Times on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Sep 03, 2002 01:23 PDT

Struck by Thunderer . . .

" . . . consider the ambitious target for reducing carbon emissions suggested two years ago by Britain's Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

Its proposal was to reduce emissions by 60 per cent by 2050, possibly through an international agreement called Contraction and Convergence, which has been much discussed in Johannesburg. This would give every country a quota for carbon emissions, based on its population and would allow countries to trade these emission rights. This would gradually reduce worldwide carbon emission and encourage the development of more efficient technologies.

In the meantime, it would ensure a flow of funds from rich countries to poor ones, which, because of their lower levels of car ownership and industrialisation, would have surplus emission rights.

This Contraction and Convergence concept, illustrated in the charts above from the website of the Global Commons Institute "

URL with graphics at: -

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,630-402384,00.html>

World Bank and C&C in WDR 2003 Aubrey Meyer

Sep 03, 2002 10:13 PDT

The Bank's annual World Development Report(WDR) for 2003 has just been published. It was a bit early so as to be in time for the Joburg Summit on Sustainable Development.

The WDR 1992 was published in time for the Rio Summit.

WDR is the Bank's flagship publication.

In 1992 the bank said "grandfathering" emissions rights was "the most feasible option".

In the current report they say . . . "How can emissions reductions—beyond those that pay for themselves—be financed? This remains the most contentious issue in climate change mitigation.

In carbon markets, for instance, the allocation of emission allowances determines who pays for reductions.

In the view of many, equal per capita allocation of allowances across the world—perhaps entailing transfers from rich emitters to poor countries—would constitute an equitable allocation.

But such an allocation rule, if imposed abruptly, might disrupt the rich emitters' economies and thus would not secure their participation in the scheme.

On the other hand, a strong link between past emissions and current allowances, applied globally, would hurt the development prospects of poor nations and thus be unacceptable.

Hybrid allocation schemes that blend per capita and "grandfathered" allocations and shift toward the former over time have been proposed as a compromise."

C&C by any other name.

http://econ.worldbank.org/files/17958_WDR_2003_chp_8_web.pdf

Tobias A Persson on C&C (2002) Aubrey Meyer

Sep 04, 2002 17:02 PDT

Modelling Energy Systems and

International Trade in CO2 Emission Quotas

The Kyoto Protocol and Beyond

Tobias A. Persson

Department of Physical Resource Theory

Chalmers University of Technology

Göteborg University, Göteborg, Sweden 2002

"An allocation approach based on contraction and convergence is suggested in the Paper. The allowances are assumed to follow a linear trend from their present per capita level for industrial regions and the per capita emission by 2012 for developing regions towards an equal per capita allocation by 2050. The per capita emission allowances are then assumed to follow the per capita emission profile towards the stabilization target."

<http://frt.fy.chalmers.se/publikationer/TobiasLic.pdf>

C&C as never seen before Aubrey Meyer

Sep 05, 2002 06:15 PDT

It is worth learning Italian to read this stark assessment of what lies ahead.

<http://www.uniroma2.it/rdb/torvergata/link/terrorismo/LeGrandiCrisiAmbientaliGlobali.pdf>

Here is C&C and its context as you've probably never seen it before.

This paper was originally published in 2000.

The author [Alberto di Fazio of GDI in Rome - difa-@oarhp1.rm.astro.it] is considering an English translation.

If the truth is less tough, someone is sure to explain why.

UNEP-FI CEO Briefing "Climate Risk" Aubrey Meyer

Oct 07, 2002 15:54 PDT

Published today for Swiss Re Climate Conference in Zurich: -

UNEP-FI CEO Briefing' "Climate Risk to the Global Economy"

"Policy-makers should reach consensus on a global framework for climate stability based on pre-caution and equity.

A number of approaches have been proposed, including the: -

- (1) 'historical' method [1], under which a nation's future emissions goals would be determined by its past GHG output;
- (2) carbon-intensity approach [2], in which future emissions goals would be indexed to GDP; and
- (3) "Contraction and Convergence" [3] which would aim to achieve equal per capita emissions for all nations by an agreed date."

Full Report at: -

http://www.unepfi.net/cc/ceobriefing_ccwg_unepfi.pdf

http://www.unepfi.net/cc/mod1_ccwg_unepfi.pdf

http://www.unepfi.net/cc/mod2_ccwg_unepfi.pdf

[1] - "The 'historical' approach (sometimes called the 'Brazilian Proposal'), which holds that on the basis of equity, each country's responsibilities are proportional to the emissions it has Accumulated in the atmosphere since industrialization began. Initially only the long-term emitters i.e. Annex 1 (developed) countries formally accept emissions controls. The proposal replaces full international emissions trading with a Clean Development Mechanism, which enables less developed countries to barter emission credits to the value of clean technology provided. The Kyoto Protocol is closest to this approach, but it features the use of emissions trading along with other market mechanisms.

[2] - The "carbon-intensity" approach, that - on the basis of cost-effectiveness - disregards the past and advocates future voluntary emissions targets indexed to the GDP in each country. Under this approach, for the foreseeable future all countries voluntarily accept the need to limit the growth of their GHG emissions per unit of national economic output (via reduced fossil fuel dependency and greater energy efficiency) while pursuing economic development. This essentially waives the equity argument in favour of efficiency, but it does not guarantee contraction to safe

emission concentrations

[3] - "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) which on the basis of precaution advocates the adoption of a "safe" steady-state level for GHG concentrations in the atmosphere. The approach demands that global emissions will contract progressively through a budgeting process to deliver the predetermined "safe" level of GHG Concentrations.

On the basis of equity, these emission budgets will be distributed so that entitlements converge from today's very different national levels to a figure that is equal per capita for all nations by an agreed date.

To satisfy the aim of cost-effectiveness, surpluses or deficits in emissions entitlements would be internationally tradable, ideally redeemable for clean technology."

WBGU and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Oct 07, 2002 23:28 PDT

The German Advisory Council on Global Change

"World in Transition 2"

Raising and Allocating Funds for Global Environmental Policy

E 3.2.3.1

"The Earth's atmosphere may be understood as a global common resource. As global warming shows, the global community is jointly affected by impacts upon the atmosphere.

Increasing scarcity raises questions concerning how to manage this scarce resource efficiently and how to finance the necessary measures to reduce emissions.

A starting point is to define rights of use with regard to the Earth's atmosphere. This is the hotly debated granting of emissions rights in climate policy.

In the first instance, the Conference of the Parties (COP) must define and allocate emissions rights.

Here, the key political problem with emissions rights trading is the initial allocation of emissions rights.

If allocation were based on a country's emissions per head of population, then all developing countries would remain sellers in this market in the long term, with the result that there would be a significant north south transfer of funds.

If, on the other hand, emissions rights were allocated on the basis of existing emissions ('grandfathering'), industrialized countries would be able to profit from their already considerable emissions level."

The Council breaks off the argument at this point . . . however its Chairman - Dr Schellnhuber of the Potsdam Climate Impact Research - revealed in a personal communication that: - this goes as close to advocating C&C as it was possible to do in an official document to the German Government.

Dr Schellnhuber has now moved to become the Director of Research at the Tyndall Centre. Tyndall have observed that the stochastic development of the policy process will need to go beyond this disorder, suggesting C&C as a way of doing this.

Full text now published by Earthscan and also downloadable at: -

http://www.wbgu.de/wbgu_jg2000_engl.pdf

C&C - "For Whom the Bell Curves . . ." Aubrey Meyer

Oct 17, 2002 15:42 PDT

" . . . it curves for all."

Tim Helweg Larsen (GCI) will be at COP-8 in Delhi.

As part of GCI input he has up-dated and extended: -

(1) The C&C Archive: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/Letters_Articles_1989_2002.pdf

(2) The record of Individual Support: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/Individuals_Support_C&C.pdf

(3) And Organisational Support: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/Organisations_Support_C&C.pdf

and also created . . .

(4) C&C on Credit Card size CD ROM [neat Business Card Idea . . .] see:

- http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/C&C_CD_ROM_Card.pdf

C&C Lecture Southampton University Aubrey Meyer

Oct 18, 2002 12:18 PDT

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES: 2002-2003

Is Humanity in Crisis?

Climate Crisis

Contraction and Convergence

A Synthesis for Survival.

Aubrey Meyer

Global Commons Institute (GCI)

London

Monday, 21 October, 5.30pm.

Murray Lecture Theatre,

Building 58 (Social Sciences),

Salisbury Road,

Highfield campus,

University of Southampton.

All welcome. No tickets necessary.

BACKGROUND

Stronger and more frequent storms, hurricanes and typhoons, floods and droughts; enhanced levels of disease; devastating crop failures; great waves of refugee migrations. These are some of the likely effects of human-induced climate change in the century to come.

In a public lecture at the University of Southampton, award-winning environmentalist Aubrey Meyer will examine the pressing problem of climate change and present 'Contraction and Convergence' (C&C), the GCI global solution that has already had a major impact on the climate debate.

C&C goes beyond the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Climate Treaty.

C&C hinges on the argument that everyone in the world should have an equal right to a share of greenhouse gas emissions.

C&C applies this to the IPCC guidance that global emissions reductions of 60-80% are necessary to stabilise the rising atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide

C&C shows how cuts of this magnitude can be calculated, negotiated and managed in an economically efficient manner by all nations party to the UN Climate Treaty.

C&C has gathered the support of a majority of the world's countries, including China and India.

UK environment minister Michael Meacher is among many people here at home who have warmly

welcomed the approach.

Meyer says: - "Global climate change is underway. During the last 200 years, humanity has been increasing the climate-changing greenhouse gas content of the global atmosphere at a rate that is faster, and to levels that are higher, than anything in the record of the last 440,000 years. This is now causing chaos.

As we enter the 21st century, data from the insurance industry shows that economic losses from the damages associated with these trends have been rising faster than economic growth since the Second World War. It is now clear that to avoid dangerous rates of climate change has become a challenge on a scale without precedent.

Switching to clean technology and eradicating poverty are rightly seen as being central to this agenda of making development sustainable. However, unless we now act globally to arrest dangerous rates of climate change, any sub-global gains of enlightened public policy will be overwhelmed by the increasing mass destruction of dangerous and potentially irreversible global climate changes.

According to the Tyndall Centre, the UN centered process of integrated assessment and policy development has so far been stochastic. The challenge tells us that development cannot be considered sustainable until we are committed to - and successful at - solving the climate problem faster than we are creating it.

So comparing the rates of creating and solving the problem must inform and guide the international negotiating process on how to collectively engage and progress on this point in a non-random framework. At the headline negotiating level, that is what Contraction and Convergence is intended to make possible."

NOTES

* See website of the Global Commons Institute at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk>

Corrected - IEA Buy C&C? Aubrey Meyer

Oct 23, 2002 02:32 PDT

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is the energy arm of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

At COP-8, this august body are publishing: -

"Beyond Kyoto - Energy Dynamics and Climate Stabilization" the authors are the IEA's veteran former US negotiator Jonathon Pershing and the French academic Cedric Philibert.

In their "Beyond Kyoto" we find that: -

"Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) is presented, pictured and discussed at length.

In the light of the C&C scenario shown . . . [here quoted in the names of the truly sensible Marcel Berk and Michel von Elzen of RIVM as, "the most promising"] . . . that is shown in the GCI-composed C&C image that the IEA has chosed to use [450 ppmv with linear convergence to equal per capita by 2030] . . . the IEA rehearse two silly arguments.

(1) C&C creates hot-air.

What do the IEA think that sellers of emissions permits will be selling? There has to be a surplus somewhere for the trade to work. This is the same silly FFI* argument that the Climate Action Network turned into 'tropical' hot air during the Kyoto negotiations. A market that has only 'sellers' has a commodity with no price.

(2) the straw man that C&C, "fails to take full account of differing national circumstances."

Well to an extent that's true. Moreover, as far as is known, C&C is not (yet) a cure for aids either. Nor does C&C cook you meals or necessarily teach you how to play the violin.

Unsurprisingly, this straw man 'diversity' argument is rehearsed periodically in the somewhat less august Climate Action Network. [Are the IEA appear to on the verge of joining?].

GCI's solution is <simple>. The inclusive "Beyond Kyoto" negotiating process will be C&C based on - say 6 - global regions**, that emulate the "European Bubble" approach.

For several years, the EU have set a sensible example. They have had the sense to do deal with their own intra-regional differentiation challenges <within> the region.

The new African Union (NEPAD) for example, can do the same. This would overcome the veto that [my own country] South Africa appears now shamefully appears to use: - SA per capita emissions are too high for C&C to work for SA! [SADC AOSIS solidarity here].

John Kilani: where are you? Come back. Put the comrades straight!

It is true that the C&C model provides data: -

(a) for all countries

(b) for all years

(c) under all possible combinations for independently adjustable of rates of both Contraction and Convergence

At the same GCI has consistently suggested with the imagery and associated argument that a North South divide can be healed and the planet saved, with the world negotiating in about six regions.

**The IEA in fact publish a C&C image with the world thus assembled.

CAN should stick to making and selling FFI*

[*Forest Flavoured ice-cream].

With buyers like the IEA, this should be some party.

Aubrey

C&C avoiding carbon market collapse? Aubrey Meyer

Oct 24, 2002 00:00 PDT

CARBON TRADING: AVOIDING MARKET COLLAPSE

Corner House note for roundtable discussion on

"Carbon Trading: Market of the Future or Disaster in Waiting?",

10 October 2002, Finsbury Business Centre, London

"Carbon trading" systems can be divided into two types.

(1) Cap-and-trade systems in which allowances to emit carbon dioxide are traded.

(2) Other systems, including

(a) cap-and-trade systems.

Here, rights to emit are traded for other things, such as proof of carbon sequestration or of "avoided emissions" (hypothetical emissions reductions); and

(b) baseline-and-credit systems.

These two types of system are different in kind, with greatly different potential to support functioning markets.

Full paper at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/C&CAvoidsMarketCollapse.pdf>

COP - 10 - London? Aubrey Meyer

Oct 24, 2002 19:28 PDT

Wed 24 10 02 - at the Greater London Authority (GLA)

This morning London's Mayor Ken Livingstone and UK Environment Minister Michael Meacher spoke publicly about climate change and the growing severity of its impacts on London.

Receiving a stark report about these from the UK Environment Agency, Mr Meacher confirmed that preventing the worst of these required cuts in greenhouse gas emissions averaging 60% globally. He acknowledged the need to achieve this over time on the global basis of Contraction and Convergence (C&C). Describing the C&C campaign as "very effective", he explained that C&C puts the onus on the Developed Countries to make deeper cuts sooner than average. This he said, would sustain "opportunity - if you can call it that" - for Developing Countries to achieve levels of development that are taken for granted here in the West. Including himself, he urged everyone to make much greater efforts to reduce the impact of their consumption.

He said the introduction of C&C arrangements was inevitable. The only issue was the timing, noting the failure so far of the USA to act in this spirit.

Mr Meacher said that he was on his way the 8th round of UN Climate Negotiations currently in session in Delhi. When asked, he said that holding the 10th round in London was a 'wonderful idea', noting the engagement of the Insurers with the C&C agenda and how their presence in London has helped to make it a centre of 'financial excellence'.

C&C and WRI Aubrey Meyer

Oct 26, 2002 01:13 PDT

"Climate of Trust" - Options for protecting the Climate

October 2002

World Resources Institute (WRI)

Kevin Baumert

Nancy Kete

INTRODUCTION

" . . . the approach that has gained the most attention of any examined in this volume . . . overall emissions must contract to a level that prevents dangerous climate change . . . emissions per person must converge from today's levels to one that is equal across all countries . . . "

CHAPTER 8

"The scheme was first introduced by GCI at the Second World Climate Conference in 1990 and further refined to what is popularly termed "contraction and convergence".

Its merits include: -

Simplicity of the concept

Strong ethical basis

Flexibility to accommodate changing scientific evidence

Enhancement of efficiency

Offer of incentives of Developing Country Participation

Consistency with major guiding principles of the UNFCCC

Amalgamates well with the Kyoto Architecture"

CHAPTER 10

" . . . complexity becomes the enemy of environmental effectiveness . . . reduces transparency . . . a principled longterm framework is not an impossible goal . . . it might aim for example of 450 ppmv . . . Grubb et al describe contraction and convergence as 'a logical, top-down, long-term resolution in the context of a political process that is inherently illogical, bottom-up and mostly concerned with the next round of commitments.'"

What a change since WRI 1990! . . . and the "US+USSR+CHINA+INDIA+BRAZIL" as the top causes of climate change.

Long decade.

Thank you Nancy and Kevin. You've helped to WRite that wrong.

As Michael Meacher to a great applause said on radio last night; - global capitalism increases inequality and unsustainability across society.

With climate change being the greatest challenge to face humankind, the question is, "what is the framework to correct this?"

Comes Monday and the UK's "think-tank of the year" whose director Mayo says: -

"we regard contraction and convergence as no less than the logical starting point for any sustainable future." . . . best in the business?

AMEN to Climate Change Aubrey Meyer

Oct 27, 2002 02:12 PST

Published in the Summer Edition of Positive News UK

Since its Sunday . . . "C&C has the virtues of equity, logic and simplicity. The value of this in a negotiation that has been marred by intense inequity and discord is immense. C&C is like a perfect cadence in music. While the notation of C&C is little more elaborate, in principle it is as simple as singing Amen."

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/AMEN.pdf>

NEF, IPPR and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Oct 28, 2002 03:58 PST

Monday 28 10 2002

"Fresh Air" - Evaluating Climate Policy Options.

Written by Alex Evans of the Institute for Public Policy Research.

Edited by Andrew Simms NEF Policy Director Published today by New Economics Foundation (NEF).

Report in full downloadable (inter alia) from: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/freshair.pdf>

Conclusion - Why delay is not an option

The decision to undertake Contraction and Convergence will require a level of political resolve which hasn't been seen so far in multi-lateral environmental negotiations. Many will argue that while international policy will in the end need to rest on the principles of Contraction and Convergence, a climate policy like that is unrealistic in the short-term. Would it not be better to opt for an evolutionary approach in the meantime, perhaps along Kyoto lines? Even if such proposals are not the definitive answer to climate change, aren't they at least a step in the right direction?

But this 'softly softly' approach is increasingly untenable. First, atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases are rising inexorably, and so is the damage caused by climate change. The longer a fixed target is delayed, the higher atmospheric concentrations will climb. There is therefore a high risk that carrying on prevaricating will rule out any possibility of stabilising concentrations at 450 or even 550ppmv.

Second, positive feedbacks in the climate system could start any time, with the potential for a catastrophe 'runaway greenhouse effect' scenario.

Third, we don't know what atmospheric concentration these positive feedbacks will start at. Despite the fact that scientists' understanding of these dynamics is improving all the time, we are still essentially working without a clock, and no-one knows how much time we have left.

The political need for urgency

Environmental drivers are not the only reason why delay is no longer an option. There is also a strong political basis for proceeding with Non-Annex I participation on the terms outlined above sooner rather than later, and for distrusting evolutionary approaches.

. . . it is often argued that developed countries should take a lead in combating climate change,

to be joined in due course by developing countries accepting quantified targets. But, whilst many G77 countries may be happy enough with such an approach for now, the ever increasing risk of catastrophic climatic events means that they have to take part sooner or later.

Despite all of the uncertainties about climate science, there is every chance that the projections will become worse as the decades go by. As time goes by, it will probably become necessary to make faster and deeper reductions. In other words, the downward slope of the contraction curve will become steeper – and the size of the global carbon budget diminish – just when participation by developing countries in quantified commitments would be most urgent.

In this scenario, therefore, the diminished carbon budget would mean that developing countries would have far lower entitlements – even under an immediate convergence scenario – than they would have done had they been allocated quantified commitments at an earlier stage. A climate policy based from the outset on a constitutional framework for formal convergence would provide the additional benefit of offering developing countries a surplus that could be sold on the international emissions market. In a late participation scenario, on the other hand, the smaller carbon budget would mean that any surplus for developing countries would be far lower – if indeed there was one at all.

The reaction of developing countries to such a situation would be fairly predictable. The surplus emissions they could have owned and sold had, in effect, been used up by Annex I countries, without any payment. Developing countries might reasonably feel that Annex I countries were doing precisely what they had said throughout the climate process that they would not do – ‘pulling the ladder up after them’.

The irony of such a scenario would be painful. By persevering with a strategy geared towards making sure developing countries take part, the climate process would have lost any chance of ‘taking the lead’ after all.

This is the central reason why we have to implement both a managed contraction curve, aimed from its inception at a specific CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere, and a convergence date within this that is capable of being accelerated. The alternative means waiting until feedback kicks in and then having to make sudden, sharp adjustments in the overall emissions profile and dealing with the distributional chaos that would result.

The world has no time to waste on short-term palliatives offered for purposes of political expediency. As the EU Commissioner for the Environment, Margot Wallstrom, said before this year’s Bonn talks: “We can negotiate with each other, but we cannot negotiate with the weather.” The people of Tuvalu know this truth better than most. Whether the rest of humanity realises it early enough is ultimately a simple matter of choice.”

Well done.

C&C at COP-8 in Delhi Aubrey Meyer

Nov 01, 2002 02:01 PST

Aside from the numerous reports to COP-8 in Delhi analysing and even advocating C&C, yesterday every government delegation received from GCI a letter* and a copy of the C&C business card/CDROM**.

“I am very impressed with these presentations,” says eminent consultant to the insurance industry David Crichton.

“The most efficient NGO in history,” says Axel Michaelowa the head of the “International Climate Policy” Research Programme at Hamburg Institute of International Economics.

The letter from GCI included the following wording: -

“The C&C framework recognizes that these two fundamental features of the solution - contraction and convergence - will not come about by accident. They can only result from the community as a whole, through the UNFCCC advised by its subsidiary bodies and the IPCC, adopting a: -

1. Safe GHG stabilisation level and specifying a commensurate contraction budget;

2. Fair rate (date) for convergence to equal per-capita emissions permits, the pre-distribution of which is assumed to be inter-nationally tradable.

This alone overcomes randomness. It simplifies the negotiation of rights and responsibilities by applying the already adopted principles of the UNFCCC, Precaution (Contraction) and Equity (Convergence). It is flexible and - as the model shows - demonstrates all rates of C&C, making possible continued negotiation of rates that are safe and fair.

A starting position might be contraction for CO2 to 450 ppmv with convergence to equal per capita shares by 2030.

Unity between the North and the South on such an agreement, could then devolve to regional arrangements - like the EU and the Africa Group of Nations – and could lead to a negotiation based on five or six blocks within the global total.

Regions could negotiate their own arrangements internally as the EU already does.”

* letter: - http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/COP8_Delegates.pdf

** cards: - http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/C&C_CD_ROM_Card.pdf

The Delhi declaration is still being decided.

At 2.30 this morning it contained the following phrase.

“ . . . Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions is a high priority and requires engagement in a forward looking dialogue with a more inclusive and longer-term global cooperation based on broader and balanced participation while moving towards a globally equitable distribution of greenhouse gas emissions . . . ”

COMMENT

At COP-1 in Berlin in 1995, Mr Kamal Nath - Minister for Environment and Forests - led the Indian delegation.

He said: - “India believes that when the future of humankind is at stake, there is no time for rhetoric or posturing. In our view, equal rights to carbon usage is fundamental to the UNFCCC it is not merely that emissions have to be reduced, . . . atmospheric concentrations have to be stabilised and reduced . . . this implies the implementation of a programme for convergence at equitable and sustainable per values for the use of this environmental space on a per capita basis globally.”

Yesterday at COP-8 the Indian Prime Minister Mr Behari Vajpayee publicly stated:

“Developing countries do not have adequate resources to meet their human needs, our per capita greenhouse gas emissions are only a fraction of the world average.”

“Climate change mitigation will bring additional strain to the already fragile economies of the developing countries and will affect our efforts to achieve higher... (economic) growth rates to eradicate poverty speedily.”

Failing to factor in the damage slope that is now going at three to four times the rate of economic growth, he went on to say: -

“This situation will not change for decades to come.”

Tragically the situation is changing. And it will increasingly change for the worse unless adaptation/sustainable development etc is governed by damages prevention/mitigation i.e. C&C.

C&C with trade is a simple mechanism that demonstrates how this can be done so that: -

(1) Developing Countries can be paid for doing it, especially if they unite and negotiate a rate of convergence accelerated relative to the rate of contraction.

(2) the global damages that we all need to avoid can thus be averted more quickly, especially if the revenue is recycled into non-fossil fuel dependent development.

Mayer Hillman and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 02, 2002 05:21 PST

Ways of (Hillman) 'The Imp'

An extended tribute to Mayer Hillman - a founding father of the British Green Movement – in today's Guardian includes his C&C convictions.

" linking all these diverse preoccupations is what Hillman calls "the equity argument". As fellow researcher and activist Stephen Plowden put it, "You have always been interested in the fate of people left behind by 'progress'." Hillman expresses it succinctly: "I abhor exploitation" - a feeling that originated, he readily admits, in being the youngest of three children and the sense that he was being denied his turn.

His current preoccupation is with the social implications of climate change, and here Hillman's conclusions are so dramatic, so jumbo in their tentacles, that they'll probably propel him into prominence. His trigger is the Contraction And Convergence campaign devised by the independent Global Commons Institute (GCI). This has charted the vast reduction of carbon emissions required of the western world (that's the contraction bit) in order to equalise it with the rest of the world (the convergence) to avert climate catastrophe and protect the global commons - a process nothing less than "equity for survival". Their calculations make Kyoto look like trying to end a drought with a watering can."

Full article in today's Guardian at: -

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/weekend/story/0,3605,823111,00.html>

Many loving tributes also paid him in the PSI book: -"Ahead of Time".

As flagged in an earlier Guardian . . .

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardiansociety/story/0,3605,602529,00.html>

"The intellectually rigorous Policy Studies Institute (PSI) does a good public impression of a dull think-tank. But no longer. Its latest book is a marvellous set of appreciative letters from all the leading lights of social policy to Mayer Hillman, one of its most original and tenacious researchers, who is now 70.

Hillman ("The Imp") has been one of the great campaigners for sane transport policies and a passionate fighter for real quality of life. In essay after essay and report after report, he has shown how kids have had their mobility and health jeopardised by the great car economy, exposed our dependency on vehicles, and relentlessly argued for governments to take walkers and cyclists seriously.

With the government now allowing Heathrow's Terminal 5, embarking on yet more road-works and generally losing the plot, Hillman may consider his work not yet finished."

<http://www.psi.org.uk/publications/MISC/aheadoftime.htm>

C&C - Spotted Owls, Song & Chips (FT) Aubrey Meyer

Nov 02, 2002 10:39 PST

In 1993 in his paper - "To Slow or Not to Slow" - Professor William Nordhaus of Yale University argued that global warming was of no inconvenience to the USA as they had air-conditioning and shopping malls.

GCI lobbied delegates to the UN Climate negotiations who didn't have these amenities. We said, thrown him out of the IPCC's intended Global Climate Cost Benefit exercise and - lo and behold - he was thrown.

He then wrote an angry letter to GCI saying we should, "test our ideas in the political and economic market place," just as he had had to: - Cost Benefit, he said, "could be done in spotted-owl equivalents," if preferred to USD(\$).

It might as well have been in LSD. His pupils like David Pearce and Richard Tol pressed on without him, managing to 'scientifically prove' that fifteen dead poor people equalled one dead rich one, (which got their analysis thrown out of the UN as well).

But GCI, ever ready to listen, pondered: - if one spotted owl equalled one spotted owl we said,

then surely one human equalled one human. On this basis we established Contraction and Convergence (C&C) while Bill played with his 'dynamic climate equilibrium' model called ur . . . "DICE". Ten years on, trials of C&C in the political and economic market place show that its doing rather well. That well known leftie Jaques Chirac is quoted in the FT as saying that C&C, "will durably ensure the effectiveness, equity and solidarity of our efforts." (Very French).

Meantime God doesn't play DICE and Bill is sour as cream. Fighting back yesterday in the same piece, he said C&C might encourage corruption: -

"It would probably become common practice for dictators and corrupt administrators to sell part of their permits, pocket the proceeds, and enjoy first-growths and song along the Riviera."

Hang on, wasn't that Bill's advice? - playing climate casino with wine, women, song and the economic chips of exploding growth down your treads.

Just what's a poor girl supposed to write these days?

For those who don't subscribe to the FT, Vanessa Houlder's extended piece on C&C et al (30/10/02) is at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/HoulderFT.pdf>

EU for C&C beyond COP-8? Aubrey Meyer

Nov 06, 2002 10:22 PST

The intervention by Denmark on behalf of the EU stated: -

"Mr President, there is only one conclusion from this stocktaking exercise: - we need further action to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention.

In this context I fully align myself with the interventions made by many other distinguished ministers and delegates. These call for further action should be reflected in the Delhi declaration.

The EU has committed itself to take the lead. Let me call upon all countries - developed as developing - to engage in a common dialogue with a view to make this conference a historic milestone by kicking-off a process for further action under the Convention and the Protocol.

The EU believes that such a process must aim at: -

- * Identifying a level of non-dangerous atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations,
- * cutting global emissions significantly,
- * broadening the participation in the long-term global cooperation, based on full and balanced partnership,
- * setting the scene for further action on greenhouse gas mitigation from 2012 onwards,
- * moving towards a globally equitable distribution of greenhouse gas emissions.

Let there be no doubt, the EU is not talking about imposing emission reduction targets on developing countries. We are talking about engaging in a process, and a common dialogue, to define what actions are needed, and how to carry them through - in the most cost-efficient and equitable manner.

Any further action must be based on our common, but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Developed countries must take the lead.

The EU also recognises all the good and strong efforts undertaken in developing countries to mitigate climate change. Many of which have proven to be very cost-effective.

Mr President, the world expects us to take further action. The EU is willing to act. We appeal to you: - Let us, at least, start a process, on how to act."

Sadly this was not reflected in the Delhi Declaration.

<http://unfccc.int/cop8/index.html>

However it can still be regarded important as once said, it means the Council is now in line with the Parliament, on the future EU position.

Those close to the process regard this as, "being close than ever to C&C."

Where is C&C? Boell asks Bank. Aubrey Meyer

Nov 15, 2002 06:15 PST

Managing Sustainability World Bank-Style

An Evaluation of the World Development Report 2003

from the Heinrich Boell Foundation.

Page 25

The Very Global: Climate Change.

" . . . they [the Bank] duck the vital debates on equitable global institutional arrangements and approaches to achieve them."

The Report is to be commended for its recognition that climate change poses major threats to developing countries including serious risks of catastrophic and irreversible climate and ecosystem disruption. While the WDR authors propose switching to zero emissions energy sources, a more energy-efficient long-lived capital stock, and increasing incentives for agricultural intensification and forest conservation, etc., they duck the vital debates on equitable global institutional arrangements and approaches to achieve them.

In light of a widely acknowledged impossibility of solving the global warming problem with uncoordinated market-based activity, what is a proper constitutional basis for solving the problem the basis of precaution, prevention and equity, as required by the UN

Climate Change Treaty?

The Global Commons Institute argues that "Contraction and Convergence" (Meyer, 2000) is logically the only way of resolving this set of problems.

Why does the WDR fail to pick up on today's vigorous debate about "ecodebt"? Surely, the answer to this question lies in the power politics and industrial lobbying, of which the Report is a "victim".

What are the consequences of operationalizing notions such as eco-debt vis -à-vis the North/South divide in production and consumption patterns?

Why has the Report's (potentially powerful) plea for "improved equal access to assets" been compromised by its buying into the Kyoto Protocol's in egalitarian theory of property rights? Is it not the case that industrialized societies were allowed such extensive property rights in the world's carbon dioxide dump, while other countries, which had made sparing historical use of the dump, were given no rights whatsoever (Lohmann, 2002)?

Further, why warrant no mention of the Protocol's spurious scientific basis and the new carbon-industrial complex it gives rise to (Lohmann, 2001)?"

<http://www.boell.de/en/nav/275.html>

C&C Championship in UK House of Lords Aubrey Meyer

Nov 20, 2002 04:13 PST

" . . . let not the Government of this country simply express vague and polite interest in Contraction and Convergence; let them make every possible effort to bring it about for the salvation of the planet."

<http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds02/text/21118-08.htm>

Column 209

The Lord Bishop of Hereford: 18th November 2002

"The Government's own document about the Johannesburg conference, Reaching the Summit which, incredibly, failed to mention the Kyoto Protocol—although it was doing its best to find some good news stories—emphasised that,

"environmental problems affect us all, but they affect the poor most . . . The poor live in the most

marginal areas: they are the most vulnerable to natural disasters and they often depend directly on natural resources for their livelihoods”.

So for their sake, if not for our own, we must give a higher priority to tackling climate change. Although Kyoto was most welcome as a beginning and the Government’s proposed emissions trading Bill is a step in the right direction, all this is totally inadequate to deal with the colossal scale of the problem. I have been involved in correspondence with the noble Lord, Lord Sainsbury of Turville, about this without receiving a lot of satisfaction.

I would urge the Government to look again, with much greater enthusiasm and commitment, at the project called Contraction and Convergence developed by the Global Commons Institute and now vigorously championed by the Institute for Public Policy Research, and specifically affirmed by the Anglican Congress on the Environment, which brought together representatives of the 70 million members of the Anglican communion around the world and which met in South Africa in the week before the Johannesburg summit.

In the barest outline, Contraction and Convergence involves calculating the maximum tolerable level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere—450 parts per million volume. That is a considerable increase on present levels and reflects on what present levels are already doing to the climate. Then one has to calculate the reduction in emissions which would enable us to stabilise that degree of atmospheric pollution by the end of this century. Then one has to allocate to every member of the human race an identical target for per capita emissions—the principle of equity—then place a financial value on that target figure, the “permission to pollute”; and then introduce a system of emissions trading by which the developed countries, which are already grossly exceeding the per capita target which we would have to aim at, would be able to buy from developing countries during the period of convergence the right to continue excessive pollution while they took vigorous measures to bring their own emissions down to the permitted per capita level.

That would involve all those wise things which the noble Lord, Lord Ezra, was speaking about, and many others besides, in terms of biofuels, energy conservation and so on. There would be a dramatic change in our lifestyles and transport systems. It would require an enormous effort.

Contraction and Convergence is scientifically based, as Kyoto was not. It is equitable, as Kyoto is not. It would help developing countries by giving them the means to invest directly in clean energy technology which we in the developed world could provide for them. The most extraordinary thing is that it would overcome every single objection raised by the United States Government to the Kyoto Protocol. It sounds too good to be true, but it is possible.

Let the United Kingdom Government take a vigorous lead in propounding this scheme. There is not much time. Alas, I have not time to quote to your Lordships from an article underlining the desperate urgency of this matter.

But let not the Government of this country simply express vague and polite interest in Contraction and Convergence; let them make every possible effort to bring it about for the salvation of the planet.”

C&C - what it is and what it isn’t. Aubrey Meyer

Nov 29, 2002 00:40 PST

In a letter from DTI’s Under Secretary of State for Science and Innovation - Lord Sainsbury of Turville - The Bishop of Hereford received a memo from DTI about C&C.

In written evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on International Development, DFID provided a memo about C&C for the committee’s report about ‘Global Climate Change and Sustainable Development’.

In the interest of consistency, GCI provided a C&C memo to the parties concerned about what C&C is: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/GCI_C&CMemo.pdf

and made observations on the DTI and DFID memos to the parties concerned about what C&C is

not.

http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/GCI_on_DTI_C&CMEMO.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/GCI_on_DFID_C&CMemo.pdf

C&C in "Dead Heat" Aubrey Meyer

Dec 02, 2002 08:58 PST

"Dead Heat - Global Justice and Global Warming"

New book by Tom Athnassiou and Paul Baer

Very readable and useful.

<http://www.sevenstories.com/Book/index.cfm?GCOI=58322100091700>

C&C in HoC - C&C to avert death by climate? Aubrey Meyer

Dec 09, 2002 02:32 PST

UK House of Commons debate Report on DFID

Global Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Thursday 5th December 2002

Horror as 28 Million in Africa face death by climate change.

Full debate at: -

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200203/cmhansrd/cm021205/halltext/21205h01.htm#21205h01_head0

GLOBE parliamentarians continue to press for C&C

.

Mr. David Chaytor (Bury, North):

"Given that the hon. Gentleman is talking about the long term, will he accept that, in the long term, the solution lies as much with the Department of Trade and Industry and energy policy as with the practical support that DFID can give to relieve famine?

Does he agree that it might have been useful had his report made a recommendation to the DTI, or a submission to the current energy review, stressing the absolute importance of reducing CO2 emissions, not only to our current commitment of 20 per cent., but to 60 per cent., as the royal commission on environmental pollution recommended?

Recommendations 9 and 30 in the report are about the link between climate change and equity, and suggest that the Government should pursue a policy of contraction and convergence in their approach to CO2 emissions."

SDI and C&C - " . . . the fairest . . . " Aubrey Meyer

Dec 13, 2002 06:49 PST

Sustainable Development International - November 2002

[. . . from Henley Publishing Ltd, leading publishers of world-wide industry-specific technology journals designed for international readership].

<http://www.sustdev.org/about/>

"COP8 was not without controversy, with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee saying that developing countries should be exempt from emission cutting targets because they produce just a fraction of the world's emissions and are unable to afford reduction measures.

In the last issue of our SDI newsletter, we asked our readers' opinions on the subject of exemption. The replies were varied in their ideas – and unexpected too.

Although a large proportion thought developing countries should be made exempt from climate change legislation so that they can foster economic development, many of you had ideas to rival

the world's politicians.

. . . . "The fairest approach to global emissions targets is contraction and convergence, a strategy proposed by the Global Commons Institute," said another contributor.

"Total emissions should contract to a sustainable level, as advocated by the IPCC, and that the available emissions rights should be shared out on a basis of convergence to an equal per capita level by a specific date in future, such as 2030 or the UN centenary of 2045."

"This means that emissions from countries like India could continue to rise while those of industrial countries would contract." This idea was also echoed by many other readers.

Full article at: - <http://www.sustdev.org/Features/climate.shtml>

Sustainable Development International

<http://www.sustdev.org/about/>

Essential to the success of the publication is the strength of its subscription database, ie. the level of decision-makers, policy makers and key specifiers who receive Sustainable Development International.

Working in co-operation with international bodies - including United Nations Agencies (CSD, UNIDO, UNEP); World Energy Council (WEC); Investment and Banking Authorities and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) - we have built a subscription database of decision-makers at local, regional and national level as well as representatives of development agencies, NGO communities and international policy makers.

"Blue Chips on the Block?" Aubrey Meyer

Dec 13, 2002 07:13 PST

"The challenges of energy"

A Response to Sir Mark Moody-Stuart by John Houghton

<john.ho-@jri.org.uk>;

Ethics in Science and Environmental Politics - September 2002

" A feature of the Contraction and Convergence proposal is that, because of its comparative simplicity, it can concentrate the minds of decision makers on the scale of the problem and its challenge."

Full article at: - <http://www.int-res.com/articles/esep/2002/E15.pdf>

C&C in Australian Parliament? Aubrey Meyer

Dec 14, 2002 01:06 PST

Robin Chapple [MLC] Member Western Australian Legislative Council

< <http://wa.greens.org.au/parliament/rchapple> / >

wrote in May this year to John Hyslop, Chairman of the Electricity Reform Task Force in Perth Western Australia.

http://www.ertf.energy.wa.gov.au/second_round_submissions/Member%20for%20Mining%20&%20Pastoral%20Region.pdf

Inter alia . . .

"All parties see Kyoto as merely the first step is achieving reductions of greenhouse gas emissions to ecologically sustainable levels within the next hundred years. Much work has been done in crafting a workable, equitable post-Kyoto process which will need to satisfy a number of agendas:

1. The objective must be to 'stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level which would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system' (UNFCCC 1992). Such a target will most likely be in the region of 350ppmv atmospheric CO₂ by the year 2100, and there is general consensus that the limit can not be forced higher than 450ppmv without causing massive ecological and social dislocation.

2. A global carbon budget must be established, which quantifies the maximum amount of greenhouse gas which can be sustainably emitted globally per year. This defines the level of 'contraction' of emissions required (Meyer 2000).
3. This annual emissions budget is then assigned to each country proportional to population, establishing the principle of 'equity for survival' (Meyer 2000).
4. Over a specified time frame, all nations work toward bringing their emissions into line with their budget. This is known as 'convergence' (Meyer 2000).
5. A system of emissions trading allows carbon-light economies to trade their emission permits to countries which are struggling to meet their obligations.

This system of 'contraction and convergence' may provide a foundation for post-Kyoto climate negotiations. The main principles were outlined by the 'Global Commons Institute' in 1990, and published at the second Conference of the Parties (COP2) in 1996 (Meyer 2000).

The concept has support within the European Parliament and the governments of China, India, the Africa Group and the Non-Aligned Movement. It satisfies US demands that the industrialising world be included in any binding framework for emission reductions. Whatever the pathway, it is essential that the task force state clearly that it recognises that deep cuts in carbon emissions are inevitable and essential.

Western Australia will not be immune from this global imperative. Depending on population modelling and convergence dates, carbon emission reductions will probably range between 60-90% to reduce the risk of catastrophic climate disturbance. We have found no statements to this effect in any ERTF publication thus far."

'Hot-Air' or C&C? - Royal Society Report Aubrey Meyer

Dec 17, 2002 10:40 PST

New Report from UK Royal Society

"Economic Instruments for the Reduction of CO2 Emissions"

<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/files/statfiles/document-211.pdf>

This document was published in November 2002. Its list of authors includes David Pearce of CSERGE among many eminent people, none of whom however (with the exception of monetarist Alan Budd) appear to be economists.

Page one is reminiscent of the assumptions that brought Global Cost/Benefit Analysis in the IPCC's Second Assessment Report to grief.

" . . . we need (simple) solutions (to climate change) that prevent the search for ingenious escape routes – the so-called 'hot air' remedies . . . for example, purchasing an emission permit from another country, for emissions that would in any event not have taken place."

Page two however seems to point at C&C.

"Grandfathering suffers from the basic defect that those who polluted most in the past are most rewarded in the allocation of permits. It is difficult to make the system flexible – to allow for growth or decay. It may however be nonetheless tolerable as a way of initiating a scheme provided that it has no ongoing implications."

A letter from GCI to the Royal Society's President (Sir Robert May) seeking clarification about this can be found at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/RoyalSociety.pdf>

Quakers Debate C&C Aubrey Meyer

Dec 17, 2002 12:23 PST

What follows are quotes from recent comments about C&C published by "Quaker Green Concerns" [QGC]: -

"If Friends (Quakers) wish to influence the discussions on climate change issues, "Contraction and

Convergence" appears to fit well with Friends testimonies and concerns." [Martin Quick]

<http://www.quakergreenconcern.org.uk/displayarticle.asp?articleid=6>

"Many individuals and groups have stated their support of contraction and convergence, but I'm not sure whether they all mean the same thing." [Laurie Michaelis]

<http://www.quakergreenconcern.org.uk/displayarticle.asp?articleid=7>

"Contraction refers to the need to contract greenhouse gas emission to a level that nature can handle. Convergence to an equal-per-capita allocation of carbon rights is simple justice.

I sincerely hope that Quakers will be in the front line, pressing for its adoption. I would be ashamed if we are not. It is a cause that closely parallels the Quaker witnesses on Slavery and Peace." [James Wells-Bruges]

<http://www.quakergreenconcern.org.uk/displayarticle.asp?articleid=14>

Debate about climate change - and as potentially moderated by C&C - is welcome and necessary. At the same time there is the odd tendency to attribute to GCI constructions put upon C&C by Third Parties.

Like some of the more detailed comment at these "Quaker Green Concerns" [QGC] links, recent memos from UK Government Departments bear this out.

For example: -

GCI has not said that 1990 must be the base year for population figures. In fact we have gone to considerable lengths to point out that this obviously very sensitive control variable is and should be negotiable.

To aid analysis, CCOptions [the C&C computer model] has a feature that - under the control of the user - demonstrates all variants of this for all countries of all even numbered base year between 2002 and 2050 based on UN medium fertility projections as at 1996.

Also, C&C does not prescribe or predict any particular scenario to do with the rates of C&C. Once again to assist analysis and aid decision-taking under uncertainty - under the control of the user - the model only <projects> any of the possible rates of formal C&C with the associated atmospheric concentration and temperature rise as calculated by the IPCC.

For the sake of accuracy and consistency, I have written to the Secretary of the QGC about this. I have asked them to publish the C&C memo GCI sent for the same purpose to departments of government here.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/EssentialC&C.pdf>

My hope is that in future statements about C&C, they will make a clear distinction between what GCI actually says is C&C and their own reactions to C&C, not to mention the varied understandings and even misunderstandings that seem to arise.

GCI does not seek to prescribe anything, least of all how other people ought to think. However, we do hope to keep understanding clear between the essential proposal for C&C as embodied in the model and the many and varied reactions to C&C.

The US and C&C . . .? Aubrey Meyer

Dec 19, 2002 09:12 PST

CO2, KYOTO AND ENERGY

A Report Prepared for the Panel on Public Affairs (POPA),

American Physical Society [July 30, 2002] <http://www.aps.org/index.html>

WA Edelstein, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, and GE R&D,
Schenectady, NY (retired), POPA Member.

wede-@nycap.rr.com

LC Davis, Ford Motor Co., Dearborn, MI (retired), POPA Member.

ldav-@peoplepc.com

CJ Walcek, State University of New York, Albany, NY.

wal-@asrc.cestm.albany.edu

Equity, Contraction and Convergence

http://www.aps.org/public_affairs/popa/reports/kyoto-energy6-1.pdf

"The world population was 6.1 billion in 2000. If we divide the total C emissions in 1990 (5.8 GtC, Fig. 7) by this figure we get 0.94 tC per capita per year. Thus, if the 1990 global Carbon emissions were spread uniformly over the globe, the world average per capita Carbon emissions in 2010 and 2020 would be about what people in China and South America are producing now (Fig. 9).

There is little room for increase for the Chinese or South Americans, and people in the USA would have to cut back their Carbon emission by a factor of five from present levels in order to achieve the required world average.

The idea that the developing world might be willing to consider limiting their Carbon emissions if, in the long run, everyone will have the opportunity to use approximately the same amount of energy is the issue of "equity."

The Global Commons Institute of the UK advocates this idea in their plan of "Contraction and Convergence," and their graphs show the US reducing its output by a factor of 10 or more to achieve equity [20]. The basic idea is that the goal is to equalize C output, and the pace of change would be internationally negotiated. While inequality exists, Carbon emission rights could be bought, sold and traded. In general this would result in a flow of money from rich to poor countries.

Exactly how the Carbon reduction would occur is not specified, but rich countries would be highly motivated to reduce Carbon emission through technology. It must be noted that this kind of reduction is at least an order of magnitude greater than the Kyoto figures, so correspondingly more ambitious and longer-lasting steps must be taken. This could include, for example: a massive increase in electric power production by non-burning methods, i.e., wind power, hydro power, solar power or nuclear power; a widespread use of H fuel; a highly successful way of capturing Carbon output and putting it back into the ground, trees, water, etc (C sequestering).

Figure 11 shows a "C&C" scenario that gets everybody in synch by 2030. It is hard to envision the world accomplishing such a radical change by this time, but it may be desirable to keep this goal in mind, even if it is carried out over a longer period."

[For those who might see things in these things, the hit-rate on gci.org.uk has gone through the roof of late: includes repeated visits from the military: . . . for those who don't happy Christmas].

London Mayor Supports C&C Aubrey Meyer

Dec 21, 2002 02:01 PST

LONDON ASSEMBLY & FUNCTIONAL BODIES

CONSULTATION DRAFT

5.18 Arguably, the most widely supported, equitable and global approach to tackling climate change is contraction and convergence (see Chapter 3 - excerpt below). It presents a progressive and potentially effective way forward for international climate change policy. However, it does imply radical long-term reductions in CO2 emissions from developed countries, and has yet to be adopted internationally. The Mayor endorses contraction and convergence as the only proposed equitable, global way forward on climate change. As an interim solution, the Mayor supports the Kyoto Protocol and urges its rapid ratification.

POLICY 3. The Mayor supports the principle of contraction and convergence as a long-term international policy objective. In the meantime, the Mayor supports rapid ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

3.17 The Commission specifically recommended contraction and convergence along with emissions trading as the best long term prospect of securing equity, economy and international consensus. Contraction and convergence is an approach that combines the issue of social equity with climate science. Underlying the concept is the idea that every person on the planet has the same rights

and responsibilities regarding greenhouse gas emissions.

3.18 The goal of contraction and convergence is to stabilise the global atmospheric CO₂ concentration at a level and over a time period that is considered safe. From this upper concentration limit, international limits on emissions are set, which form the basis for maximum emissions allowable per-capita. Globally, per capita emissions converge to this level over an agreed period. This involves countries emitting above the allowed level reducing their per-capita emissions and allows countries emitting below the limit to increase emissions up to the agreed level. It also encourages trading in emissions allowances without compromising the global emissions target.

3.19 The principle of contraction and convergence has attracted growing support. Individuals and organisations who have made statements in support of the approach include Michael Meacher, UK Secretary of State for the Environment; Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution; European Parliament; the Indian and Chinese governments; Sir John Houghton (Chair of IPCC Working Group One); and Jan Pronk (Dutch environment minister and Chair of COP-6).

EXXON concedes Oil Contraction!! Aubrey Meyer

Jan 02, 2003 12:04 PST

"The Future of the Oil and Gas Industry
Past Approaches, New Challenges"

World Energy Volume 5 Number 3 November 2002

Harry J Longwell

Director and Executive Vice President

EXXON MOBIL Corporation

Happy New Year . . . ?

<<Seismic> . . . admission of oil depletion> (contraction) . . . by World's biggest Oil Conglomerate!

http://www.worldenergysource.com/articles/pdf/longwell_WE_v5n3.pdf

EXXON's discovery/depletion curves are taken 'lock, stock 'n barrel' (without acknowledgement) from the work of Colin Campbell and the ASPO group.

See Issue 25 ASPO NEwSletter.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/ASPO/Newsletter25.pdf>

Convergence is a function of Contraction.

Swedes wobble on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jan 07, 2003 05:47 PST

"Kyoto and Beyond"

Issues and Options in the Global Response to Climate Change

Swedish Environmental Protection agency (SEPA)

November 2002

"The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is a central environmental authority under the Swedish Government. Our tasks, according to the instructions laid down by the Government, are to coordinate and drive forward environmental work nationally and internationally."

<http://www.internat.environ.se/documents/issues/climate/report/Kyoto.pdf>

Given this considerable brief, SEPA's C&C analysis should be right on.

It starts off well enough

(SEPA says . . .)

"A good starting point in the search for equitable solutions is the proposal to equalise per capita emissions at some point in time, meaning in effect, to assign everyone the same property rights to the atmosphere. Equalising or converging per capita emissions is the stated objective of the "Contraction and Convergence" proposal developed by the Global Commons Institute (see Box 6)."

Box 6: Contraction and Convergence

"Contraction and Convergence is a proposal that was developed by the Global Commons Institute (GCI) several years ago. It is a proposal for burden sharing which has been promoted as an alternative framework for global action on climate change (Evans 2001)."

"Contraction" refers to a global emissions reduction trajectory designed not to exceed a specific greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere. Convergence" refers to national emission entitlements designed to converge at an agreed date at equal per capita emission entitlements for all countries. Emission entitlements would be proportional to population from then on."

"GCI suggest that the contraction target should be a CO2 atmospheric concentration level of 450

ppmv, stressing that this target should be reviewed at five year intervals. The year 2100 has been suggested as the convergence date."

GCI hasn't suggested convergence by 2100, any more than GCI suggested convergence by Thursday.

The CCOptions model can generate - and demonstrate - any rates of C&C that are consistent with the IPCC scenarios depicting the relationship between emissions and atmospheric concentrations. GCI has suggested that the convergence date should be the result of a literate/numerate revisable negotiating process.

SEPA go on to offer two critical insights

(1)"Developing countries see it (C&C) as a way of addressing the existing inequalities between developed and developing countries.

It would however, (if taken to the point of equal entitlements) imply a huge transfer of resources from high to low emitters. Therefore, the political feasibility of such an approach is often questioned."

The "massive resource transfer implied" in SEPA's suggested scenario is nonsense.

SEPA marry the convergence date to the date quoted for the completion of contraction for 450 ppmv (2100 - IPCC). This takes us from a current global average tonnes fossil carbon (from CO2) per capita of around 1.4 tonnes to an average of 0.2 by 2100 (if we also assume constant population from now).

Running the SEPA scenario on the model makes this immediately obvious.

(2) "The main obstacle to the per capita emissions approach, however, is its feasibility. While undeniably a fair outcome it is unlikely to be supported by developed countries as part of a "contraction and convergence" approach because of the enormity of the challenge it would entail. As noted by Claussen and Mc Neilly (1998) if enough people think of such a proposal as impractical, even if it is fair, the chances of implementing any international mitigation standards are reduced."

Likewise, if enough people thinks it is practical then it will happen. Like me, Pew Boss Eileen Claussen grew up in the sixties near Sharpeville/Soweto in Apartheid South Africa. She knows, SEPA knows (we all know) what changed that was ultimately equal rights (the foundation-stone of the US constitution), rejecting the uneconomic nature of 'separate development' and security. This was and is increasingly the 'realism of interdependence'.

Non-random C&C <hopefully aided by> Pew type Technology and burgeoning US/everybody security concerns . . . saving the climate and ending 'global apartheid are interdependent too.

[A great read - 'Non-Zero' - Robert Wright

Abacus 2000, ISBN 0 349 11334 3]

C&C for Bank Climate/Poverty draft? Aubrey Meyer

Jan 15, 2003 17:05 PST

WORLD BANK CONSULTATION: -

"Poverty & Climate Change - Reducing the Vulnerability of the Poor"

The GCI response is at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/WBank_draft_GCI_comment.pdf

This consultative draft on Poverty and Climate Change was launched at the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC) in New Delhi.

It has been prepared by: -

African Development Bank (AfDB),

Asian Development Bank (ADB),

Department International Development, UK (DFID),

Directorate General Development, European Commission (EC), Directorate
General International Development, Netherlands (DGIS),
Fed. Ministry Economic Cooperation & Development, Germany (BMZ),
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United
Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),
The World Bank

It was written with the intention to initiate a constructive global dialog on how to integrate climate variability and climate change into development.

Comments on this Consultative Draft are very much encouraged and welcome. The consultation draft can be accessed at: - www.worldbank.org/povcc.

Please use the Comments Form available at this website to provide feedback on the paper.

You may also contact us at: pov-@worldbank.org. Comments may be submitted until the end of December 2002. The paper will be finalized in early 2003 following the consultation process.

"We would be delighted to receive your comments. If possible please send them by January 15. As comments will be compiled for a work conference anything received later than January 24 may not be considered."

From

Frank Sperling

Climate Change Team

The World Bank

Who's Who in C&C's Oily Bits? Aubrey Meyer

Jan 23, 2003 11:21 PST

C&C entails sharing permits to consume fossil fuels globally at rates which avoid dangerous climate change.

On the morning after the Century before, here is a data-rich image that shows who's who in the oily bit of the C&C future.

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Oil_Prod_Depl_C&C450ppmv.pdf

FT - Experts press Blair on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jan 24, 2003 04:25 PST

24th January 2003

Top UK climate experts have written to press Tony Blair into putting C&C in the forthcoming UK White Paper on Energy and Climate.

The letter from Sir Tom Blundell [Chair Royal Commission], Sir John Houghton [Former Chair IPCC], and Alex Evans [IPPR] is the covered in today's FT

<http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1042491155679&p=1012571727159>

A copy of the letter can be viewed at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Blundell_Houghton_to_Blair_C&Cletter.pdf

C&C, Oil & War - Guardian Aubrey Meyer

Jan 27, 2003 02:23 PST

27th January, 2003

Wide Ranging article on C&C, oil and war by Larry Elliott in today's

Business Guardian.

He suggests that exploding demand, oil depletion and possible re-denomination of oil Euros are reasons for oil-grabbing war, when managing demand and ghgs with C&C is what is needed.

"The third choice for the US and the rest of the developed world is to tackle the imbalance between demand and supply from the other end - by limiting demand rather than by increasing supply. Most governments, including that in ashington, acknowledge the need to take steps to curb emissions of greenhouse gases and a blueprint for this, known as contraction and convergence, is available."

Guardian web link at: -

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,3604,882960,00.html>

Same article (with Guardian cartoon) at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/LarryElliott.pdf>

Charter 99, C&C, EU Convention Aubrey Meyer

Jan 29, 2003 11:16 PST

Charter 99 is pressing the "Convention on the future of Europe" for C&C to be added to the new Constitution for Europe.

C&C is one of 17 proposed addtions: -

"New Article - declaring climate change to be <a global security issue> and committing the EU to work for a stable climate as set out in the UNFCCC through an international agreement based contraction and convergence of global emissions to equal per capita rights by no later than 2045."

Charter 99 are seeking co-signatories from all over the world to their open letter, which can be retrieved in full at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/EU_Convention_letter.pdf

It will be sent to all members of the Convention early in 2003.

C&C in Minister's Statement of Concern Aubrey Meyer

Feb 19, 2003 10:41 PST

"Earth Wind Fire Water God - A Statement of Concern"

By Michael Meacher

Newcastle University

10 02 03

Full Speech at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Meacher.pdf>

" . . . the world's scientists believe a reduction in CO2 emissions of at least 60% will be needed by 2050.

Kyoto, even if its targets are met, is likely to produce a cut of only some 2% by 2010, and that is only in regard to the developed countries (excluding, at present, the US and Australia).

If the whole world is taken into account, which is of course the relevant consideration, CO2 emissions are projected to rise substantially by 2020. So the shortfall between scientific theory and political action remains huge.

Furthermore, given that access for CO2 emissions to the global atmosphere needs to be rigorously checked in order to stay within 'safe' levels, no progress has yet been made in obtaining global consent to a politically equitable distribution of such rights.

A programme of Contraction & Convergence, moving towards an allocation of equal per capita emissions for all countries both developing and developed, has been proposed by the Global Commons Institute, but has not yet been widely taken up."

Speech flagged in the Guardian at: -

http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,895067,00.html

C&C in the USA? Aubrey Meyer

Feb 21, 2003 06:50 PST

Global Warming -- What's the Boiling Point?

An opportunity to add support in the USA for C&C-based action to avoid dangerous climate change.

See: - <http://www.care2.com/go/z/4527>

IPPR and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Feb 21, 2003 07:57 PST

The UK's leading think-tank, the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR), have produced "The Generation Gap" - a report that urges the UK Government to get behind C&C.

<http://www.ippr.org/research/files/team20/project111/2020fuelmix.pdf>

"The Royal Commission made a clear and emphatic recommendation to the Government that in its view, the best prospects for success at international level were offered by the 'Contraction & Convergence' (C&C) policy framework for international climate change policy as the basis of future negotiations; the PIU, for its part, observed that C&C was consistent with the 'leading' approach to climate policy that the Government has expressed its intention to play.

C&C is a simple global policy framework that would work as follows:

1. All countries would agree a safe global ceiling on concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere (such as 450 parts per million), and then calculate a global emissions budget consistent with reaching it.
2. On the question of national emissions allocations, C&C recognises that developing countries will only accept emissions targets under an emission regime that is equitable. Accordingly, national emissions entitlements would converge from current emissions levels (which are proportional to national income) to an allocation based instead on population, by an agreed 'convergence date' (such as 2040).
3. Full international emissions trading would be allowed so that countries could meet their targets flexibly and at least cost. (The existence of a global price on carbon would also provide each country with a clear incentive to reduce dependency on fossil fuels as quickly as possible, in order to reduce the number of emissions permits that have to be bought – or indeed increase the number of surplus permits to sell.)

Although it has been widely forgotten since the publication of the Royal Commission's report on energy, the widely discussed UK target of reducing CO₂ emissions by 60 per cent by 2050 is in fact derived from a scenario applying C&C (in the Royal Commission's example, with a concentration target of 550 parts per million and a convergence date of 2050).

The most important distinction between C&C and the approach taken by Kyoto is that C&C starts with the question of what global level of emissions is safe, and only then turns to the secondary question of how much CO₂ each country is permitted to emit.

Kyoto, by contrast, began by determining national entitlements; assessing the overall level of global emissions came at the end of the process rather than at the beginning.

Interestingly, C&C meets the stated position of the Bush Administration on climate change where Kyoto does not – even though it enjoys very much higher environmental integrity than Kyoto. President Bush has consistently stated that the US desires a global policy that both includes quantified targets for developing countries, which C&C includes but Kyoto does not. Bush has also been equally consistent in emphasising that international climate policy should be consistent with the goal of stabilising atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (to the

extent of actually including this objective in the US National Security Strategy in 2002); again, C&C offers this through its formal atmospheric concentration target where Kyoto does not."

New Statesman Urges C&C on Government Aubrey Meyer

Feb 21, 2003 12:33 PST

In its current edition the UK political journal "New Statesman" has an extended Energy Supplement.

N S urges the Government to put C&C in the White Paper (published next week) at the centre of energy policy.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/pdf/energysupplement.pdf>

"The government must not be complacent about how hard it will be to deliver the low-carbon economy. Of the UK's current climate change policies, virtually all will deliver lower emissions reductions than originally anticipated – from the climate change levy and the fuel duty escalator (both of which have been frozen at current rates) to the UK emissions trading scheme, and the renewables obligation and energy efficiency commitment faced by electricity supply.

The year 2003 is when the world's countries start to consider what should come after the Kyoto Protocol's tentative first step. Two challenges dominate. One is the need to make more demanding global emissions reductions, in order to meet the UN Climate Convention's objective of stabilising concentrations of greenhouse gases at a safe level. The other is to find a way of sharing out this "global emissions budget" between all countries.

The leading (and possibly only) contender to solve this Gordian knot is a proposal called "Contraction and Convergence", devised by the Global Commons Institute, a British-based think-tank. Unlike Kyoto, this would start with the question of what global level of emissions is safe. Only once this has been agreed would countries turn to who gets to emit what.

This "contraction" of emissions then leads to the "convergence" part: all countries' emissions entitlements would converge by an agreed date (such as 2040) until they were proportionate to population, so that every individual on the planet had (in theory) an equal right to emissions. Such a system would meet the long-stated US demand for developing countries to accept their own emissions targets, but would also allow them to sell surplus CO2 permits through emissions trading.

"Contraction and Convergence" was one of the central recommendations of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's report on energy in 2001; it was the basis of the Royal Commission's target to reduce UK emissions by 60 per cent by 2050. The Royal Commission's chair, Sir Tom Blundell, and the former chair of the UN Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change's science team, Sir John Houghton, have recently written to the Prime Minister, challenging the government to respond to this proposal.

With the right objective and the right policies to deliver it, the government's energy white paper could be a landmark. It could be the UK's first clear statement that it intends to be a world leader in the new global low-carbon economy; it would be a practical example of what the Blair doctrine of global interdependence means in practice, and a clear demonstration of how global governance can link seamlessly to effective delivery at the national level. The UK has everything to play for."

Just a day in the life of C&C Aubrey Meyer

Feb 24, 2003 12:54 PST

Today, UK Prime Minister Blair fronted Government's White Paper on Energy as follows; -

" . . . for Britain we will agree the Royal Commission's target of a 60% reduction in emissions by 2050. I am committed now to putting us on a path over the next few years towards that target."

Since June 2000, the Royal Commission has made headline advocacy of the need for a future global climate agreement based on 'Contraction and Convergence'.

Synchronized with this, DEFRA [the UK's lead Ministry on global climate change and the White

Paper] published a document called "The Scientific Case for Setting a Long-Term Emission Reduction Target that, "builds on the Royal Commission's work with the Contraction and Convergence methodology".

Probably nothing to do with this but the Head of the Government's "Sustainable Development Commission", was heard to say that this was the greatest day of his life.

C&C & The Africa Group Aubrey Meyer

Feb 25, 2003 03:38 PST

In August 1997 the Africa Group formally proposed Contraction and Convergence to the UNFCCC Climate Negotiations.

http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/Organisations_Support_C&C.pdf

page four (full text available on request).

This went all the way to the midnight wrangle in Kyoto (COP-3). China, India and the Africa group had a vivid wrangle over the <global> allocation of rights needed for effective emissions trading with the US the UK and others.

C&C was kicked into touch (with the Kyoto Protocol Article 16-bis that became article 17).

See Book at <http://www.gci.org.uk/ccbook.html>

The Non-Aligned Movement Heads of Government re-iterated the Developing Country perspective on this at their conference in Durban in September 1998.

http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/Organisations_Support_C&C.pdf

page four (full text available on request).

Now - six years on - the UK Ministry of Environment [DEFRA] have signalled they want to promote all C&C-related discussion in the UNFCCC technical advisory process known as SBSTA.

To resource this for the Africa Group and others, some C&C graphics for them are at: - http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Africa_Group_C&C_Graphs.pdf

These show: -

- (1) a global contraction budget for 450 ppmv concentrations
- (2) convergence to equal <tradable> shares per head by 2002/30/50
- (3) that South Africa can easily work within the Africa Group total.

The realworld context is this.

Africa is the continent that already suffers the worst social and environmental costs of climate changes. There have already been traumatic events such as the floods in Mozambique in 2000. Presently 28 million people are at risk of death due to the abnormal levels of drought and famine experienced in SADC and the Horn.

At the same time Africa as a whole, with 16% of the world's people, has contributed a mere 2.5% of the pollution accumulated in the atmosphere since industrialisation began. While in contrast the USA, with 4% of the world's people, contributed 33% of accumulated pollution.

If SBSTA is to become a testing ground for C&C, it is also true to say that negotiating C&C is the testing ground for the UNFCCC itself.

As Margaret Beckett the other UK Environment Minister said at yesterday's launch of the White Paper, "we'll have to there in the end."

Thank you GCN Aubrey Meyer

Feb 26, 2003 09:29 PST

To all of you subscribed to GCN.

Aubrey has asked me to thank you for the flood of positive feedback to the last few posts. He is in Morocco for a week and will reply to them when he gets back.

Tim Helweg-Larsen

USA - C&C for yourself ? Aubrey Meyer

Mar 07, 2003 07:01 PST

High-Level Transatlantic Workshop on Climate Change
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and
German Institute for International and Security Affairs.
Monday, November 18, 2002.

The 'who' (see guest list) the 'what' . . . C&C by any other name.

Stalking the obvious?

C&C for yourself.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/Report.pdf>

" . . . the final aim for climate change policy: - at what level do we consider GHG concentration in the atmosphere a non-dangerous anthropogenic interference?

The stipulation of a reasonable level of GHGs in the atmosphere could be a precondition for the specification of a global emissions cap. This, in turn, would facilitate the development of a global emission trading system, arguably the most effective and cost-efficient instrument for protecting the earth's climate.

To participants the issue of fairness, i.e., the 'ethical reasoning' behind any such future agreement with the developing countries, is enormous. Many experts believe that the developing countries will never accept a baseline-year-based approach for fixed targets as the one taken by the industrialized countries in the existing Kyoto Protocol ('grandfathering principle').

The challenge in the negotiations of a second commitment period will therefore be to search for an approach which is per-capita based.

Should a pure per-capita approach prove not to be politically feasible within the next two decades, one could also think of a mixture of the grandfathering and the per-capita approach for a second commitment period (2020, 2030), and pure per-capita-based commitments by, for example, 2050 or 2060.

. . . the establishment of a final concentration target keeps the door open for the United States to rejoin the international efforts within the UNFCCC, which had originally seemed to be increasingly impossible since the Kyoto path was designed."

C&C - Mars and Venus Aubrey Meyer

Mar 16, 2003 07:29 PST

C&C – "Too simple" yet "we simply couldn't understand"

Is Pew Centre's Eileen Claussen from Mars?

She said, "We have given quite a bit of thought to the concept of C&C and I must say I think it is too simple."

http://www.pewclimate.org/events/viewpoint_627.cfm

[C&C is the rule that proves its exceptions, and of course there are some; my country South Africa for example - Anglo-American account for much of that. But Pew's exceptions are so complex and numerous they are ungovernable].

Are UK civil servants from Venus?

One said recently that the Government's Energy White Paper 'corrected' the Royal Commission's C&C numbers because, "we simply couldn't understand how the Commission came to those numbers."

[See White Paper footnotes 5 page 8, and 5 page 25.

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper>]

[The authors of the White Paper forgot to use the C&C algorithm that was used for the Commission's Report].

<http://www.rcep.org.uk/pdf/chp4.pdf>

No matter, DEFRA have said they intend to canvass for SBSTA discussion to include C&C this year and the UK Environment Minister has written an assurance of their intention to, "protect the integrity of the C&C argument,"

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Meacher_15_11_02.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Meacher_23_12_02.pdf

DEFRA have also published a document - "The Scientific Case for Setting a Long-Term Reduction Target" - it says builds on the Royal Commission's adoption of C&C.

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/ewpscience/ewp_targetscience.pdf

GCI has written to DEFRA seeking to iron out the "couldn't understand" bit.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Derwent.pdf>

Contraction and Convergence (C&C) is simple. Yet its strength is when the actual calculations are done. As one industry executive said recently, "its simplicity is its strength and your graphics put that on view."

The model first calculates a global carbon contraction budget to stabilise rising carbon concentration in the atmosphere [for example 450 ppm CO₂ - but it will calculate any example] and it then calculates the international shares in this budget [or the tradable "commitment/entitlements"] so they converge to equality per head of global population [or population base year] within a negotiated time-frame [for example a third of the way through the time-line for contraction - but it will calculate any example].

Remembering the NAM Heads of Government call for "equitable allocations for all countries", a SBSTA assessment could look at the implications of different rates of C&C.

At the same time GCI thinks it would a good idea for countries to 'group' (like the European 'bubble') rather than negotiate randomly one by one. This would encourage regional bonding, make global arithmetic manageable and deal with 'exceptions' better than the "no-rule" rule of dollars, tonnes and lots of angry and incommensurable claims. [South Africa should negotiate its share within the Africa Group - see: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Africa_Group_C&C_Graphs.pdf].

The C&C model has been freely available on <[gci.org.uk](http://www.gci.org.uk)> since 1996. It has probably now generated the most widely used, viewed and discussed global imagery and methodology in the global climate policy debate. It could yet easily structure and calculate the international "Climate Covenant" recently called for by Mr. Blair for example.

<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page3073.asp>

The virtue of C&C is that – led by the IPCC's arithmetic of stabilising ghg concentrations – it is situated in the present of the long-now. It can thus resolve the pluperfect "Brazilian Approach" (historic responsibilities) and the future imperfect "US efficiency gains" (more dollars per tonne).

Convergence can be 'accelerated' relative to Contraction to pre-distribute more purchasing power to the developing countries to off-set 'historical responsibilities' and (subject to this agreement) international emission-trade can help avoid more emissions and damage per dollar if these are spent on restructuring than otherwise would meaningfully be the case.

The GCI website may be a bit of a tip its true (low finance), but page-visits on-site from all over the world now run at c. 10,000 a month and information is downloaded at up to a gigabyte a month. Much of this has traffic has been with the US.

GCN membership has been rising steadily into the thousands too.

PS - Venus and Mars, peace and war in 1991, total war-emissions from Kuwait equalled that whole year's worth of UK emissions. [c.150 Mtc]. That is partly why the US called for military emissions to be on the global account at AGBM October 1997.

Things are getting worse. UK climate scientists at the Hadley Centre have suggested only this week (12/03/03) that limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius may now no longer be achievable and this is going to be very painful.

The cause of climate stability says we shouldn't be seeking to burn that oil. We should be committing to alternatives. War, oil and emissions raise the chances of runaway greenhouse conditions, extinctions and scorched earth.

Mars brings war and Venus has CO2 at 90% with temperatures to match.

Aubrey

GCI

PS If anyone wants to post a C&C-related message or a link, please send it to me.

C&C - German Council Advisors Aubrey Meyer

Mar 27, 2003 05:15 PST

"Climate Change . . . We argue the

"contraction-and-convergence"-approach will be a decisive component of an overall strategy to implement strong sustainable development."

Konrad Ott¹, Professor of Environmental Ethics,
and

Ralf Döring, Senior Researcher
at the

Botanical Institute,

University of Greifswaldwere,

Grimmer Str. 88,

D-17487 Greifswald,

both on the German Council of Environmental Advisers 2002.

<http://www.euroecolecon.org/frontiers/Contributions/F2papers/FD2.pdf>

Blair, climate and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Mar 28, 2003 09:55 PST

Exerpts from the recent ENDS* Report on the; -

"Blair claim leadership role on climate change"

[* Environmental Data Services - Premiere UK Environment Journal; subscription required - <http://www.endsreport.com>]

"In his most powerful speech on the environment to date, Prime Minister Tony Blair has called for renewed international action to tackle global poverty and environmental degradation - particularly climate change. Mr Blair urged EU countries to join the UK in aiming for a 60% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050.

The speech was arranged at short notice to slot into the hectic round of international diplomacy prompted by the Iraq crisis.

Strikingly, Mr Blair drew an explicit link between the current agenda on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and that concerning global poverty and environmental degradation - "most particularly climate change".

These long-term issues are, "just as devastating in their potential impact, some more so," he warned. Ratcheting up pressure on the US, Mr Blair said that, "there will be no genuine security if the planet is ravaged by climate change."

"There is little point in the UK acting alone," he added. "We need a concerted international effort."

Mr Blair said the challenge was, "to integrate the goal of environmental modernisation into our vi-

sion of Britain...bringing the environment, economic development and social justice together. The Prime Minister described the Kyoto Protocol as, "not radical enough", since "at best" it will reduce global emissions by just 2%. He announced a Government target to reduce CO2 emissions by 60% by 2050, as proposed by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in 2000 (ENDS Report 305, pp 19-22).

The basis for this target is controversial (see below).

Basis of the 60% CO2 target: The RCEP's call for the UK to cut CO2 emissions by 60% by 2050 was based on two key assumptions. Firstly, the world should aim to keep atmospheric CO2 concentrations below 550ppm, twice the pre-industrial level. Secondly, the RCEP said, future global climate agreements should be based on the so-called "contraction and convergence" approach, under which national emission allocations converge towards a uniform per capita figure.

The Government has accepted the RCEP's 60% figure - but not the underlying logic. Contraction and convergence is, "only one of a number of potential models", it says, and it would be "pre-mature" to rule out other approaches. Environment Secretary Margaret Beckett claimed that the concept is, "very violently opposed by many of the developing countries."

[GCI comment - Mrs Beckett's remark is curiously misinformed. Reactions from colleagues in developing countries showed incredulity and contained comments such as, "the opposite is true. C&C is strongly supported by many Developing Countries as it a strategy that embodies the principles of the UNFCCC, precaution and equity based on common but differentiated responsibilities."]

Alex Evans of the Institute for Public Policy Research commented: "The whole point of contraction and convergence is to offer a fair deal to developing countries in the form of a valid share of a safe emissions budget that can then be traded....Leaving them out until the last minute, when climate change will be far more serious and much of the emissions budget will have been used up, would offer developing countries all stick and no carrot."

In a separate development and with Minister Meacher's blessing, GCI has now been invited by DEFRA to give a C&C presentation that "protects the integrity of the argument" to UK civil servants working on climate policy.

GCI has accepted this invitation saying we welcome the opportunity to clarify the technical understanding of C&C and increase the prospects of a full and successful assessment in the UN process. [The presentation will be available on the web in due course].

C&C Study at World Bank Aubrey Meyer

Apr 17, 2003 08:18 PDT

In a climate quotas study published recently by the Bank, Franck Lecocq and Renaud Crassous (* below) conclude

"First, four out of the five quota allocation rules we have tested do not completely control quantities, either because not all Parties take emission commitments in 2013, or because quotas depend on the baseline, or both.

The contraction and convergence example demonstrates that this is by no means inevitable, but the price to pay is twofold: all countries need to join in 2013 [i.e. at an/the outset - GCI], and the global emissions envelope must be negotiated separately.

. . . it . . points to a possible win-win compromise between North and South, where early participation in the allowance market, and possibly some hot air for the South would be traded against-tighter commitments in the North.

The contraction and convergence rule, which is the first choice of Europe and Japan, and the second choice of most developing countries, is an illustration."

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/Lecocq.pdf>

* Franck Lecocq is an economist with

Development Economics Research Group, World Bank.

* Renaud Crassous is PhD student with CIRED, France.

"This paper describes mid-course results of a research project currently under way between the two institutions. It will soon be submitted for consideration in the World Bank Policy Research Working Paper series.

We want to thank Kenneth Chomitz, Jean-Charles Hourcade and David Wheeler for very useful comments on this research. The remaining errors are entirely ours'.

We acknowledge financial support from the World Bank Research Committee for this research. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this paper are entirely those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the view of the World Bank, its Executive Directors, of the countries they represent."

C&C, the 3 R's and a K? Aubrey Meyer

Apr 25, 2003 04:00 PDT

Risks, Responsibilities and Rights

On the 6th of February 2003, Routledge published a book about rising risks of: -

Natural Disaster & Development in a Globalizing World

Mark Pelling [<http://www.allbookstores.com/book/0415279585>]

" . . . makes clear that there are links between global scale processes and local experiences of disaster, but underlies the difficulty of attributing blame for individual disasters on specific global pressures. It argues that action to reduce disaster needs to be coordinated at the local, national and global scales and that there is a need for greater integration across the physical and social sciences. In this context, the human rights agenda is seen as a way of moving disaster reduction efforts forward."

On climate change they take the rights-based view: -

"Ideally, global emissions have to contract to an end point (concentration level of say 550 ppmv) and converge by a given date (say 2050) . . . this is formally known as Contraction and Convergence (C&C) and was created by GCI in 1991" (J. E. Salt). A day later on the 7th of February 2003 TIME Magazine chides Bush on climate change.

<http://www.time.com/time/columnist/linden/article/0,9565,420539,00.html>

"The administration's position seems to have gone from doubt about the science of climate change to suggesting it is inevitable without ever acknowledging that the nation might take steps to avert the threat.

The new position is a clever one: - By leaving moot the question of cause, and by implying that no one could have done anything about it, the administration also implies that no one is responsible. The administration underscored its genial "no fault" approach when it recently asked industry to voluntarily reduce emissions.

Nice try, but don't be surprised if there are few takers for this line of reasoning . . . " (Eugene Linden).

There is extensive commentary in Salt's Chapter on the state of the insurance industry faced with climate change and it isn't lost on Linden . . .

Bush may be for warming but is the administration for turning . . . ?

Dennis Kucinich is and he's now running for President . . .

Excerpts from his position on climate read: -

"I called for our nation to join with the world community in solving the challenge of global climate change, and work to reduce carbon emissions, greenhouse gases."

"It is the United States which can lead the way toward a global community which is inclusive and sustainable, which promotes democratic values and which enables the growth of the potential and the health of each person by putting human rights, workers rights and environmental quality principles into each and every trade agreement."

"All peoples of the world must demand that their governments become signatories to a global climate change treaty. This treaty will begin to lower levels of greenhouse gases, which are right now threatening the environment and the health of people around the world and the stability of global climate. Even the ability of nations to sustain their agriculture, to control floods and to be able to respond to emergencies is threatened."

http://www.kucinich.us/issues/issue_environment.htm

K is a member of GLOBE who support C&C.

C&C "Intriguing" - Ecofys Aubrey Meyer

May 07, 2003 04:49 PDT

A detailed climate policy assessment for the Federal Environmental

Agency (Umweltbundesamt) Germany[by ECOFYS/Germany . . . describes C&C (repeatedly) as . . . "intriguing, due to the simplicity of the approach".

C&C also 'scores high(est)' in their rating for "environmental effectiveness", because it meets its target for stable atmospheric ghg concentration.

That's because C&C [unlike the rest] sets one, using the approach "What-you-set is what-you-get".

There are other insights, the saddest of which they quote in the section "current views".

"AOSIS (small islands association) could not agree to any concentration target, since under all feasible options (sic), they would agree to unacceptable damages to their countries."

[This is quite incredible].

When UK economists say, "Tuvalu's not my problem", well they would say that wouldn't they?

When German economists say, "Tuvalu says that Tuvalu's not my problem" . . they wouldn't say that would they?" [Well apparently they just did, whoever the 'they' is . . .].

In a global argument, there are no 'expendable' third parties as 'them-and-us' gives way to 'all-of-us-or-nothing'.

Self-fulfilling prophecies are TINA [there is no alternative] but to succeed, or TOAD [the other alternative - disaster].

Its called, 'Positive Maternal Attitude'.

Do we have children?

["Evolution of commitments under the UNFCCC:

Involving newly industrialized economies and developing countries"

http://www.umweltdaten.de/klimaschutz/Climate_Change_01-03_UBA.pdf

The 'shock & OIL' bit of C&C in detail Aubrey Meyer

May 08, 2003 07:27 PDT

'Oil-shocking' and awful reality-zone - data from CDIAC and ASPO.

Oil Producers and Consumers compared in global detail at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/OIL_with_Depletion_Producers_and_Consumers_Compared.pdf

This is a high resolution [large] pdf file 'zoomable' for detail. . . . not so much who's 'bad' . . . as whose oil? . . . who's got it and who gets it!

US Senator Lieberman gets the point . . .

"Lieberman energy plan would slash US oil imports"

<http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/20716/story.htm>

The contraction budgets for 'safe climate' [350 450 and 550 ppmv] overarching this oil (and gas) depletion mayhem are at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/3_4_550ppmv_with_Oil_Gas_Depletion.pdf

and call IPCC's 'SRES' scenario teams back to the reality zone too.

C&C in DEFRA Mag. 05/6 2003 Aubrey Meyer

May 14, 2003 07:07 PDT

The May/June 03 DEFRA magazine - "Energy & Environmental Management" - puts the UK government's White Paper into a 'focus on energy efficiency'.

For copies, contact the editor: -

david.-@mcmillan-scott.plc.uk

[as the magazine is not yet available on the web].

An extended C&C article is at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/C&C_DEFRA_Mag_May_June03.pdf

"C&C - an ingenious plan" Aubrey Meyer

May 14, 2003 08:04 PDT

"Guide to the End of the World"

[Oxford University Press - 2003]

<http://www.oup.co.uk/isbn/0-19-280297-6?>

Prof. Bill McGuire,

Geophysical Hazards

University College London

<http://www.benfieldhrc.org/>

. . . includes a stark but authoritative warning of the dangers of global warming and concludes with praise for an "ingenious plan" called C&C.

"This remarkably simple scheme has not yet entered the limelight, but it does have many powerful supporters . . . It is now inevitable that we and our descendants are going to face a long and hard struggle as our temperate world draws to a close and we enter the time of hothouse Earth. Perhaps, however, C&C can help to make the transition a little less desperate."

C&C in "The Age of Consent" Aubrey Meyer

May 30, 2003 08:42 PDT

C&C is, "the only just and sustainable means of tackling climate change". So says George Monbiot in his bold 'Manifesto for a New World Order'.

This new book - "The Age of Consent" - lays out a whole lot more. It is not an argument for a brave new world, but a rational one based on global justice and sustainability.

No-one could disagree with this thesis.

[<http://www.word-power.co.uk/catalogue/0007150423>]

If anyone disagrees with his synthesis - effectively global governance requires global government - now is the time to do better, as he speaks with insight and vigour and for a multitude.

Life on the left/right axis reaches the age of consent on the difficult local/global axis, "where we establish a framework of perception which permits us to cooperate in resolving our common problems."

That is what C&C seeks to resolve and the current edition of the "New Internationalist" magazine has this well-argued at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/SkyShares.pdf> [Author - Mark Lynas]

For this complete climate issue [NI 357], phone 00 44 (0)1858 438896 or search later in the year at www.newint.org

Like George's book, we see where and with what new generations are coming of age. It's all bracing stuff.

'Yellow Rose' from C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 01, 2003 11:29 PDT

There are more of the UK Civil Service on GCN than I realised.

So, to the UK Delegation to the UN Climate Convention Meeting in Bonn this week: - a rose for your thoughts; - did you C&C this? We didn't . . . now we do.

Yes, the US is the biggest emitter, but CO2 emissions from TEXAS . . . are the biggest in the US and <bigger than the WHOLE of the UK>.

See: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/images/TEXAS.pdf>

With a third the population of the UK, TEXAS per capita emissions are three times those of the UK. You may have been the dirty-man of Europe, but on climate TEXAS is the dirty-man of the planet. And yet this dirty-man has called for stable concentrations -

See: - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.pdf> page 20 ?

We all know this is overall 'contraction' by definition just as the Byrd Hagel Senate Resolution is 'convergence' by definition ('limitations' alongside 'reductions').

So in this universe the US has called for C&C. The thing is that we all do C&C a rate that avoids the holocaust of climate change and to do that we must deny space to the holocaust deniers.

Maybe you can think this, as you represent Mr Blair's call for a global 'Climate Covenant' at the UN negotiations this week. With a nod at TEXAS, his speech said we must avoid the devastation of global climate change. He called for 60% cuts globally.

"There will be no genuine security if the planet is ravaged by climate change. Kyoto is not radical enough . . . (but has) proved controversial with some countries, notably America."

Then, "Our own world-renowned Hadley Centre has predicted that global warming could strongly accelerate over the next few decades."

In fact the Hadley Centre [reported in Nature last week] now says that future temperature rise has been under-estimated. Feedbacks now modelled give temperature up by 7.5 degrees. See: - http://www.nature.com/nsu/nsu_pf/030519/030519-9.html

In his new book - [<http://isbn.nu/050005116x>] "When Life Nearly Died" - Prof. Michael J Benton speculates that the Permian Extinction (the big one with 95% life forms deleted) was a runaway greenhouse effect from 6 degrees up.

Depressingly, news in Paris (from a nameless IEA insider at the ASPO conference last week) is that orders have been issued (from TEXAS) that the climate word 'mitigation' (emissions-control) is now 'forbidden' at the IEA (!) Now the only climate policy word that is permitted (by TEXAS) at the IEA is . . . 'adaptation' . . . (!).

Then the feedback from a expert participant at the recent UNFCCC insurance workshop who, "left with a fairly cynical view of climate change negotiators, (who) seemed to be playing games with the workshops rather than trying to achieve anything. I expect you know the feeling."

Worse . . . a very recent comment from a pro C&C Danish Government climate negotiator about the present state of affairs, "we are settling down to another tranche of highly-paid time-wasting. Britain has the lead now; place your faith there."

Still worse . . . Commissioner Wallstrom's recent announcement that European Bubble has burst as members can now trade emissions permits with the uncapped countries, the US and elsewhere. (As if Kyoto wasn't weak enough).

. . . and worse, the French Petroleum Institute showed up at the ASPO event gung-ho for the tar-sands and shales extraction in Canada, [2 times the carbon emissions per unit of useable energy], to fill any gap that may appear as a result of peak oil and gas between now and whenever.

Take a yellow rose for Texas, case they can't C&C the wood in Bonn.

Invite them to the side event at the SBSTA/SBI conference

"Beyond Kyoto: A Global Climate Community - Starting with the willing."

Convened by Christopher Layton Hon. Director-General, EU Commission, the meeting will be held at the Maritim Hotel Bonn, 1-3 pm June 9, 2003.

Event organisers include NGOs from the Global Commons Network (GCN) - the One World Trust, the Institute for Public Policy Research, the Global Commons Trust, the James Madison Trust, the New Economics Foundation and the Irish Association for Sustainable Economics FEASTA.

This meeting leads to a workshop at Wilton Park UK [Nov. 15-17], prior to their conference, "Climate Change; What needs to be done in North and South" [17-21].

The Climate Community stands for global climate policy beyond Kyoto. It is a One World Initiative based on C&C. It is pursuant to the UK Royal Commission Report 2000 that led to the UK government call this February for a global Climate Covenant.

The C&C memorandum to the UK Government is at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/EssentialC&C.pdf>

Information about the consolidation of C&C is at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/>

Information from GCN about developments with C&C is at: -

<http://www.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read>

[Enquiries about the Bonn meeting should be directed to tit@cewc.org]

Best ever C&C at UN - Will Gov'ts do it? Aubrey Meyer

Jun 08, 2003 03:53 PDT

Welcome to the literally hundreds of new GCN readers . . .

The C&C "Climate Community" meets at the UN side event tomorrow (9/06/03).

For this GCI has created the most detailed, up-to-date, all-country C&C image ever. It will be exhibited as a poster (5' by 9').

Zoomable from big picture to tiny Tuvalu-size detail, this beautiful image is also viewable on the web at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C_Bubbles.pdf

[Caution, the file is [1.5 Mb] high resolution for the detail you can see with Acrobat's 'zoom' function - it magnifies up to 6400%].

You may also care to take a trip to Texas at the bottom of the image [no zoom required] these comparative statistics are quite a surprise.

C&C was singled out from eight proposals at an Ecofys UN side event last week as, beautifully simple, transparent and inclusive.

The question at the meeting was, will ever governments adopt it? The answer is when the lack of viable alternatives is understood.

Meantime Fred Pearce's story - about under-estimated global warming -is

in this week's New Scientist. It should help Governments decide. See at:

- <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99993798>

The following new thoughts about 'bubbling' might help too.

C&C - the past as 'Sunk Costs' and future 'bubble' theory.

Where the European Union creates a 'EU bubble', C&C creates a 'global bubble'. Within this global bubble the rate of convergence to equal per-capita shares can be accelerated relative to the rate of contraction. This is feasible as shares created by C&C are tradable emissions permits, rather than emissions per se.

Any population base year can be set, but global permit distribution under C&C is more sensitive to rate of convergence relative to the rate of contraction, than to the population base-year chosen.

This example shows convergence complete by 2050 with population growth fixed at the same base year. The C&C model <www.gci.org.uk> demonstrates all possible rates and dates of C&C and population base years.

The North/South tension over the 'historic responsibilities' for emissions might be resolved with Southern countries allowing these as 'sunk costs' in exchange for an accelerated global convergence. This might help get past the increasingly futile 'insurance' debate (the 'don't blame me' debate . . .).

To resolve differential conditions within regions, the example of the EU could be adopted widely. We have suggested other regions' bubbles in the example presented here. The EU - as a 'bubble' - rightly makes its own internal convergence arrangements. So with other regions in 'bubbles' under C&C, individual countries can re-negotiate within their own regions.

For example within the African Union, South Africa has per-capita emissions higher than other countries in Africa, largely from Anglo-American mining operations. While upholding C&C's global bubble, South Africa could negotiate extra permits from within the new 'Afro-Caribbean' bubble, rather than from the global bubble.

This is wholly feasible, as C&C creates permits for African countries well-above their baseline projections. It would renaissance the SA foreign policy concept - SA, SADC, AU, the World . . . (in that order) . . .

With the same advantages, Caribbean countries could leave AOSIS and join this 'Afro-Caribbean' bubble. It would take them out of the fault-ridden oil-climate loop and into a durable and directional global deal.

NSW Gov. 'Corporate Plan' for C&C? Aubrey Meyer

Jun 10, 2003 03:49 PDT

The New South Wales Government created the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) in 1996.

It was created to address the negative impacts of conventional power generation and use by promoting and integrating sustainable energy as a key part of the NSW power sector.

SEDA has recently published its Corporate Plan 2003 - 2005

See: - http://www.seda.nsw.gov.au/pdf/SEDA_Corp_Plan_2003-2005.pdf

On: - "The future of the international climate change framework"

SEDA comes to C&C saying: -

"Reaching agreement as to what obligations developing countries should take on in the future is a complex and controversial issue. It was debated at the 8th Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention in New Delhi in late 2002.

One option discussed was extending targets across the developing world while also strengthening developed country targets (eg, UK 30%, Germany 40%).

Another approach is to require countries to reduce emissions in accordance with their historical contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

A third approach is to require countries to reduce the emissions intensity of their economies.

A fourth approach is known as 'contraction & convergence' – that is, global emissions contract to a safe level and per capita emissions converge across developed and developing countries.

The principle of contraction and convergence has been endorsed by the insurance sector – a sector whose core business of risk minimisation closely matches the objective of stabilising greenhouse emissions at safe levels and minimising the adverse environmental impacts and potentially huge economic costs of climate change.

While there are difficulties with each approach, it is clear that the international climate change framework of the future, whatever the detail of its related Protocols or other arrangements, will have very important implications for a carbon intensive economy such as NSW."

US Non-GO fumbles focus of C&C. Aubrey Meyer

Jun 26, 2003 06:55 PDT

[Foreword - welcome to yet more new GCN readers.

Basic statement of C&C at -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/EssentialC&C.pdf>

Latest 'zoomable' imagery of C&C (best in Adobe 6) at -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C_Bubbles.pdf

Today's Climate Policy Journal (CPJ) has an article from Washington's premiere Non-GO, the World Resources Institute (WRI).

CPJ, with charitable funding from Shell plc and a high cover price, is a UK platform for non-political climate-policy analysis.

WRI's authors - Nancy Kete, Kevin Baumert et al - quote Berk and den Elzen of RIVM from an earlier CPJ issue [Clim.1(4) 2001] thus -

"... a convergence regime offers the best opportunities for exploring cost-reduction options of the [Kyoto Mechanisms] as all parties can participate in global emissions trading. There may be excess emission allowances (hot air), but this will not affect the effectiveness nor the efficiency of the regime, only the distribution of costs."

Berk and den Elzen indeed said this. They went on to conclude -

"We discussed the two different climate regime options against the requirement of early participation of developing countries in global greenhouse emission control to meet stringent climate targets. Where climate change limits are stringent, a C&C regime seems to provide more incentives for a timely participation of developing countries, and better opportunities for an effective and efficient regime for controlling global GHG emission control than increasing participation."

That C&C conclusion focused urgency with clarity.

But the Non-GO don't. They prefer 'increasing participation' and 'incremental changes' with random distribution. Consequently, there is no indication of what overall atmospheric concentration target is safe or whether their guesswork is going to achieve.

Its rigorous stuff.

Perhaps because they are Washington-based not world-based Non-GO - WRI has had paranoia about C&C for years. They assert that an equal per capita-based allocation of emissions entitlements is fundamentally wrong. To make this point, Nancy presented herself at Washington's PEW Centre in 2001, unexpectedly claiming membership of the 'Groucho Marx Organisation' (GMO) for the occasion.

Once again, rigorous stuff.

The GMO member has gone now and things may change. But will they improve?

Dr. Jonathon Pershing has just been appointed as Nancy's replacement. Jonathon is a good man. He is a geologist by training and will therefore have professional knowledge of the runaway climate change that led to the KT event - the great Permian extinction.

He was also a member of the US delegation to UNFCCC in 1997. It was he who was told by US Delegation Head Danny Reifsnyder after the midnight battle for C&C at the end of Kyoto negotiations in 1997 to, 'wash his mouth out with soap'. This was for having acknowledged C&C at 2.43 a.m. 11 12 97 when the Chinese, the Indians and the Africa Group made it clear that C&C was the only basis on which they would accept international emissions trading.

It was also the moment at which Chairman Estrada suspended the negotiations - [the point at issue - developing country participation - is still suspended to this day].

Before he left the IEA in Paris, Jonathon affirmed that, 'the trends of climate change are truly terrifying'. At the same time his IEA colleagues have pleaded for understanding of the difficulties they face in the IEA. Members of the climate policy division have been instructed to cease altogether

use of the climate-policy-word 'mitigation' and to use instead 'adaptation'.

As they say, "who pollutes the piper, calls the tune." The US EPA has just been instructed by the White House to expunge climate change as a 'fact' from their latest report and revert to the 'hypothesis'.

Oh Danny Boy, even civil servants weep.

Che sera, sera . . . the future is C&C . . .

Aubrey Meyer

Director

GCI

37 Ravenswood Road

LONDON E17 9LY

C&C in New Statesman cover story Aubrey Meyer

Jun 27, 2003 03:43 PDT

C&C is in the cover story of this week's New Statesman

"If humanity is to avoid a similar fate [to the Permian Extinction], global greenhouse gas emissions need to be brought down to between 60 and 80 per cent below current levels - precisely the reverse of emissions forecasts recently produced by the International Energy Agency.

A good start would be the ratification and speedy implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, which should be superseded after the following decade by the "contraction and convergence" model proposed by the Global Commons Institute in London (www.gci.org.uk), allocating equal per-person emissions rights among all the world's nations."

<http://www.newstatesman.co.uk/nscoverstory.htm>

this will change so here as well . . .

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/C&C_Newstatesman_Coverstory.pdf

C&C in "Argus Energy Media" Aubrey Meyer

Jun 27, 2003 11:44 PDT

"Big Idea"

"When the Kyoto protocol ends, governments will need a new climate change strategy. Here's one.... . Contraction and Convergence . . ."

[Editorial page 1 and Article page 15]

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Argus_Energy_C&C.pdf

"Argus Media is a leading provider of price assessments, business intelligence and market data on the global oil, gas, electricity, coal, emissions and transportation industries.

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Argus was founded in 1970 as Europ-Oil Prices and is owned by the family of its founder and by its employees."

<http://www.argusonline.com/>

"The Intergity of C&C" Aubrey Meyer

Jul 12, 2003 10:08 PDT

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP ceased his job as the UK Minister of the Environment in June this year.

Before he left (indeed one suspects before he knew he was leaving), he wrote to GCI confirming the need, "to protect the integrity of the C&C argument."

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Meacher_15_11_02.pdf

A C&C communications-strategy-meeting was held in London this week. [A report from this may be published on GCN in due course].

Sir John Houghton, who was unfortunately not at the meeting, had nonetheless a message for the meeting that was terse but not cryptic. There are, he said, two things requiring stress.

(1) "Contraction" and

(2) "Convergence", the derivative.

This had echoes of the recent comment from a (sadly nameless) top UK civil servant who observed that, "it was mathematically impossible to solve the climate challenge without this (C&C)."

At the strategy meeting the following <draft> animation demo was prepared and shown to the twenty or so people present, including the former Minister, for the purpose of protecting the integrity of the two-point C&C argument.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&CForwardsBackwards.gif>

It raised some interesting comments. More are welcome - politely and specifically asked for - from anyone on GCN who may have the time and the inclination.

Thank you.

Aubrey

C&C Logic - Choice or Chance? Aubrey Meyer

Jul 21, 2003 02:48 PDT

Welcome to new GCN readers.

"The Logic of C&C - Ideology, going to the dogs."

A short essay on some current dilemmas for Civil Servants with this sort of thing is at: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/C&CLogic.pdf>

An extended Q&A on C&C will be posted in the forthcoming edition of Energy Argus.

Aubrey Meyer

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GCI <http://www.gci.org.uk>

C&C Refs <http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation>

GCN <http://www.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read>

Houghton - C&C to avoid WMD of Climate Change Aubrey Meyer

Jul 27, 2003 19:06 PDT

Sir John Houghton on climate change in today's Guardian. [excerpts].

" . . . I have no hesitation in describing it (climate change) as a "weapon of mass destruction".

Like terrorism, this weapon knows no boundaries. It can strike anywhere, in any form - a heat-wave in one place, a drought or a flood or a storm surge in another. Nor is this just a problem for the future. The 1990s were probably the warmest decade in the last 1,000 years, and 1998 the warmest year. Global warming is already upon us."

"The latest report on energy and climate change by the royal commission on environmental pollution . . . pointed out the urgent need for an adequate mechanism for negotiating each country's emission target and advocated a globally implemented plan known as "contraction and convergence".

The energy white paper published earlier this year accepted the royal commission's 60% reduction target, but it is disturbing that it provided no clarity on UK policy regarding the framework for international negotiation.

Any successful international negotiation for reducing emissions must be based on four principles: the precautionary principle, the principle of sustainable development, the polluter-pays principle and the principle of equity. The strength of "contraction and convergence" is that it satisfies all these principles. But it also means facing up to some difficult questions.

First, world leaders have to agree on a target for the stabilisation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a sufficiently low level to stave off dangerous climate change. Second, this target, and the global greenhouse gas budget it implies, has to form the framework for an equitable global distribution of emissions permits, assigned to different countries on a per-capita basis. Countries with the largest populations will therefore get the most permits, but for the sake of efficiency and to achieve economic convergence these permits will need to be internationally tradable.

This is the only solution likely to be acceptable to most of the developing world, which unlike us has not had the benefit of over a century of fossil fuel-driven economic prosperity. And it also meets one of the key demands of the United States, that developing countries should not be excluded from emissions targets, as they currently are under the Kyoto protocol."

Full article at: -

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1007042,00.html>

Sir John Houghton was formerly chief executive of the Meteorological Office and co-chair of the scientific assessment working group of the intergovernmental panel on climate change. He is the author of Global Warming: the Complete Briefing.

"C&C Roadmap" Aubrey Meyer

Aug 01, 2003 03:23 PDT

A C&C Roadmap is essential for success.

Argus Energy Monthly [pp 12/13] interview is at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/Interviews/Argus_C&C_Interview.pdf

[Excerpts]

"What about the US? Would it support C&C?"

"They do, but may not have spotted it. The Bush administration made stabilising atmospheric GHG concentration a global security issue last year. Together with the Byrd-Hagel resolution, this is C&C by definition. Technology is crucial, but the C&C roadmap to deliver this stabilisation is indispensable for global success."

"Can you talk about your interface with big capital, and the multinational companies?"

"Businesses, especially in energy, want to proceed in a responsible way, but they are in difficulty for lack of a road map. Long-term investments have to be secure, and in the absence of a road map there is uncertainty. People are nervous of doing what they know is necessary.

Banks and insurance companies know we need a habitable planet to have an economy. At present rates of damage increase from climate change, huge swathes of equity will become uninsurable as the risks become too big to carry.

Some have already called for C&C as it creates a roadmap for security and prosperity. They have to underwrite the present system but also have the clout to force C&C. It is only a matter of time."

IPPR says, "C&C is Blair's Climate Covenant" Aubrey Meyer

Aug 07, 2003 00:12 PDT

Launched today with wide attention from printed and broadcast media,
New IPPR Report champions "Contraction and Convergence"

"As the scale of the [climate] challenge sinks in, many voices will argue that the challenges are too difficult; that we should muddle through rather than tackle the issue head-on; that the equity dilemma should be fudged and swept under the carpet.

If the Government truly wishes to show leadership on international climate policy, it must ignore these calls and instead accept the need for a managed process of convergence in North-South emissions entitlements.

Global climate policy offers a concrete opportunity to start defining what global social democracy looks like in practice – not least since the UK Government will hold the rotating EU Presidency in the second half of 2005, the deadline for deciding what happens after Kyoto expires.

The Prime Minister has already expressed his desire to create a global deal or 'climate covenant' between North and South on the issue of climate change.

IPPR's belief is that the Contraction and Convergence framework for global climate policy is the practical application of this aspiration. The Government should rise to the challenge."

Tony Grayling

Associate Director and Head of Sustainability,

Institute of Public Policy research IPPR

London

www.ippr.org.uk

IPPR Press Release

<http://www.gci.org.uk/news/IPPR.pdf>

IPPR Report Contents

http://www.gci.org.uk/news/IPPR_Contents.pdf

IPPR Report

http://www.gci.org.uk/news/IPPR_Report.pdf

[includes vivid 'C&C/Framework versus Kyoto/Guesswork' letter exchange between A. Evans of IPPR and J. Cameron of law firm Baker McKenzie].

C&C; - Oneworld, Wilton Park & Insurers Press the case. Aubrey Meyer

Aug 21, 2003 08:04 PDT

One World Guest editorial (21.08.2003)

Global Warming: Why We Need Equity for Survival

"Steady progress worldwide towards limited equal rights to burn fossil fuels is the only workable alternative to the nightmare of climate destabilization," says Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute.

<http://www.oneworld.net/article/archive/4281>

<http://www.oneworld.net/article/view/66455/1/>

For a very different and very audience, this is a slightly abbreviated version of the Argus Energy Q&A Interview.

In the last answer, the pro-C&C insurance-pressure point is conveyed at the links below.

The Q&A to 'Kyoto' reads: -

"Kyoto delays global contraction and makes convergence random. C&C makes possible a global rate of convergence that can be accelerated relative to contraction and this can be used to resolve the row about the historic accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere from the industrial countries. More rapid convergence shifts future equity share to the developing countries to settle this 'debt'.

This makes agreement to work together possible."

In November, GCI will make and e-publish a detailed presentation/animation on this aspect of the C&C methodology at the Wilton Park Conference (UK FCO) for Climate Negotiators, just prior to their going to COP-9 in December in Milan.

The 'Climate Community' event - 'Climate Debt, Resolution with C&C' - [also at Wilton Park] immediately precedes this.

Contact: -

"Chris Layton" <chris.-@internet-today.co.uk>;

To set C&C in the context of 'The Ecology of Money', FEASTA (The Irish based Economics of Sustainability Group) and the New Economics Foundation in London are planning a third event just prior to the Climate Community Event.

Contact: -

"Richard Douthwaite" <rich-@douthwaite.net>;

Insurers keep up pressure for C&C

"Climate Change and the Financial Services Sector"

Dlugolecki and Loster (Munich Re) in Geneva Papers 28.3

"The most active members also lobby policymakers at the international level ... for the adoption of a long-term political framework like "Contraction and Convergence" to succeed the Kyoto Protocol."

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/servlet/useragent?func=callWizard&wizardKey=salesAgent:1061456112839&action=show>

Greener Management International 39

"Climate Change and the Insurance Sector"

"One policy issue that insurers are beginning to examine is the need for agreement on a long-term framework for emissions control...there is a real possibility that climate change will run away, resulting in major disruptions from abnormal weather and sharp, unplanned and inefficient changes in energy policy.

In its position paper for COP7 UNEPFI commends "Contraction and Convergence" to policymakers as a method that tackle these problems."

Acquisition expensive but contact: -

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C&C - a new Global Monetary System Aubrey Meyer

Aug 24, 2003 08:13 PDT

'Proposals for a sustainable C&C-based global monetary system'.

GCI/FEASTA (2000)

In this message, GCI draws attention to the 'Ecology of Money' (Douthwaite, Green Books) and the proposals for 'C&C in a new Global Monetary System'; links, see below.

But first - since its a bank-holiday - a little true and light-hearted preamble

In 1994 William Nordhaus, eminent Professor of Economics at Yale, wrote to GCI. It was a cross letter about GCI and himself. It was also about money. In a moment of satire the profesor told us that, "spotted-owl equivalents" would do just as well as dollars! See: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Letters/Nordhaus.pdf>

GCI considered this and then put it to the test. We asked if 'human-equivalence' followed?

This led to the plan we later drafted for a sustainable global economy defined below.

But at the time, the answer was 'no' . . . and this simple challenge led to big rows and then to the epic downfall of the global cost/benefit analysis (G-CBA) of climate change.

But the G-CBA was attempted by Prof. Nordhaus and his students (such as David Pearce of UCL) in the IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)

1993/1995.

As they could not win the argument that fifteen dead Chinese people had the same value as one dead English person - let alone handle the currency implications - the G-CBA was ridiculed as, "the economics of genocide" and largely removed from the SAR. And anyway, 'spot-pricing survival' was not regarded as a sensible way to proceed.

Even eminent persons, such as the former UK Ambassador to the UN Sir Crispin Tickell, wrote at the last minute to Pearce urging him to rethink . . . see: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/Letters/Tickell_Pearce_1995.pdf

To no avail. Some of this whole story and its press is at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/Letters_Articles_1989_2002.pdf

[This difficult period have its lighter moments. Many of these are recorded in the files GCI has kept of letters like these that were flying angrily back and forth . . . I'll have to put them all out one of these days]

Anyway, having established C&C between 1990 and 1997, GCI went on with FEASTA to publish in 2000 a draft document outlining a new and sustainable global economic system based on C&C and the Ecology of Money.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/news/NoordwijkTreaty.pdf>

A feature of this proposal is that it reframes global trading - including 'emissions-trading' - in a context where the entropic nature of present monetary system is made subject to the negative feedbacks required of 'sustainability' and net zero growth.

The package goes beyond reform and the debt-forgiveness/bankruptcy proceedings that seem fashionable in some quarters.

The package resolves the cimate 'debt' in a global financial system to operate at equilibrium not in the increasingly phantasy conditions of exponential growth.

The proposals are probably the most radical suggestions ever published on how to make the structural adjustments required for economic and social longevity - a viable future - for all.

The basis of the argument is now finding voice in the USA. In the literally hunreds of C&C references emerging now weekly on the web, the most succinct and pointed overall take can be found at: -

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/cgi-bin/MasterPFP.cgi?doc=http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/081803_peril_pt1_summary.html

"Imminent Peril" (Part I)

by Dale Allen Pfeiffer, FTW Contributing Editor for Energy

Scientists are warning that we have only one or two generations to avoid global catastrophe. Why aren't we heeding their warnings, and what can be done?

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[Excerpt only].

"A massive blackout cripples the Northeast US. More than 3000 die of heat in France. President Bush tells the world "This is a wake up call." But he doesn't tell the truth about why this is so.

For more than 40 years, according to data analyzed by the Global Commons Institute (GCI) (www.gci.org.uk) there has been a near 100% correlation between world GDP growth and the emission of greenhouse gases from the consumption of hydrocarbon energy. This demonstrates the occurring collision of an economic paradigm based upon debt, fractional reserve banking and infinite growth with unavoidable limits on the energy that fuels that growth. Peak Oil and Gas is killing us now. The environment has just formed an axis with it.

As GCI has so succinctly stated, the human race – if it wishes to survive – must change from an economic model of Expansion and Divergence to one of Contraction and Convergence. What we are seeing is that it is not just the poor people who are going to perish, it is the rich ones too."

So back in the UK, Sir Jonathon Porritt - a UK Green Party member, Founder and Director of 'Forum for the Future' and Chairman of the UK Government's 'Sustainable Development Commission' - says its time to speak.

Sir Jonathon returns to the debate about the de/merits of economic growth in the Sept/October issue of "Resurgence" magazine (<http://www.resurgence.org>). A subject to which he was introduced when he apprenticed to Teddy Goldsmith in 1974 at the time of 'Limits to Growth' and 'A Blueprint for Survival'.

This is necessary but why at the same time, does Forum for the Future remain ambivalent about C&C? Have they got something the rest of us don't know about?

Their last comment, was to the effect that Forum didn't have a position in relation to C&C. And this tends to default towards the 'Guesswork' argumentation presented by James Cameron and rebutted by Alex Evans in the IPPR Autumn Journal see: -

<http://www.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read/message.html?mid=1714069164&sort=d&start=285>

If Sir Jonathon's Forum is for a Future with safe climate, the questions raised here invite answers that are globally stable and effective. IPPR does not believe that 'guesswork' on climate control is enough. They, like so many others now, see that a framework is required and that the framework is C&C.

Maybe the Forum members on GCN will stimulate some renewed debate about C&C and relate his to the imperative of a sustainable global monetary framework.

GCI on PEW Centre's C&C draft. Aubrey Meyer

Sep 01, 2003 11:36 PDT

PEW Centre draft papers on Climate Change Policy (August 2003)

http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-in-depth/international/working_papers/beyondkyoto.cfm

GCI comments on PEW Centre drafts

The intent of PEW's present authors to advance the efforts against climate change is welcome. Moreover, since these documents are still only draft chapters, one hopes they are still malleable not just on details, but on fundamentals too where these have been misconceived.

PEW's present effort reflects an ongoing failure to reconcile with the need for – indeed the inevitability of - a non-random global framework for urgent international action on GHG emission control, if the worst of climate change is to be avoided.

This failure also continues to provide a 'cover' under which PEW rehearse again epistemological confusion about the "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) concept.

Taking this point first, the comment in the third chapter by Ashton and Wang:

" . . . any conceivable long-term solution to the climate problem will embody, at least in crude

form, a high degree of contraction and convergence. Atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases cannot stabilize unless total emissions contract; and emissions cannot contract unless per capita emissions converge."

. . . does this mean that this is only 'now' <in>contestable. If so, when did this become true? It has been like finding and capturing the Golden Fleece to get this acceptance, but here it is and GCI welcome this as far as it goes.

This comment correctly recognizes and also effectively <states> the mathematical and physical inevitability of some form and rates of C&C if GHG concentrations are to be stabilised or even just 'to stabilise'.

This is the apex point of whole policy discourse.

But because C&C is addressed only in chapter three, this is lost. Moreover, though GCI is referenced, there is no recognition of the case for urgent action we have made with the message for "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) over the last fifteen years.[<http://www.gci.org.uk/signon/OrigStatement2.pdf>]

To bring this out, we ask PEW to recognise the logic of C&C at the outset of the Report. This apex logic – ahead of the putative 'equity' content of C&C in chapter three - should be made in the first chapter about "A long term target". This target is correctly discussed in terms of the UNFCCC objective, namely stable GHG concentration in the global atmosphere at a sufficiently low level to avoid dangerous rates of climate change.

This "long term target" is fundamental to the exercise and the apex logic of C&C is fundamental to achieving it. To acknowledge this at the outset also helps the emergent understanding of this in the climate change debate, see: -

[<http://www.gci.org.uk/slideshow/C&CSlideshow.ppt>]

To avoid the obverse, "no C&C, no safe climate", this amendment should be a top priority in the reappraisal of this report as a whole, as this is the present import of the Pershing Tudela chapter.

At present - incredibly at this increasingly dangerous stage of the game - they advocate a 'hedging strategy' on target decisions, saying these should be deferred until 2020.

We have been hedging for the last fifteen years with no-regrets formulations and related trade-off based formulations. Even in 1990 John Knaess of the US delegation said the only issue was how much warming how soon, not proposing recipes for too little too late.

To defer yet again, even in the mere intellectual think-space they call "Beyond Kyoto", is unforgivable. It is an invitation to increase danger by stealth in exchange for the 'unnoticed' rising opportunity cost of collapsing options for future safety and survival.

The invitation to go on effectively 'guessing' is daft. Moreover, this is aggravated by linking the analysis to carbon emissions integrals linked to atmospheric carbon concentration values from the IPCC that are out of date. IPCC assumed previously a more vigorous sink function than is now recognized to be the case.

[See Jenkins - IPPR Report http://www.gci.org.uk/news/IPPR_Report.pdf].

The Pershing Tudela chapter should be brought up to date on this central point of fact and data as a matter of urgency. The daftness of the hedging is apparent once this is done. The revised estimates now are for example that a former 450 ppmv carbon emissions integral leads to a 550 ppmv outcome.

Once this is corrected, it is also clear that the subsequent appraisal of C&C in the Ashton/Wang chapter - set in the context of this hedging and delay - merely makes intellectual noise. Hedging and delay create a context for all sorts of talkative 'political' assumptions about 'equity' with no security, led by this comment: -

"At the heart of the ["Contraction and Convergence" (C&C)] proposal lurks a contestable ideological choice" [C&C assigns every human being an equal entitlement to the emission of greenhouse gases.]

This essentially says that C&C logic is ideologically contestable.

So what? Everything is contestable if people just want to talk about it. The comfortably daft obverse is to say that being illogical is not being ideological and all's well.

If they effectively say the logic of C&C is incontestable on the one hand but convert it back to "contestable ideology" on the other, it just mixes the talk-shop failure of understanding with a fatal lack of urgency.

This is further reduced to bathos with daft and incommensurable trade-offs between e.g. Canada's 'extra' heating needs [against the unmentioned e.g. India's extra cooling needs] as 'proof' of the 'contestability of the [falsely asserted] 'ideological choice' - all as the world warms to this confusion.

None of this is a sensible challenge to the robustness of the C&C proposition itself. Also, to put up straw men in association with the defence of delay in chapter one is a failure too to address the mounting opportunity cost of retarded realisation.

It doesn't just trivialise the debate, it gives an unearned kiss-of-life to the dithering hands of the 'hedging' strategy argued by Pershing and Tudela. It simply leads from the present school of confusion to the too-late-for-understanding-now of our children's early middle age.

GCI assumes 'survival' - the avoidance of dangerous rates of climate change - is what drives this whole debate and that C&C is by definition fundamental to this exercise.

Ashton and Wang acknowledge this. Given that, C&C is no more ideological than peanuts [food] or less 'ideological' than genocide [no survival].

GCI made the case against the economics of genocide to the IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR) [ICRPE Science Press, 1995] when we were at 360 ppmv. Now in 2003, while we are still at a mere 373 ppmv CO₂ in the global atmosphere today and rising, the rising death toll simply from the European heat-wave this summer, bears out the anti-genocide analysis put forward.

Our contribution to the SAR said that it is dysfunctional and daft to keep rehearsing the climate debate in a context where avoiding climate change is seen as (even temporarily or even potentially) 'more expensive' than adapting to it, because it effectively demonstrates that people killed by climate change related impacts are a net benefit not a cost. By accident this is genocide and by design the legal implications make every death a case in the court of crimes against humanity.

Even the former Chair of IPCC WG1 [Houghton] "unhesitatingly" now says that "climate change is a weapon of mass destruction" and that international C&C-based action is urgently necessary.

<http://www.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read/message.html?mid=1713932985&sort=d&start=286>

We should be preparing to act coherently and urgently to this end.

If the PEW centre wants to avoid positioning that invites an attack for failing to speak to this need, now is the time to do it.

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

In October 1998 PEW's Eileen Claussen rehearsed their misunderstanding of C&C in PEW's first Report, "Equity in Global Climate Change"

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/pol%5Fequity%2Epdf>

On page eleven the report observed, "... several proposals for convergence around a uniform per capita emissions level have set the bar at around one ton of carbon dioxide" asking, "Is this possible?" and answering, "If enough people think it is impractical—regardless of whether they think it is fair—the chances of implementing any international mitigation standards are reduced."

This was aimed at C&C and missed twice.

The first point is that the per capita consumption values recorded in any C&C scenario are the results of – not the cause of or even the <goal> of the model. The <cause> of all the gross and per capita values generated in any C&C scenario are the result of two nested procedures: -

(1) choosing an atmospheric concentration target and linking this back to the IPCC gross emis-

sions integrals in the carbon cycle models, and

(2) selecting within the time-frame that arises from this first choice, a date by which shares to the total available carbon consumption have equalized per capita

Considerations of: -

(1) population numbers being set to a base year and

(2) the regional grouping into which countries may chose to organize themselves

and the effects of these are easily demonstrated derivative considerations with the use of the C&COptions model.

At issue is that GCI did not - and C&C does not - just choose a number for global average per capita fossil fuel consumption off the peg vaguely between over consumers and under consumers like flotsam off the Washington beltway.

The second point is that the issues of 'fairness' and 'impracticality' raised are bogus. All it effectively says in reverse is that if enough people think its practical then we will do it.

This is the tragedy of the commoners and public opinion who found out too late that straw men and the practice of consumer sovereignty had become so estranged from the laws of physics in the early 21st Century they did not see through the misguidance by PEW reports until climate change had become unstoppable.

The attack on C&C by WRI's Nancy Kete at PEW in 2001 – the "Groucho Marx school of thought" – was a boomerang. It was funny as it whistled by at the time. But it was much funnier when it went full circle and knocked her off her perch.

Kerplunk! . . . and Jonathon Pershing has taken over her job.

Has he taken over her world view?

Time will tell.

C&C - A Framework for the Future Aubrey Meyer

Sep 08, 2003 22:59 PDT

Jubilee 2000 - now Jubilee Plus - has just published their, "Real World Economic Outlook" (RWEO) to considerable acclaim. The theme is debt, the nature of debt and now the climate-debt to nature of fast-breeder banking, hydrocarbon man.

Here is an extract from an RWEO article that sees future debt campaigning defined by climate-change as 'ecological debt' that is repaid through C&C.

"It is never likely that everyone in the world will use identical amounts of fossil fuels. However, it is highly likely that any deal to manage the global commons of the atmosphere will have to be based on the principle that, in a carbon-constrained world, everyone should have equal entitlements to their share of the atmosphere's ability to safely absorb pollution. Under that agreement, those people and nations that take the economic benefits by polluting more than their fair share will have to somehow pay compensation to the 'under-polluters' by purchasing their spare entitlements. Otherwise they run up a huge ecological debt.

The necessary process is to cap total emissions, progressively reduce them, and share entitlements to emit using a formula so that in an agreed timeframe they converge to being equal per person. This largely unavoidable procedure – if chaos is to be avoided - was given the term 'Contraction and Convergence' by the London-based Global Commons Institute.

In essence it says that the world has a carbon cake strictly limited in size (beyond certain dimensions it becomes rapidly poisonous for everyone) and that the only way to begin negotiations on how to cut the cake is to start with the principle that we all have equal access rights. What we do with them is another matter. This has enormous, and from a development perspective, very positive consequences."

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/RWEO.pdf>

On the eve of the trade round in Cancun, George Monbiot in today's Guardian, also sees that C&C can rebalance North/South trade relations and go some way to resolving the ecological debt: -

"To these just measures we can add another, developed by the man who designed the "contraction and convergence" plan for tackling climate change, Aubrey Meyer. Contraction and convergence, which the African governments have now adopted as their official position on climate change, first establishes how much carbon dioxide humans can produce each year without cooking the planet. It then divides that sum between all the people of the world, and allocates to each nation, on the basis of its population, a quota for gas production. It proposes a steady contraction of the total production of climate-changing gases and a convergence, to equality, of national production per head of population.

To produce more than its share a nation must first buy unused quota from another one.

Meyer points out that by accelerating convergence we would grant the poor world a massive trade advantage. Those nations using the least fossil fuel would possess a near-monopoly over the trade in emissions. This would help redress the economic balance between rich and poor and compensate the poor for the damage inflicted by the rich nations' pollution."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1038164,00.html>

For the last 15 years, GCI has campaigned for C&C as the structural basis for developing sustainable systems, based on resource conservation and global rights.

C&C is the gold standard of climate security and acceptance of this 'framework for the future' is growing relentlessly.

Factor 4 to Factor 50 Aubrey Meyer

Sep 11, 2003 10:36 PDT

Fun - 'Factor 4' . . . to . . . 'Factor 50'.

[C&C for 450 ppmv emissions path and \$GDP at 3%/yr]

5000% efficiency gains just isn't going to happen.

Anyway, for a walk on the wild-side, hit advance on the slide . . . [and be sure to turn up the sound just a bit . . .]

<http://www.gci.org.uk/images/FunF50.ppt>

Oil Depletion Doesn't S Aubrey Meyer

Oct 02, 2003 17:26 PDT

http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/Growing_Problem.pdf

OIL & GAS DEPLETION vs CO2 SINKS COLLAPSE

CLIMATE CHANGE IS STILL A GROWING PROBLEM

UKMO Hadley Centre has published data¹ on 'carbon-cycle' modelling that shows some positive-feedback effects with carbon emissions. These are emissions from global forest die-back, soils and oceans as global temperature rises in response to human greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and rising atmospheric GHG concentrations and temperature.

Unless there is prompt action to reduce human source emissions, UKMO's modelling indicates that the natural sinks for CO₂ gradually convert to being sources over the decades ahead and that this creates conditions for runaway global climate changes.

Taking this into account, the 'new' integral of CO₂ emissions (between 1990 and 2100) required to limit concentrations to 450 ppmv, is 180 giga tonnes carbon (GTC) less than has been published since 1994 by the IPCC (see graph 1 2). If the extra 180 GTC is emitted, it means that GHG concentrations will rise above 550 ppmv (see graph 2).

In the latter case, the associated temperature rise (not shown) will exceed the 2° Celsius global temperature rise considered the upper limit of 'non dangerous' and certainly trigger runaway conditions.

This starkly rebuts the claim made today by ASPO's Kjell Akhlett 3. "Because we are running out of oil and gas, climate change will never happen", he says. However, in the light of the above, ASPO's data show we are running out of oil and gas 'too slowly' to prevent some climate change. Moreover, the use of coal – which is abundant – will also have to contract at a rate comparable to oil and gas depletion if dangerous climate change is to be avoided.

One way or another, difficult times are upon us.

2 C&C connected Conferences - Wilton Park. Aubrey Meyer

Oct 09, 2003 08:49 PDT

FIRST CONFERENCE 15th -17th November, 2003

You are warmly invited to take part in the North-South "Climate Community" Conference, 15th -17th November at Wilton Park, UK.

This builds on the "Climate Community" event held at SB-18 in June seeking to establish "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) as the formal basis for achieving the objective of the UNFCCC.

Speakers include Sir John Houghton; Michael Meacher, former UK Minister for the Environment; officials and Members Parliament from Europe and developing countries.

<http://www.oneworldtrust.org/htmlgloclimate/>

Full Cost contribution: £475; NGOs: £325;

Enquiries about local travel and special rates for participants from

Developing Countries should be addressed to: -

David Grace,

Conference Administrator,

Newlands,

68 Furnham Rd.,

Chard,

Somerset, 2A2 01A ,

email david-@insideeurope.fsnet.co.uk

Ph 00 44 (0)146 067368

SECOND CONFERENCE 17th - 20th November, 2003

A further Climate Change conference at Wilton Park Conference 17th - 20th. "What Needs to be done in North and South. What next for the Kyoto process?"

Draft agenda at: -

www.wiltonpark.org.uk/web/conferences/wrapper.asp?confref=WP730

Registration at: -

<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/web/apply/application2b.asp>

Negotiators and technical experts from countries all over the world meet to review policy – including "Contraction and Convergence" prior to UNFCCC COP-9 in Milan in December.

<http://unfccc.int/cop9/index.html>

Both Conferences will have technical sessions on "Contraction & Convergence" that examine the potential effects and implications of; -

- adjustable rates of C&C
- "Regional Bubbling" in negotiating C&C
- oil and gas depletion
- the Hadley Centre's carbon cycle (sinks) modelling
- large (industry) scale carbon sequestration proposals

- carbon trade without capping

C&C for UK Liberal Democrats Aubrey Meyer

Oct 13, 2003 16:07 PDT

June 2003

UK Liberal Democrats

Conserving the Future - Proposals on Energy Policy

Policy Paper 58

http://www.libdems.org.uk/documents/policies/Policy_Papers/58ConservingtheFuture.pdf

2.4.6

Preparations also need to be made for the longer-term development of the Protocol, beyond the first commitment period of 2008–12.

Liberal Democrats argue for:

- Further and more ambitious emissions reductions targets should be agreed for the second and subsequent commitment periods, based on the principle of 'contraction and convergence' with the long-term goal of equalising per capita emissions across the world.
- Generous assistance with finance and technology transfer must be made available to developing countries to assist them in meeting their targets.

UK Liberal Democrat

Working Group on Energy

Andrew Warren (Chair)

Terry Jones Andrew Stunell MP

Richard Balmer

Tamsin Lishman

Cllr Alan Thawley

Duncan Brack

Maria Menezes

Siobhan Vitelli

Cllr Paul Burall

Cllr Bill Powell

Vince Cable MP

Liz Pym Staff

James Cameron

David Simpson

Chris Davies MEP

Sir Robert Smith MP

Christian Moon

Mark Hinnells

Neil Stockley

Note: Membership of the Working Group should not be taken to indicate that every member necessarily agrees with every statement or every proposal in this paper.

"Buying into C&C ?" Aubrey Meyer

Oct 30, 2003 03:40 PST

"C&C is an idea I personally very much buy into."

John Harman

Chairman of the Environment Agency UK

Plenary session at their annual meeting 2003

"UK Government (climate) policy is consistent with C&C."

David Warrilow

UK Environment Ministry

Moscow Environment Conference - Sept 2003

GCI's latest C&C animation developed in 'Flash' for the November Wilton Park Climate Conference, is available on line.

[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo\(pc\).exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo(pc).exe)

A few places are still available at these: - A few places available at this North-South conference exploring the potential for a "climate community" based on contraction and convergence, at Wilton Park, UK, from 15-17 November.

Conference website:

<http://www.oneworldtrust.org/htmlgloclimate/gloclimate.htm>

Confirmed speakers include Sir John Houghton; Sir Crispin Tickell; Rt Hon. Michael Meacher MP, former UK Minister for the Environment; officials and Members Parliament from Europe and developing countries.

This will be followed by:

CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN NORTH AND SOUTH?

Monday 17 Thursday 20 November 2003:

What next for the Kyoto process?

www.wiltonpark.org.uk/web/conferences/wrapper.asp?confref=WP730

Enquiries about participation to

David Grace, conference administrator, at

Newlands, 68 Furnham Rd., Chard, Somerset, 2A2 01A , UK;

email david-@insideeurope.fsnet.co.uk

Tel: (international 44) or (uk 0)146 067368

Full Cost contribution including board and lodging: £475.

Reduced rates available to participants from developing countries and NGOs.

** Three free places available for representatives of developing country governments ***

Please contact conference administrator for details.

Programme enquiries to Titus Alexander, in-@cewc.org

Titus Alexander

Council for Education in World Citizenship

32 Carisbrooke Road

London

E17 7EF

Tel: 020 8521 6977

Mobile: 07720394740

Email: tit-@cewc.org

www.cewc.org

C&C and the McCain Lieberman Bill Aubrey Meyer

Oct 31, 2003 08:33 PST

Please might someone on GCN in the US forward this letter for us.

Since we are resident outside the US, the email facility provided by the US-based EDF does not work for us. The website address for doing this is at: -

<http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/gwthank/step1#>

With thanks

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

Dear Senators Voting For S. 139 *

* see all names see below

We have been asked by the Washington-based Environment Defence Fund to write and thank you for voting in favor of the McCain-Lieberman Climate Stewardship Act (S. 139).

Global warming is a rising concern for all of us in the world, North and South. Your support for this legislation demonstrates your commitment to reducing the greenhouse gas pollution that causes global warming.

Once again, warmly 'thank you'.

We couldn't help noticing that Senators Byrd and Hagel - while affirming the dangers of climate change - did not join you. Their complaint in 1997 was - and is now again - that 'developing countries' are 'left out of Kyoto-style agreements'. To address this in 1997, they tabled and won the Byrd Hagel Senate resolution.

We are concerned to see that the Russian swing-vote on Kyoto has presently been linked to this argument about inclusivity as well. This has caused great concern in Europe about the future of Kyoto as without your support, that swing vote is now the make-or-break of Kyoto.

Please don't stop arguing your case as defined in the McC/L bill. All power to your efforts. However, may we make a suggestion.

You might consider developing your campaign in a manner that includes <an answer> to the Byrd Hagel objection.

The Byrd Hagel Resolution advocated greenhouse gas entitlement/commitments for all nations in the same time-frames, accepting the quantitative distinction between 'reductions' and 'limitations'. In other words, the Senate argued that negative and positive growth of emissions could proceed globally in parallel, as long as indexed in some path-control to the overall control of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere that also closed the gap between the rich and the poor nations.

When this is read in the light of President Bush's signal in the Security Statement of last November to stabilising rising atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration, it leads in sum to an internationally inclusive programme for global greenhouse gas emissions "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C).

In truth C&C is required by definition if dangerous rates of climate change are to be avoided. The need for this understanding is urgent as we have increasingly less time to achieve C&C since we are creating the problem of climate changes much faster than we are responding to them.

Some good news is that after a long build up - over several years - the UK Government has at last put on the record [at the recent Climate Conference in Moscow] that as of this year's Energy White Paper, UK climate policy is now, "consistent with Contraction and Convergence".

We know of many other Europeans now making remarks consistent with this. And C&C also has valuable on-the-record support in developing countries. We would be happy to share this information with you if desired.

The rates of C&C would clearly be negotiable and also revisable in the light of increased scientific understanding. However, the strength of C&C is that it generically captures the objective and principles the governing documentation in the UN FCCC in an overall coherent proposition.

The bottom line here is potentially progressive; - Senators Byrd and Hagel might - and even should - have no difficulty in supporting the combination of your bill and theirs, as in combination with the President's position on concentrations, they can be understood as C&C by definition. We are happy to elucidate this further at your pleasure.
Yours sincerely

Aubrey Meyer
Director
GCI
37 Ravenswood Road
LONDON E17 9LY

Ph/Fx 00 44 (0)208 520 4742
GCI <http://www.gci.org.uk>
C&C Refs <http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation>
GCN <http://www.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read>

Senators Voting For S. 139

Senator Daniel Akaka
Senator Evan Bayh
Senator Joseph Biden
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Thomas Carper
Senator Lincoln Chafee
Senator Hillary Clinton
Senator Susan Collins
Senator Jon Corzine
Senator Tom Daschle
Senator Mark Dayton
Senator Christopher Dodd
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Russell Feingold
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Bob Graham
Senator Judd Gregg
Senator Tom Harkin
Senator Ernest Hollings
Senator Daniel Inouye
Senator James Jeffords
Senator Tim Johnson
Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Senator Herb Kohl

Senator Frank Lautenberg
Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator Joseph Lieberman
Senator Richard Lugar
Senator John McCain
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Harry Reid
Senator John Rockefeller
Senator Paul Sarbanes
Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Olympia Snowe
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Senator Ron Wyden

AESR on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 01, 2003 09:40 PST

Architects and Engineers for Social Responsibility [AESR] . . .

<<http://www.jakob.demon.co.uk/>>

. . . have just published an excellent briefing on Energy.

It nicely synthesizes various security issues including C&C in relation to oil depletion and climate change.

It is available at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/Energy_Paper.pdf

Thank you very much to all those people who responded to the request yesterday to convey a GCI letter to the US Senators who voted for the McCain Lieberman Climate Stewardship Act.

GCI also put the gist of the letter, as a (tidied up) press release, at:

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/GCI_Press_release_31.pdf

Thank you too for the specific enquiries. I will answer them.

C&C Debate at St. James Piccadilly Aubrey Meyer

Nov 03, 2003 04:37 PST

C&C Debate - "Beyond Kyoto"

19th NOVEMBER, 6.30pm

At the historic and beautiful

ST. JAMES'S PICCADILLY

LONDON

6.30 pm: INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE RECTOR

6.35pm: FIRST INPUTS:

1: AUBREY MEYER

to give an educational introduction. [If possible GCI will use again the C&C graphic animation prepared for the Wilton Park Conferences].

2: MICHAEL MEACHER

to speak on the political context and the practical nature of negotiations.

3: MICHAEL GRUBB

to give an alternative voice to the process and raise some of the difficult questions.

4: Rev JOHN OLIVER

to give some theological underpinning and refer to the ethical issues regarding an agreement which can be 'open, equitable'.

7.05pm (approx): CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

7.48pm: FINAL SUMMING UP BY PANELLISTS:

8pm: CLOSE

Venue details: -

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH,

197 Piccadilly,

London W1J 9LL,

Tel. 020 7734 4511

Fax 020 7734 7449

Website. www.st-james-piccadilly.org

Contact: -

Ellen Boucher

Parish Secretary

Can you C&C? - US Senator Byrd Aubrey Meyer

Nov 14, 2003 05:39 PST

Senator Byrd addresses the US Senate, see: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Byrd.pdf>

Over the week ahead at both the Wilton Park Climate Conferences, the basis of a constructive engagement with this long-term reasoning can and should be explored.

Guesswork or framework, the name of the meme remains C&C; - "the mathematical inevitability of C&C."

Byrd's message suggests that the former coalition of the wanton seeks a coalition of the willing.

C&C enables the coalition of the wounded to present C&C again as the way forward for the UNFCCC - "The United Nation Framework Convention for Contraction and Convergence".

GCI C&C Animation for Wilton Park Aubrey Meyer

Nov 19, 2003 08:10 PST

This animation of C&C was presented at two conferences at Wilton Park over the last five days. Along with the C&C all-outry wall-chart, the animation was presented as a 'teaching tool'.

North/South reaction to it at both events can be summarised in the attendees repeated use of the words, "simple, the best, brilliant, art".

Both events reflected the view that the case for C&C has been won scientifically, morally, logically and increasingly now politically.

The animation can be 'read' in a web browser if the computer used has the Macro Media Flash Player loaded. In case not, go to: -

for a free download (PC or Mac).

Animation at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C_Presentation_WiltonPark_2003.exe

C&C wall chart at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C_Bubbles.pdf

Conference Statement - the "Chanctonbury Initiative" - available from: -
christoph-@btinternet.com

This is success. Eminent people are now calling for it to be recognised:

<http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/Sasakawa.pdf>

My thanks to all of them and many others who have contributed to it.

Tim Helweg Larsen of GCI will represent the animation at COP-9. He put more consistent hours of creative hard-graft into it over the last month than there were hours in day to count.

He is a blessed soul.

Music is the food of love . . . Aubrey Meyer

Nov 20, 2003 20:35 PST

The carnage in Istanbul today tells again that when we are defined by hate we are divided, and can only be united by what we love.

Here is a piece of music I wrote for three wonderful players in the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 1984; - Rusen from Turkey (the Principal Viola Player), Mark (the Principal Cellist) and Bob (the first clarinetist).

It is called "Uskudar Giderken" or 'what happened on the road to the village of Uskudar'. It is based on a Turkish folk-tune known and sung throughout the Near-East and loved by Arabs and Jews and well just about anybody.

Rusen asked for this to be written so their new Trio Group - Amoroso - could play something that 'felt like home' for him at a concert they were to give in the Turkish Embassy that year.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/USKUDAR.wma>

If you have an ADSL link and a reasonably current Windows media player, you can wander from the plains of Anatolia to the souks of Uskudar and dance wildly in the harem before you leave for the desert and the sunset.

If you don't have those gizmos but are tempted, write and I'll send you a CD that you can play on your computer or on your hi-fi CD (you need to specify which; the formats are different).

An angry climate contrarian individual at the recent Wilton Park Conference asked if I thought C&C was 'an act of God'. I thought, that's a very good point, I must ask. She also said I should give up with C&C and go back to music. I also thought, that would be nice I thought but its too soon.

Anyway, here's a bit of music in the meantime. Somewhere in all this it says, to be 'tough on terrorism' you you have to be tougher on the causes of terrorism.

But what do I know . . .

Aubrey

C&C Animation for Apple Mac Aubrey Meyer

Nov 24, 2003 10:51 PST

The C&C animation posted last week at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C_Presentation_WiltonPark_2003.exe

works only on pcs (Windows). I now realize it won't work on Apple Macs.

For those who have written asking for a version that does work for Apple Mac, this new link should do the job: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C_Presentation_WiltonPark_2003_AppleMac.hqx

Before COP9 these links will be updated with a new version of the animation that includes com-

mentary and navigation features.

Thanks for all the feedback re the music. CDs are being prepared for mail-out to those who asked.

Regards

Aubrey

C&C and the WBGU for COP-9 Aubrey Meyer

Nov 24, 2003 21:55 PST

Published today - on the eve of COP-9 - the German Advisory Council on the Global Environment (WBGU)

" . . . recommends that emission rights for the greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol be allocated according to the 'contraction and convergence' approach . . . "

http://www.wbgu.de/wbgu_sn2003_engl.pdf

2.3.7 - Conclusions

"Particularly with regard to targetedness in terms of CO2 emissions, in consideration of the fundamentally equal right of all individuals to emissions, and further considering the principle of constancy, the WBGU has decided to base its in-depth analysis of the implications of emissions allocation on the contraction and convergence model."

This is Bride with dowry will marry . . . The report is a set-piece of C&C advocacy. And, as with the Royal Commission, WBGU propose 2050 as the convergence year. Southern Countries are being courted now and they know a faster convergence [bigger dowry] is also possible [see C&C animation just announced].

As a little green book once said . . .

" . . . you can look at the UN climate negotiations as just a little haggle over an ante-nuptial contract in the shot-gun marriage that climate change forces on us all."

GCI - C&C Animation at COP-9 Aubrey Meyer

Nov 29, 2003 06:14 PST

COP-9 UNFCCC takes place in Milan Italy over the next two weeks.

For this, an updated version of the C&C Animation is ready with notes and touch-sensitive buttons for on-screen navigation.

This core visual statement of C&C in motion, will be projected at the GCI stand throughout COP-9. And it will also inform at least three C&C related side-events: -

[1] GCI - [for technical] on Friday the 5th, and in the 2nd week: -

[2] WBGU - [present their new C&C centred report]

[3] UNEPFI - [Munich Re now ask members to speak in favour of C&C]

[4] Climate Community - [sustaining momentum from Wilton Park]

Two thousand CDs with the up-dated animation and the GCI archive are being circulated to participants at COP-9.

The animation is now also downloadable and viewable from these URLs.

pc users: - [http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo\(pc\).exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo(pc).exe)

mac users: - [http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo\(mac\).exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo(mac).exe)

[there may still be problems for som mac users; we'll try to support enquiries]

Sadly, the GCN list appears to have been the target of considerable hacking in the last month. So we're setting up new arrangements for the list and will communicate these in due course.

RCEP - "UK Gov. misunderstand C&C" Aubrey Meyer

Nov 30, 2003 05:00 PST

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) correctly says the UK Government 'mis-understand' C&C.

See RCEP Minutes of a meeting held on 3-4 April 2003: -

<http://www.rcep.org.uk/minutes/min03-04.pdf>

Item 6: RCP(03)109

Analysis of the government's response to the 22nd Report Energy – The Changing Climate.

"18. The Chairman noted that during his talk he had mentioned particularly the difficulty in the government's position of accepting the 60% cut in carbon dioxide emissions advocated in the Report without accepting the principle of contraction and convergence on which it was based.

Professor Clift also asked how the government could justify accepting the recommendation for a 60% cut in emissions without agreeing with the principle that had led to it. The Chairman said that the government had not fully rejected the model but said that they wanted to explore other options that might be more attractive to developing countries.

This seemed to misunderstand contraction and convergence."

Amplifying the misunderstanding, Mr Chen of the Chinese Academy of Sciences made a presentation at the IGES/NIES Open symposium, October 7, 2003, Tokyo;

"International Climate Regime beyond 2012: Issues and Challenges"

<http://www.iges.or.jp/en/cp/pdf/bkp/op2003/Chen.pdf>

He posed "Contraction and Convergence" as unfair to 'develop countries'.

He said C&C has: -

(1) No clear acknowledgement (of) the unfairness in reality

(2) allowing future unfairness in a long transitional period

(3) inevitably resulting in unfairness of the outcomes

We ask, "from whom are they getting this false and misleading information?"

GCI has written to the Chinese Academy of Sciences noting their arguments.

We have asked them in response to have a look at the slides at: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo\(pc\).exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo(pc).exe)

We have asked them particularly to look at the slides and notes in Chapter Two on the <rate> of convergence, noting the points about 'convergence accelerated relative to contraction'

We have pointed out that GCI is the author of C&C and that these slides are intended to address precisely the point they have raised.

We have put on record with the Chinese government that an effort has been made over 15 years to the effort of getting Western Bureaucrats to address this point.

We have asked for their help in getting this point across.

DEFRA's appearance at Wilton Park did nothing to correct this misunderstanding. It was also clear at Wilton Park 2 that the Chinese representatives who were present were receiving accurate C&C information for the first time from GCI and had been under some false impression about C&C from another source.

GCI made it clear at the meeting that we will continue to draw attention to misrepresentation of C&C, particularly on this point.

C&C in the Guardian [COP9] Aubrey Meyer

Dec 03, 2003 10:22 PST

Wednesday December 3, 2003

The Guardian [p13 Society supplement]

Hot topic

Mark Lynas, preparing for another meeting on the Kyoto agreement, examines whether there is an

alternative that could reduce global warming

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/societyguardian/story/0,7843,1097998,00.html>

" . . [extract] . . . If Russia makes a negative decision and Kyoto dies, more than a decade of international progress will have been lost and the world will find itself back with the failed voluntary commitments first advanced at the 1992 Earth summit.

Everyone, bar a few climate sceptics and the US rightwing, agrees this would be a disaster for the planet - not because Kyoto in itself did much to address the problem of global warming, but because it provided a vital first step on which future efforts could be built.

It also provided the beginnings of a policy framework, which would show industry that countries were serious about addressing climate change, greatly altering the investment climate. Who would build a coal-fired power station with a projected lifetime of 30 years if it was seen as likely that, within 20 years, carbon dioxide emissions would become so expensive as to make the whole thing uneconomic? But without this certainty, there is nothing to stop business as usual, and carbon emissions are projected to soar over the coming decades.

None of this would be a problem if the US had ratified Kyoto. But Bush's abrogation of the treaty was expressly intended to kill off international climate negotiations, and the chance of a change in policy under the current administration is zero.

There is a chance that Bush, who has had his poll ratings shot to pieces by the Iraqi resistance, will be defeated in the presidential elections in November 2004, but a dose of realism is useful: none of the Democratic contenders for the presidency have pledged to ratify Kyoto either. "It doesn't ask enough of developing countries," complains John Kerry, widely supposed to be the greenest of the candidates.

This is a frequent US refrain, first advanced by the Senate in 1997, that forbade American negotiators (then at Kyoto negotiating the protocol) from signing up to a treaty that did not include greenhouse gas commitments for developing countries.

At the time, this was seen as a deliberate attempt to torpedo Kyoto - but the sponsors of the bill, Senator Robert Byrd in particular, have since made statements showing concern about global warming and arguing that the time has come for action.

"We will all suffer from the consequences of global warming in the long run because we are all in the same global boat," Byrd declared during the recent debate on the McCain-Lieberman bill, which would have brought US emissions down to 2000 levels by 2010. The bill failed, but only by 12 votes - a victory of sorts for global warming advocates.

Given that the US accounts for a full quarter of global emissions, it is clear that no long-term solution can be reached if the world's only superpower continues to act as a free rider. Hence the growing interest around one proposal that would address American concerns over developing country participation at the same time as establishing a strong global framework for dealing with globalwarming once and for all: contraction and convergence (C&C).

C&C is a global solution: once an upper-level limit is set for atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, the global budget this implies would be divided among the world's countries on the basis of their populations. This would happen over a convergence period, throughout which emissions permits would be tradeable. Countries that under-consume (a Bangladeshi, on average, emits only one-fiftieth as much carbon as a Briton) would be able to increase emissions up to a fair level, but not indefinitely.

Given that all countries would have commitments, the concerns of America would be addressed, and at the same time dangerous global warming would be avoided.

This plan has gathered support from within Britain and the developing world. The former environment minister, Michael Meacher, is a supporter, as are Sir John Houghton (Britain's most eminent climate scientist), the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution - and many African governments. But C&C is hampered by a fear that it represents an alternative, and therefore a threat, to Kyoto.

There is no reason why this should be the case: advocates of C&C, originally of the Global Com-

mons Institute in London, emphasise that the plan is waiting in the wings as a next step after Kyoto is implemented, or as an alternative if it fails.

This should comfort my fellow optimists meeting in Milan between December 1 and 12. We can continue to press for Kyoto's ratification by Russia, in the knowledge that all is not lost without it. The task of saving the world's climate is too important for us to admit failure at such an early stage."

Mark Lynas is the author of *High Tide, News From a Warming World*, to be published by Flamingo in March 2004.

US PEW [& Larry Adler] on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Dec 03, 2003 10:48 PST

PEW on Contraction and Convergence

http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-in-depth/all_reports/beyond_kyoto/index.cfm

Still on the PEW [rather than on his knees as-it-were] John Ashton is the author of this PEW contribution, just published.

John came to the C&C presentation at Wilton Park. In his prepared response, he suddenly busked and said that he felt like mouth organist Larry Adler having to do an encore after a recital by Menuhin.

I actually knew Larry Adler. He was a better player than John's quip implies. He came and did the Gershwin Harmonica Concerto with the Ulster Orchestra in 1971 - beautifully.

But I do remember that he stopped playing suddenly during the final rehearsal and demanded money still owed to him by the management for a previous gig.

[extracts]

"The "Contraction and Convergence" proposal, developed by Aubrey Meyer . . . almost any conceivable long-term solution to the climate problem will embody, at least in crude form, a high degree of contraction and convergence.

Atmospheric concentrations of GHGs cannot stabilize unless total emissions contract; and emissions cannot contract unless per capita emissions converge.

The contraction and convergence proposal plays an important role in the climate process. It focuses attention on the ethical questions at the heart of the climate problem, which no long-term solution can afford to ignore.

If supported by a critical mass of countries, it would become an important force in the negotiation."

C&C - CIA, KGB, GCI . . . ! Aubrey Meyer

Dec 07, 2003 00:26 PST

The Independent on Sunday

Kyoto: there is no alternative

07 December 2003

"The future of the planet now rests in the hands of three people: President George Bush, President Vladimir Putin - and the unlikely figure of one Aubrey Meyer, a former concert violinist from east London.

President Bush has set out to kill the Kyoto Protocol. Despite growing support in the US for addressing climate change, he has spared no effort in stopping it coming into effect. He is putting the screws on President Putin. Under the protocol's rules, it now only needs Russia's ratification to come into force. The signals from Moscow are mixed, but Putin is thought to be waiting to see whether the US or the European governments, who support Kyoto, will come up with the best price.

And Mr Meyer? He is the still relatively unknown originator of a body that is fast becoming the leading contender in the fight against global warming, after Kyoto. To that end, he has set up the Global Commons Institute. Michael Meacher, the former Environment minister, endorses the plan - dubbed "contraction and convergence" - on page 22. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, the World Council of Churches, and African governments have all adopted it. Under the plan, every person on the planet would have the right to emit the same amount of carbon dioxide, which is the main cause of global warming. Each nation would be set quotas, adding up to a figure the world's climate could tolerate. They would be expected to meet them, say by 2050, and could buy and sell parts of them.

Kyoto must first be brought into force: there is no alternative. Then nations should start negotiating bigger cuts in pollution on this equitable basis - worked out in an unprepossessing London flat."

See also Michael Meacher

<http://argument.independent.co.uk/commentators/story.jsp?story=470786>

See also Geoffrey Lean (Front page).

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/environment/story.jsp?story=470838>

2 Reviews of C&C at St James Aubrey Meyer

Dec 08, 2003 10:54 PST

Two independent reviews of the C&C Event at St James Piccadilly last month.

(1) in the UK Spectator Magazine

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/article.php3?table=old&ion=current&issue=2003-12-06&id=3808>

(2) in 'Christian Ecology Link'

<http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/global-warming.htm>

My comment.

As a musician I know their are religious overtones to the harmonic series. Though we can act upon upon it with music, it exists not as an act of man.

When upon a once promised land, a holocaust now threatens, a vision of 'togetherness' or interdependence, built on the fundamentals or 'SPECS' of 'Science, Precaution, Equity and Commons Sense' in other words C&C, seems to me at least reasonable, if not necessarily religious.

However, these SPECS are not for The Spectator's Tom Fort.

At the effete end of being British, you'd think the Empire was the dream of a God who didn't count in Piccadilly and so moved in with a silver spoon in Park Lane.

The small matter of creeping genocide by climate change in Africa apparently doesn't count for him.

Maybe he could read last years' Parliamentary Committee Report on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, particularly as in Africa, to catch up a bit on what's happening there.

Chaired by that excellent Tory MP - Tony Baldry - the committee actually took former 'leftish' Secretary Clare Short and her Department for International Development to task for *failing* to take the matter seriously enough.

<http://www.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read/message.html?mid=1710655996&sort=d&start=206>

But here's the spectator with no SPECS followed by CEL.

The religious community have a btter grasp of what's happening in the real world of adversity and pain than does the sightless Spectator.

Hell, what's sport for?

SPECTATOR FEATURES

You have been warmed

Tom Fort goes to St James's, Piccadilly, and hears Michael Meacher and others warn that the end is nigh.

The handsome church of St James's in Piccadilly is a lively, friendly sort of place. There are frequent classical concerts inside, and most days a market outside. A green caravan turns up regularly to offer 'crisis listening', and once a month enthusiasts for something called Taizé meet for meditation and prayer. In the 320 years since Wren's design took shape, a great deal of sound sense and arrant nonsense must have been voiced beneath the gilded ceiling. But I doubt if many events there can have produced such an imbalance in favour of the latter as the debate I attended at the end of last month on the subject of global warming.

"I think we can all agree that the future of the planet is an important issue. Indeed, if that future is as short as most of those attending the debate clearly expect it to be, then within a few generations we will be able to stop worrying about such ephemeral matters as war, poverty, hunger and disease, since they — along with everything else — will have ceased to exist.

With the exception — as far as I could tell — of myself, the audience of 50 or so were of one mind. The common approach could be summed up thus: -

a) Global warming will, if not reversed, mean the destruction of what we frivolously refer to as the civilised world.

b) It's all our fault.

c) Something must be done.

The agenda was set by a man called Aubrey Meyer, a powerfully built South African with a ponytail, dressed in white T-shirt and baggy trousers, who is in charge of something called the Global Commons Institute. With the aid of some snappy computer graphics, Mr Meyer expounded in his deep melodious voice his doctrine of Contraction and Convergence, which he invented. In essence, this envisages an international agreement on a global limit to the emissions of greenhouse gases, under which the richer nations would accelerate their reductions until they and the developing countries came together and every one of God's children would have the same, safe share. Time limitations inhibited Mr Meyer from being specific about how this coming together might be achieved. 'Intelligence' was the way, he said gnomically, admitting in the same breath that this sometimes appeared to be in short supply. By that he clearly meant politicians, who — with one shining exception — lacked the vision and the courage to do what had to be done. By good luck the shining exception happened to be sitting immediately to Mr Meyer's left, nodding agreement with his every word. This was the planet's saviour, Mr Michael Meacher.

It may be recalled that not so long ago Mr Meacher was the rather ineffectual environment minister in Mr Blair's government. When not submerged up to his neck in the treacle of verbiage spilling from the Kyoto protocol, Mr Meacher was to be seen looking damp and bedraggled in parts of England affected by floods, where he could be heard articulating his recent discovery that global warming was real, and had to be addressed.

At length, Mr Meacher tired of not being listened to by his ministerial colleagues; or perhaps Mr Blair got tired of him. Anyway, he left government and — liberated at last from any need to remain in touch with the sordid world of the electorate — was born again as a prophet of doom. Judging by his demeanour in St James's church, it is a role he clearly relishes. His cheeks were pink and his eyes glistened behind the glinting spectacles as he rose to spout his familiar and well-rehearsed tosh about 'the single biggest challenge facing mankind'. Out they poured, the warning signs of the coming catastrophe: mudslides in Venezuela, inundations in Bangladesh, 7,000 people in the Midlands 'seriously affected' by floods. 'People in the tropics will literally burn,' Mr Meacher raved, before apologising if anyone should find his vision of a hotter world a touch on the apocalyptic side.

For Mr Meacher and everyone else, the villains are, first and foremost, the United States (personified by the Texas gas-belcher George Bush), followed by Britain, followed by the other industrialised countries. One of his suggestions was that Ethiopia should bring a 'class action' seeking compensation from the polluters for the millions of deaths in the latest drought; which, the prophet

Meacher asserted — I know not on what authority — had been 'caused' by CO2 emissions. 'That', he said with a cheerful grin, 'would send a shiver through them.'

After a ringing declaration of support for Contraction and Convergence, Mr Meacher sat down to warm applause. 'Meacher for prime minister,' someone cried, only half in jest. He was succeeded by an agreeable professor, whose attempt to inject a touch of realism into the proceedings by suggesting that the Kyoto negotiating process, imperfect though it was, might still be the best hope for achieving progress by agreement was greeted with no enthusiasm whatever. Normal service was swiftly resumed by the Bishop of Hereford, a gentle, white-haired waffler whose forecast of current immigration levels being increased 'a thousandfold' by refugees from floods and desertification made Mr Meacher's prophecies seem almost timid.

At length contributions were sought from the floor, and the microphone was immediately seized by a bearded crackpot from Friends of the Earth, who babbled about the melting icecaps being a bomb that would destroy the planet — and sooner rather than later. Others wanted to know what they could do in practical terms to alert their fellow humans to their peril, and avert the end of everything. One idea was to 'engage with the American electorate' by writing to tell them what a menace Mr Bush was. Another was to switch to an electricity supplier that was investing in wind power. Mr Meyer said we had to overcome separateness. The Bishop demanded that we should not even think of booking flights with 'Sleasyjet' or Ryanair.

I asked Mr Meacher if he would agree that, in the absence of any consensus among scientists on how to quantify the human contribution to global warming, the idea of asking either rich or poor countries to undertake emission cuts that would require the complete restructuring of the world economic order was unrealistic to the point of futility. He didn't agree; or if he did, he didn't say so. In fact, he didn't answer my question; although to be fair, he had to leave in order to meet two 'American friends' with — as he put it with a conspiratorial smirk — 'interesting information' concerning intelligence connected with the Iraq war.

I went out into a balmy November night to resume my place among the rest of my doomed species. Meacher for prime minister, eh? I suppose we could do worse. Could we?

• Send comment on this article to the editor of the Spectator.co.uk • Email this article to a friend
CHRISTIAN ECOLOGY LINK

Roger Shorter of Christian Ecology Link attended the Meeting on Global Warming held on 19th November 2003 at St James's Church Piccadilly during the period of the visit to London by George W Bush, and writes:

Global Warming

A discussion entitled 'Much more than a Hot Air Debate' was held at St James's Church, Piccadilly, during the visit to London by US President, George W. Bush. The publicity leaflet for the meeting asked the challenging question: 'How might Countries and individuals respond effectively?' — It went on to report that: 'The world is divided on the issue of how carbon emissions may be cut, and pointed out that the Kyoto Agreement had not been ratified by the USA.

Before the meeting, Ruth Jarman, from CEL's Steering Committee, distributed leaflets about Operation Noah to the 100 or so people present, sitting in this church built by Christopher Wren in 1684.

Aubrey Meyer, Director of the Global Commons Institute, a musician by training, with a beautifully modulated speaking voice, and a clear and calm speaker, opened proceedings by explaining that the term 'Contraction and Convergence' being promoted by his organisation, was rather like singing the word "Amen". It was, he said, a bit like harmonising emissions so that matters could be brought to an harmonious conclusion by stabilising the situation so that we are not faced with disastrous climate change. His Power Point presentation, full of graphs, and very clearly illustrated - at least for those with good eyesight, or in the front pews - the complexity of the problem, and showed that the most polluting state of the most polluting nation in the world is - by extraordinary coincidence, given this week's famous visitor to England - Texas.

The Rt Hon. Michael Meacher, former Minister for the Environment, said that in his view, the

problem of climate change is the most - serious one facing the world. The US, he said, with only 5% OF the world's population, is producing 25% of the world's emissions, but had opted out of the Kyoto Protocol. Russia he added, was another major player, and was likely to be also part of the problem now because of the rapid economic growth that they had experienced over the last 4 years. He said that a major opportunity for progress may be available via the Insurance Industry, since they were likely to be losers, economically, as the result of extremes of weather, and the claims that inevitably then were made. He advocated a global pact: on emissions, with emphasis on local partnerships between countries. He said that the concept of 'Contraction and Convergence' was, in his view, the one that showed the best way forward.

Professor Michael Grubb, of Imperial College, London, had been asked to pose 'difficult questions' concerning the whole subject and process. He said that the whole subject: was a moral issue, but found it difficult to offer much hope, given the fact that the American electoral climate was, in his view, unsympathetic to this issue, because the average American voter knew little about the rest of the world and was unlikely to be prepared to make economic sacrifices for their benefit. This, he said, goes some way to explaining the potential difficulties facing those who wish to encourage George W. to take the political action that people in other parts of the world would wish to see

The Rt Revd John Oliver, Bishop of Hereford (for the next 10 days) eloquently argued that self-interest was not to be underestimated as a means by which others could be persuaded of the importance of the subject. He said that he expected his last speech in the House of Lords next week, to be on this topic. Unlike Aubrey Meyer's "calm" (as AM described it) but incisive approach to the matter, rather than one that made people fearful of the implications of climate change, the Bishop said that he felt that people were actually more likely to take action concerning the subject if they were, indeed fearful.

<http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk>

C&C at the World Bank & COP-9 Aubrey Meyer

Dec 09, 2003 09:47 PST

David Dollar and Paul Collier are two very senior development economists at the World Bank. They carry some authority. Their Report for the Bank recommends C&C/GCI as follows: -

http://econ.worldbank.org/files/2899_ch4.pdf

Its a bit skew. However, it fits very nicely with statement made today at COP-9 by Raul Estrada, former Chairman of the Kyoto Process. Speaking from a TERI platform chaired by the incumbent IPPC chairman [Dr Pachauri], Raul favourably highlighted C&C/GCI as the basis of global reconciliation post Kyoto. He said this while noting that the Developed Country Group now realised that 'grandfathering' (global rights per dollar) was doomed to failure.

Quite a good day.

In fact there've have been a few of these lately. In the rights and the wrongs of this debate, C&C is increasingly seen as responsibly creating rights to correct the wrongs; favouring focus over the blur of over-paid, bureaucratic expertise.

Anyway, here are the Bank's Dollar and Collier

"Global warming requires international collective action. There are many ways of achieving effective restraint. The Kyoto protocol approach is for rich countries to set themselves targets for emissions reductions, and the recent agreement between European nations and Japan to move ahead with the protocol is a positive step forward. Looking further down the road, it is critically important to get at least all of the E-7 involved.

The Global Commons Institute, an NGO, has come up with an innovative proposal for how to do this. The proposal entails agreeing on a target level of emissions by the year 2015 and then allocating these emissions to everyone in the world proportionally. Rich countries would get allocations well below their current level of emissions, while poor countries would get allocations well above. There would then be a market for emission permits. Poor countries could earn income selling some of their permits; rich and poor countries alike would have strong incentives to put

energy-saving policies into place; and private industry would have strong incentives to invent new, cleaner technologies.

One of the hopeful things about globalization is how an innovative idea like this can quickly gain currency and support."

David Dollar is director of development policy in the Development Economics Vice Presidency (DEC) of the World Bank.

His responsibilities include bringing research to bear on the strategy and operational policies of the World Bank, as well as bringing policy questions raised by Bank activities into the research agenda.

His own research, posted below, focuses on three inter-related issues: (1) aid effectiveness, (2) globalization, growth, and poverty, and (3) investment climate and firm dynamics. Dollar co-authored World Bank reports on Assessing Aid and on Globalization, Growth, and Poverty. Before joining DEC he was the World Bank's policy advisor to Vietnam from 1989 to 1995, a period of intense reform and opening to the world economy. Prior to joining the World Bank he taught economics at UCLA and as a visitor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Beijing). He has a PhD in economics from New York University and a BA in Asian Studies from Dartmouth College.

Paul Collier

Director, Development Research Group

PAUL COLLIER is a U.K. national and is on leave from Oxford University, where he is one of six full professors of economics, and the Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies. He holds a Distinction Award from the University. During 1992-95, he was Visiting Professor at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard, holding the offer of a Named Chair in International Development. He is founding editor of the Journal of African Economies and a Fellow of the CEPR.

Mr. Collier has developed the study of African economies across a range of topics. Much of his work has been in international economics (on which he received his Ph.D.), but he has also published on rural development (winning the Edgar Graham Prize), labor markets (working on the 1995 WDR), and finance (he chairs the Finance Group of the African Economic Research Consortium). His current work is on the quantitative political economy of civil war.

C&C - UK DTI versus Environment Agency Aubrey Meyer

Dec 10, 2003 04:35 PST

Rebutting the Energy White Paper, Patricia Hewitt [UK Secretary of State for Trade and Industry] wants the "20% cut in CO2 by 2020" target for the UK relaxed to a 15 per cent cut.

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/environment/story.jsp?story=471809>

At the same time The UK's Environment Agency Chairman have announced their support for targets as defined by Contraction and Convergence.

"You are correct in thinking that I support the concept of Contraction and Convergence as does the Environment Agency."

Sir John Harman

Chairman

Environment Agency

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/EnvAgency.pdf>

The Greater London Authority [GLA] adopt C&C in their energy plan published early next year.

C&C *classic* in New Scientist Aubrey Meyer

Dec 10, 2003 11:30 PST

If anyone prefers this New Scientist C&C classic on-line, go to: -

<http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99994467>

Otherwise, it is in full below.

More support for C&C has poured in today than any day heretofore.

This day, the 10th of December 2003, is the 6th anniversary of Kyoto Protocol. On this day in 1997 Greenpeace/CAN press released KP, denouncing it as, "a tragedy and a farce".

Today, trumpeting like dying elephants in the night, CAN/Greenpeace have now frothed at the mouth against C&C.

Just as the establishment starts to take to C&C, CAN/Greepeace start their second decade of incompetent and unpaid work for the CIA. The company must be all cracked up.

I'm going out for supper now.

Aubrey

Greenhouse gas 'plan B' gaining support

"The Kyoto protocol is dying a death of a thousand cuts. Last week, the US reiterated that it wants nothing to do with the sole international agreement designed to save the world from runaway global warming.

The European Union, Kyoto's main promoter, revealed that most of its members will not meet their treaty's obligations. And Russia once again seemed to be on the point of wrecking the protocol completely.

These blows follow a history of bureaucratic squabbling and political posturing by the protocol's signatories, and many observers now fear that it has been amaged beyond repair. So does the world have a plan B for bringing the emissions of greenhouse gases under control?

Contraction & Convergence model

The answer is yes, and it goes by the name "contraction and convergence", or C&C. The idea has been around for a decade, but lately it has been gaining ever more influential converts, such as the UK's Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, the UN Environment Programme, the European Parliament and the German Advisory Council on Global Change, which last week released a report supporting the idea.

A source within the German delegation in Milan said this week that his government was taking the idea "very seriously indeed". Even observers outside the environmental establishment, such as the World Council of Churches, back the proposal.

Simple and fair

For the past two weeks, representatives from around the world have been in Milan, Italy, for COP9, the ninth annual meeting of signatories to the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change. Many of them now privately admit that C&C is what we have been waiting for.

While Kyoto has become a convoluted, arbitrary and short-term measure to mitigate climate change, C&C could provide a simple, fair, long-term solution. And above all, it is based on science rather than politics.

The "contraction" in C&C is shorthand for reducing the total global output of greenhouse gases. At the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, the world's governments agreed to act to prevent dangerous climatic change. The Kyoto treaty was their first fumbling attempt to meet that pledge, and if implemented would set emissions targets for industrialised nations for the period 2008 to 2012.

But increasing numbers of delegates are viewing Kyoto as part of the problem, not part of the solution. Its labyrinthine rules allow nations to offset emissions with devices such as carbon-sink projects, and are so complex they are virtually unenforceable. Even if Kyoto becomes international law, it cannot be the blueprint for future deals beyond

2012. A new start is needed.

These delegates argue that it is time to get back to first principles to find a formula to fight the "dangerous" climate change mentioned in the Rio treaty. And there is an emerging consensus that "dangerous" means any warming in excess of 2 °C above pre-industrial levels; so far temperatures have risen by 0.6 °C.

Drastic cuts

To keep below the 2 °C ceiling will mean keeping global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, below about 450 parts per million. But because CO₂ and other greenhouse gases linger in the atmosphere for a century or more, staying below that ceiling will mean drastic cuts in emissions over the next 50 years.

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has decided that a 60 per cent cut in global emissions by 2050 is needed, which the British government has adopted as its national target. But if the world is to manage such a transformation, then hard choices will have to be made.

And that is where the "convergence" part of C&C comes in. Industrialised nations have so far done most of the polluting. The US emits 25 times as much CO₂ per head as India, for example, but if pollution is to be rationed, that cannot carry on.

So under the C&C proposals, national emissions will converge year by year towards some agreed target based upon each country's population (see graph). In effect, by a target date that the Royal Commission and Germany's advisory council agree should be 2050, every citizen of the world should have an equal right to pollute.

Emerging technologies

The average global citizen is responsible for pumping just over a tonne of carbon into the air each year. To prevent dangerous climate change, while allowing for some population increase, the world has to reduce that figure to around 0.3 tonnes per head.

That target is not quite as daunting as it sounds. Emerging technologies for generating energy without burning fossil fuel and for increased energy efficiency suggest it is achievable within a few decades without serious damage to the world's economic health.

But because some nations will find it harder than others to meet their targets, especially early on, the C&C formula also embraces the idea of countries trading emissions permits. This is already part of the Kyoto formula, but with every nation in the world involved, and with far more stringent targets, it would be a much bigger business.

Many of the politicians and diplomats most intimately involved in negotiating the Kyoto Protocol targets six years ago have emerged as supporters of C&C in Milan. "We should not be fixated on Kyoto but on the climate change problem itself and what comes after Kyoto," said Raul Esatrada, the Argentinian diplomat who chaired the crucial Kyoto negotiations. And that, he says, is likely to mean C&C.

The chief climate negotiator for the US under President Clinton, Eileen Claussen, says that "almost any long-term solution will embody a high degree of contraction and convergence." She predicts it will become "an importance force in the negotiation".

Pollution for sale

On the face of it, C&C seems anathema to countries like the US, which would have to buy large numbers of pollution credits in the early years. But it does meet most of the criticisms made by the Bush administration of the Kyoto protocol.

In particular, Bush called it unfair that Asian trading competitors, as developing nations, had no targets. Under C&C every nation would ultimately have the same target. Some, such as China, already have per-capita emissions in excess of targets they might have to meet by mid-century.

But perhaps the greatest attraction of C&C is the complete break it would make from the horse-trading, short-term fixing and endless complications that have plagued efforts to bring the Kyoto protocol into effect. In 2002, the US shocked the world by refusing to ratify the treaty, and just last week the EU, its biggest cheerleader, admitted that only two member states, Sweden and the UK, were on course to meet the targets laid down in 1997.

As business grinds on in Milan, the bureaucratic tangles of the Kyoto protocol are becoming ever more convoluted as nations discuss matters such as whether rubber plantations might, like forests, count as a "carbon sink" for which they can claim credit.

Six years after the heady Kyoto night when 171 nations thought they had signed up to save the

world, the disconnect between the science and the politics remains huge.”

Fred Pearce

C&C and the World Nuclear Association Aubrey Meyer

Dec 11, 2003 16:22 PST

GCI records C&C support from all sectors.

Here is more from the World Nuclear Association recently.

The useful thing in the challenge from WNA's John Ritch is to speak to the demand curve. Random 'windmills-versus-nuclear' in 'economic grow-you-like' is meaningless without C&C moderated demand curves.

C&C is not about boy-toy technology; its about technique.

“ “contraction and convergence” approach as a collective global means to meet the clean-energy challenge. I not only support the C&C concept. I find it inconceivable that we will avert climate catastrophe without a regime built on some variation of this approach.”

“Our need is for the kind of comprehensive treaty regime that Aubrey Meyer advocates, a regime in which all the nations of the world – developed and developing – undertake a binding commitment to use emissions trading as the driving economic incentive for a long-term evolution to a global clean energy economy.”

<http://world-nuclear.org/dgspeeches/wiltonpark2003.htm>

[We had some surprisingly civil emails from freelancing CAN members today. After 15 years of CAN's stupid character assassins, this is really quite refreshing. Perhaps I should break silence more often].

C&C - WCC at Moscow Climate Conference Aubrey Meyer

Dec 12, 2003 09:05 PST

World Climate Change Conference 2003

Moscow, Russian Federation

September 29 to October 3, 2003

CLIMATE JUSTICE – THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Address by Dr David G. Hallman

WCC Climate Change programme coordinator

“The Kyoto Protocol must be indeed ratified, but at the same time we urge governments to proceed without delay with a new round of negotiations whose targets must be determined in the light of the long-term perspective. Two basic requirements must be met: -

1. Stabilisation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level in accordance with the overall objective of the Climate Change Convention.
2. A fair distribution of rights and obligations, by establishing the concept of per capita emission rights for all countries, as proposed in the 'Contraction and Convergence' scheme.”

<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/moscow2003.html>

For the record, New Scientist C&C Article now at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/news/NewScientist2003.pdf>

C&C Chit-Chat post Milan . . . Aubrey Meyer

Dec 13, 2003 05:34 PST

“Reason-online” [11 12 2003]

Ronald Bailey

“The Kyoto Protocol has produced a rat's nest of complicated mechanisms and proposals that are

constantly being interpreted and reinterpreted.

My personal favorite for irrelevancy at the COP9 is a discussion in the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on whether or not genetically modified trees should be allowed as a way to absorb and sequester carbon.

Wandering the hallways of the Milan Convention Center, one encounters stacks of publications devoted to explaining elaborate and convoluted schemes to trade carbon or offset carbon emissions through development projects in poor countries.

To cut through these multiplying complications of the Protocol, a simple idea is taking hold among activists and some climate negotiators — contraction and convergence (C&C)."

<http://reason.com/rb/rb121103.shtml>

Also - Just how did Bruce Cordell of Colorado USA make the C&C story in the New Scientist the second highest scoring GOOGLE hit for 2003 in just *two days*?.

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&lr=&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&q=Contraction+and+Convergence+2003>

<http://homepage.mac.com/macbrucecordell/B1283663648/C22284971/E711077414/>

The CAN document, GCI has now been told, supports C&C and has dealt with it in a, "fair and objective manner".

Could have fooled me. C&C is not assessed. It is dismissed in one heading and one sentence as: - "unworkable" because it is "inflexible" [period].

A polite request to CAN look at the flash C&C demonstration [C&C is probably the ultimate flexible mechanism], may yet enrich their ability to be fair and objective.

[If anybody wants the CAN document, it is apparently available on the web soon].

Separately, Bill Hare of Greenpeace continues to make defamatory remarks about me and C&C. He now asserts I create 'aliases' infiltrating lists and impersonating support for C&C.

Bill [I understand GCN is relayed to you] even if this is a difficult time for you, people are beginning to ask questions about your motives.

The volumes of support for C&C that piles up is coming from people who might understandably take exception to the inference that they have been cloned.

Aubrey

"All men are created equal" . . . Aubrey Meyer

Dec 26, 2003 16:10 PST

"All men are created equal" (. . . or are some more stupid than others?).

US-based climate contrarians on this bit in the US Declaration of Independence.

Myron Ebell, Natty dresser and Coolest of the "Cooler Heads", is also Director of Climate Programme, Competitive Enterprise Institute [CEI], report from COP-9 [December 12, 2003]

At odds with Ronald Bailey, he sees in C&C - "unreconstructed communists and human rights absolutists".

<http://www.globalwarming.org/cop9/cop9e.htm>

" the third approach is to decide that every person on the Earth has a right to emit the same amount of greenhouse gases. So the way to do it is to assign everyone an equal emissions quota. If people in America or France want to use more energy, then they will have to buy quotas from people who wish to live a more authentic way of life-that is, from poor people in poor countries.

The kicker to this truly zany idea is that the emissions quota to which each person has a right will keep going down until it's at the level of a poor person in a poor country. Then those who wish to use more energy will be out of luck. No more quotas to buy! Everyone will then be blessed with an authentic lifestyle and get to go to sleep when the sun goes down.

This so-called "contraction and convergence" approach appeals to both unreconstructed commu-

nists and to human rights absolutists. It has a certain moral force for those lost souls who have completely lost their bearings in the world. So it ought to be the winner in these darkening times."

However . . . Greening the Earth said, "GCI Berates IPCC Review Process" [1995]

http://www.co2andclimate.org/climate/previous_issues/vol1/v1n9/feature1.htm

"Now the Global Commons Institute (GCI) . . . has weighed in heavily against the U.N.'s new report on the economics of climate change. At the heart of GCI's criticism is the value of human life, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says, in one chapter, is worth \$100,000 in the United States, but only \$10,000 in India.

It's not hard to imagine that this might rile a few people (and a few more in India). We're reminded that the U.S. Declaration of Independence says that "all men are created equal," which the U.N. seems to be saying does not apply when we die. Interesting concept."

As they say, 'choice is everything and its yours . . . '

Happy New Year

Aubrey

Illinois Energy Forum on C&C at COP-9 Aubrey Meyer

Jan 08, 2004 03:51 PST

Full news letter at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/January2004Newsletter.pdf>

"WHILE negotiators at a United Nations-sponsored climate conference in Milan, Italy continued to work on new rules to control greenhouse gas emissions, Russia gave mixed signals regarding whether the country would ratify the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

Because the United States has indicated it will not consider ratifying the treaty, Russian support is necessary for its emission control terms to go into effect.

Within days of each other, one Russian minister said his country would definitely not ratify the protocol while another minister said it might ratify an amended version.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Energy pressed its policy of voluntary greenhouse gas reductions by launching a new web site that will serve as a resource for the public and industry associations participating in the agency's Climate VISION program – Voluntary Innovative Sector

Initiatives: Opportunities Now.

The web site will allow participants to track progress in meeting their voluntary commitments under the program.

Because of uncertainty of Kyoto ratification, there was talk at the Milan meeting of using a "contraction and convergence" model as an alternative. Chief U.S. climate negotiator Eileen Claussen urged consideration of this option.

"Contraction" under this model means reducing the total global emission of greenhouse gases, while "convergence" would have national emissions converging year by year toward agreed targets based on each country's population.

The contraction and convergence model also includes an emissions trading program involving all nations."

Chinese Media, "C&C reduces and hastens" Aubrey Meyer

Jan 16, 2004 03:26 PST

ASIAN NEWS NET - Hong Kong "Ming Daily"

02 January 2004

13.07 hrs (SST) 05.07 hrs (GMT)

. . . "reduces with hastens with" (Contraction and Convergence, is called C&C) the greenhouse gas to discharge the plan.

This plan "the global public resource research institute" (Global Commons Institute) in the second session of world climate congress proposed by England in 1990 that, recent years attained comes the influential organization support, including environment program, European parliament and England's imperial family environmental pollution committee and so on."

Full original and interesting Chinese text at: -

<http://www.cna.tv/stories/other/view/13768/1/gb/.html>

Robot translation [rather disjointed] from: -

<http://babelfish.altavista.com/babelfish/tr>
below.

Publication time: 02 January 20.041307 million hrs (SST) 0,507 hrs (GMT)

"The Kyoto Treaty" the substitute emerges looks breaks the international deadlock.

[Asian news net] Hong Kong "Ming Daily" on 2nd reported that, is for the purpose of reducing the whole world greenhouse gas withdrawal "the Kyoto Treaty", because US withdraws with Russia refuses to confirm but possibly aborts, intensifies the Earth warm crisis.

By now, England proposed an item "reduces with hastens with" (Contraction and Convergence,

is called C&C) the greenhouse gas to discharge the plan, the international society started regards "the Kyoto Treaty" the substitute.

It focuses to eliminating the rich country and the poor country's "the disparity", first "hastens in 2050 with", attains the global unification the average per person withdrawal, then passes "reduces" in 2100 in the stable atmospheric greenhouse gas content.

"The United Nations Climatic change Frame Joint pledge" (UNFCCCC, was called "Frame Joint pledge") the 9th signatory state congress to hold last month in Italy. "The Kyoto Treaty" is one of this congress' main subjects, but finally actually does not have the conclusion. Many observers all worried, the treaty because lacked the greenhouse gas discharges "the great nation" the support, borders on situation which does not have may save. If "the Kyoto Treaty" finally cannot become effective, the international society may have other means solution whole world to continue the warm crisis?

An item named "reduces with hastens with" the plan, possibly solves the question answer.

This plan "the global public resource research institute" (Global Commons Institute) in the second session of world climate congress proposed by England in 1990 that, recent years attained comes the influential organization support, including environment program, European parliament and England's imperial family environmental pollution committee and so on.

The scientist estimated, if in the atmosphere the carbon dioxide quantity rises to 19th century Industrial Revolution before two times, the whole world average temperature will rise approximately 2 iæ, will reach thinks "the danger" to the scientist the level, but the Earth temperature rose 0.6 in the nearly 150 years iæ.

In order to guard against the Earth temperature to rise to the boundary, must stabilize the carbon dioxide density in 450ppm (parts per million) below, but because the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases may pause for 100 years in the atmosphere or above, meant the international society will have to grasp the future for 50 years, will adopt the severe measure stable greenhouse gas the density.

According to "reduces with hastens with" the plan, the various countries is authorized to according to the population proportion limitedly measures land discharges the greenhouse gas, lets the developing nation have the opportunity to overtake the developed country, then the various countries diligently reduces the withdrawal together.

The plan altogether divides into two stages, in the 1st stage, the developed country gets up by the present gradually reduces the average per person withdrawal, the developing nation then gradually enhances the average per person withdrawal, to in 2050 (1st goal year), the global average per person withdrawal has reached to "hastens with". In the 2nd stage, the various countries together "will reduce" the withdrawal, finally will achieve the whole world stable greenhouse gas density goal in 2100.

"Reduces with hastens with" the plan believed may break at present international to refuse to compromise the aspect. US called "the Kyoto Treaty" has not bought into line with the developing nation the control, "is unfair" to the developed country.

In "reduces with hastens with" the plan, each person enjoys the same level greenhouse gas to discharge the right, this developed country and the developing nation believed shows the approval, but the developing nation also will accept in the plan after section discharges the volume the control.

The plan also has similar "the Kyoto Treaty" discharges the volume transaction system, the developing nation may sell unnecessarily discharges the volume to give the developed country, constructs the income the regeneration energy.

On the other hand, the industrialized country is planning the early section or reaches with difficulty to reduces the greenhouse gas the goal, they may discharge the volume to the developing nation purchase to postpone the pressure, gradually conserves energy and the development environmental protection energy. Some experts called the environmental protection energy science and technology and the energy benefit unceasingly promote, controls the greenhouse gas in dozens of

years the goal not to be certainly difficult, the plan cannot hinder the economical development. Manages the Argentine diplomat Raul Estrada which "the Kyoto Treaty" negotiates to reach called "we should not the focal point complete works in" the Kyoto Treaty ", our focal point be supposed to be the whole world climatic change question and" the Kyoto Treaty "after continuing".

The US Clinton administration climate negotiates director ȚĖĂÍĖ also to agree that, any thorough settlement greenhouse gas question long term means, must contain "reduce" and "hasten with" two aspects, but she anticipated this will become the negotiations the new tendency. The international society in 1992 the Earth summit which Lu held in approximately the heat, agreed took the action to suppress the whole world to be warm, but "the Kyoto Treaty" was first diligently attempts.

The treaty stipulated industrialized country from 2008 to 2012 period gradually reduces the greenhouse gas withdrawal to reach to the target, but many countries thought the treaty too is complex, for example the industrialized country may (carbon sink) counterbalance the carbon dioxide withdrawal using the forest as the carbon absorption source, carries out with difficulty in the essence.

In addition, the treaty is only to 2012, has not been able to provide the long term blueprint for the greenhouse gas question, on the contrary "reduces with hastens with" two stages new plans, looked like can long term solve the problem.

US although accounts for the global total withdrawal 36%, but the Bush Administration actually will harm the American economy development take the treaty and does not have developing nation and so on China, India brings into line with the control not to be unfair as a reason, will announce the withdrawal in 2001, will create the significant attack to the treaty.

In the beginning of last month, Russian senior officials indicated that, Russia cannot confirm "the Kyoto Treaty", thought the strip appointment hinders the state economy the development. Some English newspapers described that, Russia this act will cause the treaty to attain with difficulty through the implementation, not different will judge "the Kyoto Treaty" the death penalty.

Free Download - C&C Options model Aubrey Meyer

Jan 16, 2004 08:08 PST

Version 8, extensively upgraded, now available. (December 2003)

C&C is embodied in a computer model [CCOptions]. This enables users to explore different rates of C&C and their implications.

You can download the model in two forms: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/model/dl.html>

[1] large (200 countries) or

[2] small (9 regions) variants.

It requires some slight familiarity with Microsoft Excel to use.

Many thanks to Tony Cooper.

'PEW-turn' on C&C? Aubrey Meyer

Jan 17, 2004 07:24 PST

Katie Mandes of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change has written this letter [below] to the UK's New Scientist magazine. [N Sc first published it in their print edition 17th January 2004].

"New Scientist readers' opinions on the topics of the day"

"Divergent quote"

In "Saving the world, plan B" Fred Pearce mischaracterises the Pew Center's position on the idea of controlling greenhouse gas emissions through "contraction and convergence" (13 December 2003, p 6). The quotes he attributes to our president, Eileen Classen, are taken from a Pew Center publication which she did not write.

Moreover, they are taken out of context and used to support a point of view not shared by the report's authors. In fact, taken in context, they argue against contraction and convergence as a basis for future climate negotiations.

Katie Mandes

Pew Center on Global Climate Change

Arlington, Virginia, US

<http://www.newscientist.com/opinion/opleters.jsp?id=ns24309>

Eileen Claussen is the PEW Director. She commissioned the report in question that PEW published in December last year - see: -

http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-in-depth/all_reports/beyond_kyoto/index.cfm

Eileen wrote or at least signed for it in the introduction.

The actual authors of the C&C-explicit part of the report [Chapter 3] were Ashton and Wang.

Far from 'arguing against C&C' [as PEW's Katie Mandes states], Ashton and Wang wrote [and after an extended peer review, Pew published] these words: -

"The "Contraction and Convergence" proposal, developed by Aubrey Meyer . . . almost any conceivable long-term solution to the climate problem will embody, at least in crude form, a high degree of contraction and convergence.

Atmospheric concentrations of GHGs cannot stabilize unless total emissions contract; and emissions cannot contract unless per capita emissions converge.

The contraction and convergence proposal plays an important role in the climate process. It focuses attention on the ethical questions at the heart of the climate problem, which no long-term solution can afford to ignore.

If supported by a critical mass of countries, it would become an important force in the negotiation."

This is hardly arguing against C&C. Its PEW in a spin.

C&C Debate online . . . Aubrey Meyer

Jan 19, 2004 05:44 PST

ECOFYS, sponsored by the German Environment Ministry, has announced a "C&C Forum" [on-line] in early February [see below].

GCI has written to them asking to set up the discourse with reference to the C&C Animation on-line at: -

[Quote]

"The Federal Environmental Agency, Germany (UBA) and Ecofys Germany have launched the new website on "Future International Action on Climate Change Network" on 5 December at COP9 in Milan: www.fiacc.net

. . . the website provides the opportunity for online "Forum discussions".

The first topic discussion will take place online from Tuesday, 27 January to Tuesday, 3 February 2004 on the merits and perils of "Contraction & Convergence" and possible ways to adjust this concept to critical concerns.

We would warmly invite you to participate. A discussion paper with some initiating questions will be available on the website soon.

We hope the website and the Forum provide you with interesting information and are constructive tools for such informal information exchange. We are looking forward to your participation and welcome any comments that help us improving the website and informing the debate in general."

Contact:

- Simone Ullrich, Ecofys at S.Ull-@ecofys.de

- Niklas Höhne, Ecofys at N.Ho-@ecofys.de

C&C as 'DTQs' at Tyndall Centre Aubrey Meyer

Jan 23, 2004 05:19 PST

C&C - from global to local . . .

Domestic Tradable Quotas [DTQs]

Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research

[7th January 2004]

[also reported on the BBC at: -

http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/reports/science/climate_change_20040107.shtml

"Every man and woman in the country could be issued with a fixed number of permits to pollute the atmosphere under an idea from government-sponsored researchers. It's been proposed by academics at the Tyndall Centre - one of Britain's top institutes for climate change policy."

A policy instrument for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Interim Report to the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research

7th January 2004

Dr Kevin Anderson, Tyndall North, UMIST

Kevin.a-@umist.ac.uk Tel. 0161 200 3715

Dr Richard Starkey, Tyndall North, UMIST

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Brief description of DTQs
"The DTQs scheme is premised on the assumption that stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system will require very large reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions. [2]

Furthermore it is assumed that these reductions will be achieved through some form of international agreement establishing binding national emissions reduction targets. The Domestic Tradable Quotas (DTQs) Scheme is a new instrument designed to enable nations to meet the component of their emissions reduction targets that is related to energy use

Whilst there is considerable support for allocating emissions rights between nations on an equal per capita basis, [14] there has been little or no discussion as to whether this allocation should be applied within nations. Consequently no attempt has been made to ground such an allocation within the academic literature on distributive justice."

[2] For example, in its 22nd report, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) recommends that atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide be stabilised at 550ppmv. Under the Contraction and Convergence approach advocated by the RCEP this would require cuts of 77% in UK emissions by 2100 (RCEP, 2000, p53, 56-7).

14 The equal per capita allocation forms the basis of the "Contraction and Convergence" proposal (Meyer, 2000). The RCEP endorses this proposal on the basis that "every human is entitled to release into the atmosphere the same quantity of greenhouse gases" (RCEP, 2000, p2). For an extensive list of those who support the Contraction and Convergence proposal see Meyer (2000).

<http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/whatsnew/dtqs.pdf>

C&C "Before the Wells Run Dry" Aubrey Meyer

Jan 29, 2004 03:25 PST

Very impressive new publication from FEASTA . . .

"Before the Wells Run Dry"

Wealth of data and other detail in the FEASTA Conference essays, edited by Richard Douthwaite.

<http://www.feasta.org/documents/wells/index.htm>

Extract from the editor's conclusions, integrating Oil and Gas Depletion, C&C and International Currency Reform.

CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE

"If a country is to enjoy the maximum sustainable level of economy activity, it needs to decide which scarce resource places the tightest constraint on its economy's development and expansion. It should then adjust its systems and technologies so that they automatically observe the limits imposed by that constraint. In terms of our discussion so far it might seem that oil and gas were the scarcest factors of production at present but I don't think that's true. Labour and capital are not the critical factors either. There is unemployment in most countries and, in comparison with a century ago, the physical capital stock is huge and under-utilised. On the other hand, the natural environment is grossly overused especially as a sink for human-made pollutants with the result that a runaway global warming is a real possibility. In other words, the Earth's capacity to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere is the scarcest resource and the economic system should be adapted accordingly.

Contraction and Convergence (C&C) is a way of doing so. It is a plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions developed by the Global Commons Institute⁸ in London that involves the international community agreeing how much the level of the main greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO₂), in the atmosphere can be allowed to rise. There is considerable uncertainty over this. The EU considers a doubling from pre-industrial levels to around 550 parts per million (ppm) might be safe while Bert Bolin, a former chairman of the IPCC, has suggested that 450 ppm should be considered the absolute upper limit. Even the present level of roughly 360ppm may prove too high because of the time lag between a rise in concentration and the climate changes it brings about. Indeed, in view of this lag, it is worrying that so many harmful effects of warming such as melting icecaps, dryer summers, rougher seas and more frequent storms have already appeared.

Whatever CO₂ concentration target is chosen automatically sets the annual rate at which the world must reduce its present greenhouse emissions until they come into line with the Earth's capacity to absorb the gas. This is the contraction course implied in the Contraction and Convergence name.

Once the series of annual global emissions limits have been set, the right to burn whatever amount of fuel this represents in any year would be shared out among the nations of the world on the basis of their population at an agreed date - 1990, perhaps. In the early stages of the contraction process, some nations would find themselves consuming less than their allocation, while others would be consuming more, so under-consumers would have the right to sell their surplus to more energy-intensive lands. This would generate a healthy income for some of the poorest countries in the world and give them every incentive to continue following a low-energy development path. Eventually, most countries would probably converge on similar levels of fossil energy use per head.

But what currency are the over-consuming nations going to use to buy extra CO₂ emission permits? If those countries with reserve currencies such as the dollar, the pound sterling and the euro were allowed to use them, they would effectively get the right to use a lot of their extra energy for free because much of the money they paid would be used to provide liquidity for the world economy rather than purchasing goods from the countries which issued them. To avoid this, Aubrey Meyer of GCI and Feasta⁹ devised a plan¹⁰ under which a new international organisation, the Issuing Authority, would assign Special Emission Rights (SERs, the right to emit a specified amount of greenhouse gases and hence to burn fossil fuel) to national governments every month according to their entitlement under the Contraction and Convergence formula.

SERs would essentially be ration coupons, to be handed over to fossil-fuel production companies in addition to cash by their customers - electricity producers, oil refineries, coal distributors and so on. An international inspectorate would monitor producers to ensure that their sales did not exceed the number of SERs they received. This would be surprisingly easy as nearly 80 per cent of the fossil carbon that ends up as man-made carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere comes from

only 122 producers of carbon-based fuels¹¹. The used SER coupons would then be destroyed. Such a system is not an impossibility. Considerable work has already been done towards the development of an international trading system in carbon dioxide emission rights both at a theoretical level and in practice.

AN ENERGY-BACKED CURRENCY

Besides the SERs, the Issuing Authority would supply governments with a new form of money, emissions-backed currency units (ebcus), on the same per capita basis. It would announce that it would always be prepared to sell additional SERs at a specific ebcu price. This would fix the value of the ebcu in relation to a certain amount of greenhouse emissions and make holding the unit very attractive as other monies have no fixed value and SERs are going to become scarcer year by year.

The ebcu issue would be a once-off, to get the system started. If a power company actually used ebcus to buy additional SERs from the Issuing Authority in order to be able to burn more fossil energy, the number of ebcus in circulation internationally would not be increased to make up for the loss. The ebcus paid over would simply be cancelled and the world would have to manage with less of them in circulation. This would cut the amount of international trading it was possible to carry on and, as a result, world fossil energy consumption would fall. On the other hand, there would be no limit to the amount of trading that could go on within a single country using its national currency provided it kept its fossil energy use down.

Governments could auction their monthly allocation of SERs from the Issuing Authority to major energy users and distributors in their own country and then pass all or part of the national currency they received to their citizens as a basic income. (Something along these lines would be necessary as the price of energy would go up sharply and the poor would be badly hit) They could also sell SERs abroad for ebcus. The prices set by these two types of sale would establish the exchange rate of their national currency in terms of ebcus, and thus in terms of other national currencies.

The use of national currencies for international trade would be phased out. Only ebcu would be used among participating countries and any countries which stayed out of the system would have tariff barriers raised against them. Many indebted countries would find that their initial allocation of ebcu enabled them to clear their foreign loans. In subsequent years, they would be able to import equipment for capital projects with their income from the sale of SERs, thus helping the depressed world economy to revive.

Setting up this type of dealers' ring would ensure that, rather than a lot of money being paid to the producer-countries for scarce oil and gas as a result of competitive bidding between prospective purchasers, it would go instead to poor countries after an auction for their surplus SERs. This money would not have to be lent back into the world economy as would happen if the energy producers received it. It would be quickly spent back by people who urgently need many things which the over-fossil-energy-intensive economies can make.

So, rather than debt growing, demand would, constrained only by the availability of energy. Suppose it was decided to cut emissions by 5% a year, a rate which would achieve the 80% cut the IPCC urges in thirty years, the sort of goal we need to adopt. Cutting fossil energy supplies at this rate would mean that the ability of the world economy to supply goods and services would shrink by 5% a year minus the rate at which energy economies became possible and renewable energy supplies were introduced. Initially, energy savings would take the sting out of most of the cuts - there's a lot of fat around - and as these became progressively difficult to find, the rate of renewable energy installations should have increased enough to prevent significant falls in global output.

The global economy this system would create would be much less liable to a boom and bust cycle than the present one for two reasons. One is that, as the shape of every national economy would be changing rapidly, there would be a lot of investment opportunities around. The other is that the supply of the world's money, the ebcu, would not fluctuate up and down as happens now, magnifying changes in the business climate. Their amount would be stable or, if the demand for fossil fuels rose so much that the emissions target was threatened, in slow decline.

Under C&C, investors in renewable energy projects could be sure of keen demand. The poorer parts of the world would get the resources they need to follow low-energy development paths. And the spreading out of purchasing power would open new markets for manufacturing companies. Everyone, even the fossil fuel producers, would benefit from the arrangement and, as far as I am aware, no other course has been proposed which tackles the problem in a way which is both equitable and guarantees that emissions targets are met. What is certain is that the unguided workings of the global market are unlikely to ensure that fossil energy use is cut back quickly enough to avoid a climate crisis in a way that brings about a rapid switch to renewable energy supplies."

5-step reality check for a
C&C "Thinking Cap" on Emissions & Climate Change
<http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/5steprealitycheck.pdf>

Above is a trend projection. For the FIACC exchange it is kept very simple. Starting at a 100% 2000, the image shows five key indicators across 5 future 20-years steps. It is a "thinking-cap" or 5-step reality check [5 x 20 year 'steps', 2000 - 2100] for: -

DC and LCD emissions in a rough and ready C&C [or equivalent] approximation;
Concentrations slowing, then stable by 2100, below c. 450 parts per million;
Temperature rise slowing to less than 2° Celsius absolute above pre-industrial;
Damages [both iteratively and cumulatively] are rising throughout and beyond 2100.

1. Developed Country [DC] emissions
Falling then flat
2. Less Developed Country [LDCs] emissions
Rising then falling
3. Atmospheric GHG Concentrations
Rising then flat
4. Global Temperature rise
Rising then slowing
5. Global Damages from Climate Changes
Rising and quickening

We already know that the concentration/temperature/damage trends will be persistently rising, even while DC and then LCD emissions fall [assuming they do at all].

The "no-thinking cap" future with 'Kyoto plus' [K+] or 'per capita plus' [pc+], is just rising complexity. Will this clarify the politics and its goal? Will this gain the participants' trust in each other and everyone's confidence in our ability to avoid danger?

No. Stable concentrations alone will require contraction and convergence [small c's] whether deliberate or not. On the other hand the C&C framework is a "thinking cap". It captures the deep simplicity that informs all c-and-c variant complexity as the overtone series is fundamental to all music. Musical complexity exists and works because of this simplicity, not in spite of it. The same is true in the climate negotiations. Without the deep simplicity of C&C, already complex negotiations will become an increasingly shallow stalemate of decoy-by-detail aggravated by the growing anxiety of under-achievement.

Imagine being at 400 ppmv CO2 by 2015 and the rise of GHG concentrations is still accelerating. The 4th and 5th IPCC reports have included better modelling of sink failure and other positive feedbacks to temperature rise. The European summer-fires and death-rate has been steadily increasing against base-year 2003. K+ or pc+ still argues the particulars of each country's special

claims on emissions-entitlements . . . and it is our children who are now negotiating without ppmv targeted C&C navigation !

[* Future International Action on Climate Change: -
<http://www.fiacc.net>].

“Without the deep simplicity of C&C, already complex negotiations will become an increasingly shallow stalemate of decoy-by-detail aggravated by the growing anxiety of under-achievement. Imagine being at 400 ppmv CO₂ by 2015 and the rise of GHG concentrations is still accelerating. The 4th and 5th IPCC reports have included better modelling of sink failure and other positive feedbacks to temperature rise. The European summer-fires and death-rate has been increasing steadily against base-year 2003.

‘Kyoto Plus’ [or even ‘Per Capita Plus’] still argues the particulars of each country’s special claims on emissions-entitlements . . . and it is our children who are now negotiating without ppmv targeted C&C navigation !”

C&C in “HERO” . . . Aubrey Meyer

Jan 30, 2004 05:10 PST

HERO: [Higher Education and Research Opportunities] the official gateway site to the UK’s universities, colleges and research organisations.

<http://www.hero.ac.uk>

SHRINKING THE CARBON ECONOMY

Global purpose: carbon reductions under C&C

30th January, 2004

“RECENT SPECULATION over whether Russia will ratify the Kyoto Protocol has fuelled questions about the Protocol’s future and alternative approaches to tackling climate change.

“Contraction and Convergence” is the basis proposed by the Global Commons Institute (GCI) for international agreement to control the greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change.

Here, the GCI’s director Aubrey Meyer explains how the system works.”

http://www.hero.ac.uk/business/shrinking_the_carbon_econ5762.cfm

“The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was agreed in June 1992.

Its objective is to stabilise the rising concentration of greenhouse gas (GHG) in the atmosphere before this becomes ‘dangerous’. Unlike the Kyoto agreement, which is partial, Contraction and Convergence (C&C) addresses this in its entirety.

GHG concentrations have been rising for the last two hundred years in response to emissions from industry and land use change and are influencing global temperature upwards. At present these trends are towards dangerous rates of global climate change.

The rising concentrations are the result of emissions accumulating in the atmosphere. Consequently the contraction of future emissions globally is by definition required to stabilise concentrations. Climate scientists have been calling for an emissions level that is at least 60 percent less than the level in 1990. This means that at rates to be agreed, an international convergence of the future shares to this contraction – both gross and per capita – arises by definition. With C&C, GCI has formalised the options, and an example of this can be seen in the diagram.

Since such a process is required by definition to achieve the goal of the UNFCCC and the risks from failure to do this are great, why is there delay? Damage from already altered climate is increasingly apparent and we are caught in long-term trends that augur worse is to come.

The first reason is that the economic wealth and growth we have come to take for granted has been dependent on burning increasing amounts of coal, oil and gas. The GHG emissions from this – weighed as carbon – amount at present to over 6 billion tonnes a year. This trend continues to rise at 2 percent a year, when a fall at around 2 percent a year is required to lessen danger.

To deal with this, there is no choice but to substantially decrease dependence on these fuels by pursuing clean sources of energy such as solar and wind power.

The second reason is that within this expansion there has been a marked global economic divergence. Two thirds of current global population have only six percent of purchasing power in the newly global market place. Most of these people are in the poorer countries. Their GHG emissions still barely register in the global accounts, and they are the most vulnerable to the damage – such as droughts and floods – that global climate change brings.

As the trends worsen the growth becomes increasingly uneconomic. To deal with this the UNFCCC gave rise to a subsidiary agreement – the Kyoto Protocol – in which the wealthy countries are required to lead the technological changes by example, not require emissions control of developing countries, and assist poorer countries in coping with the opportunity costs that climate change is already causing.

However, the United States, the world's largest emitter of GHGs – 35 percent of accumulated – has refused to support this agreement. The rules are such that now unless the Russian Federation does support it, the Protocol will not be ratified.

Under President Clinton the US said that unless the agreement was global it wouldn't work. The US Senate unanimously passed the 'Byrd Hagel Resolution' in June 1997 to make this point. Since then President Bush has also accepted arguments saying that controlling emissions must be subordinate to the growth of the economy. So in the US and globally, GHG emissions, concentrations and consequential damages will rise as well. This is locking us deeper into the trends towards dangerous rates of climate change, not to mention the trends of increasingly uneconomic growth.

As early as 1990, GCI proposed the C&C basis to prevent this deadlock. We presented the first detailed proposals in 1996 and have sustained our effort to increase awareness of C&C. Its main virtues are that it is simple and easy to understand and not random. Governed by the goal of stabilising GHG concentrations in the atmosphere, the model will calculate any rate of contraction. Applying the simple moral within this logic, the model will also calculate any rate of convergence to equal per capita shares globally.

Unless we prefer disaster by international bluff and blackmail, this is by definition what the situation requires. And it is encouraging to see how the uptake of C&C has grown steadily and the proposal has an increasing number of high-level backers and new advocates."

Aubrey Meyer

Global Commons Institute

www.gci.org.uk/

A visual demonstration of Contraction and Convergence

[www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo\(pc\).exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo(pc).exe)

C&C Developments post Wilton Park Aubrey Meyer

Feb 03, 2004 11:57 PST

"The Chanctonbury Initiative"

Chairs' summary of a conference at Wilton Park, 15-17 November 2003 Towards a Community for Global Climate Protection

"Climate Change is a global security issue which requires urgent and responsible leadership by countries North and South, to form a Global Climate Protection Community within the UNFCCC based on equal rights."

5. - This Protocol would provide for:

- contraction of global GHG emissions to a level that stabilises concentrations at an acceptable level;
- convergence of GHG emissions entitlements to equal per person distribution within a specified timeframe;
- a market in tradable emissions entitlements;

<http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/Chanctonbury.pdf>

Chairs' summary of a 2nd Climate Conference at Wilton Park, 15-17 November 2003

"Advocates of Contraction and Convergence argue that the approach provides an overall framework which provides a basis for negotiation towards solution of the climate crisis. Advocates argue that the only alternatives to a framework are guesswork and, at best, partial solutions. Contraction and Convergence seem to be consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Key elements of Contraction and Convergence are:

- International agreement on "a contraction budget" establishing for a future deadline, a safe and stable level for atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations (e.g. 450 parts per million by 2030). Proponents of Contraction and Convergence stress that the deadline and the agreed level of concentration need to be negotiated and also depend upon scientific information. After the target date, emissions would remain proportional to population. Emissions, whether calculated nationally or by regional groups, would be proportional to population at an agreed base year of global population. From that date, maximum permitted levels of emissions would be tied to population, rather than GDP.
- Contraction refers to the process whereby all governments, or regional groupings of governments, agree to reduce global emissions to achieve targets for concentration of greenhouse gases.
- Convergence means that each year the global emissions would be reduced so that each country or group of countries progressively converges on the same allocation per inhabitant by an agreed date (e.g. 2030).
- Emissions permit trading would be permitted, provided the overall total of greenhouse gases emitted does not exceed the target for a given year during the path to convergence. Unused allocations of greenhouse gases could be traded. Contraction and Convergence does not specify either a recommended overall concentration level, nor does it prescribe a date by which convergence needs to occur. However, the earlier convergence occurs and the lower level of concentration of greenhouse gases at which it occurs, the better.

The proposal for equal per capita entitlements has received growing support from India, many African countries, China, the European Union, the Nonaligned Movement, France, Japan and Switzerland. Its advocates argue that it has the following advantages:

- It has a global appeal as the only plausible unifying principle;
- it promotes equity;
- it ensures meaningful participation as it appeals to developing countries;
- it is simple;
- it allows for trading of allocations;
- it is flexible, allowing for future adjustments of the target;
- the ultimate aim is environmental integrity;
- all countries participate;
- it incorporates a major concession from the South, namely that historical responsibility for the problem is simply ignored.

http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/WiltonPark11_03.pdf

C&C at UCL Laws 10 02 2004 Aubrey Meyer

Feb 04, 2004 03:03 PST

Centre for Law and the Environment Events Environmental Policy Seminars

In the autumn and spring terms the centre organises a series of policy seminars, generously supported by Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer Solicitors, which provide an opportunity for distinguished external speakers to discuss their work and experience in the environmental field with our students.

10 February

'Contraction and Convergence - A Framework for the Future'

Aubrey Meyer

Director

Global Commons Institute

The seminars take place in the Moot Court at the Faculty of Laws from 6-7pm.

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/laws/news-and-events/events/environment.shtml>

'Rising Tide', C&C and the Pentagon . . . Aubrey Meyer

Feb 04, 2004 09:11 PST

The grass-roots network - 'Rising Tide' - are a vital and growing network of young people. They have repeatedly and decisively highlighted the dangers of climate change and what to do about it. They have been and remain the absolute conscience of the UN climate negotiations.

With their very bodies and souls they have challenged all - including comfortable mainstream climate NGOs - to be braver, more honest and more competent in facing the urgency and the injustice of the climate change challenge.

C&C is a tool for just this, conceived with young people and vulnerable people in mind. As they inherit the climate dilemma from their parents, their children will inherit C&C from them . . .

http://www.risingtide.org.uk/pages/news/temperature_gauge.htm

"To avoid panicked measures and an increasingly authoritarian state, human beings need to find a way of practising politics that allows for participation in this significant political transformation. What mechanisms need to be developed to allow people to decide on the limits to carbons emissions? How will those limits be applied in a truly free and fair manner?

Fortunately, there is no need to start from scratch on this last question. The UK-based Global Commons Institute [1] has put forward an initiative, Contraction and Convergence, which would provide a way for the global community to move towards the 80% emission cuts necessary to prevent carbon dioxide levels from exceeding twice what they were before the industrial revolution. And Contraction and Convergence is based in the principle of equity, recognising that such vast change needs a political framework. The Kyoto Protocol is often criticised for being 'too little, too late' but it is predictably so, given that it challenges none of the economic or political assumptions of a capitalist system. It relies on the extension of the market to the Earth's carbon dioxide recycling facility - the atmosphere - to get us out of this mess. It allows those who usually use more than their fair share of the world's resources to continue doing so. As a step beyond Kyoto, Contraction and Convergence recognises that safeguarding life support systems for future generations has to involve a different way of working from the current, clearly defunct, system.

Contraction and Convergence proposes that international 'shares' of greenhouse gas emissions be allocated on the principle of equity, whereby a human being in an over-consuming country has no more nor less right to Earth's atmosphere than a human being in an under-consuming country. From this understanding the initiative proposes that countries in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change agree a global greenhouse gas emissions 'contraction budget', aiming to limit atmospheric concentrations of these gases. Shares of greenhouse gas emissions would be proportional to an agreed base year of global population. In practice this may mean that over-consumers of greenhouse gases would have to contract sharply, while under-consumers could continue to rise for a while until their overall consumption 'converged' at the pre-agreed level. Contraction and Convergence has solid scientific grounding with the aim of fair distribution, and with the atmosphere afforded the status of a common resource for all life on Earth."

The Pentagon and corporations could clearly use their help now. Here are links to US comment on the Pentagon's really alarming new "Abrupt Climate Change" Report.

<http://www.tompaine.com/feature2.cfm/ID/9882>

<http://www.fortune.com/fortune/print/0,15935,582584,00.html>

Here's the Pentagon's eminence grise 'YODA' . . who commissioned the report.

<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.02/marshall.html>

Couldn't be a relative of Rising Tides' 'George' Marshall? [could it . . . ?].

C&C in Maiden Speech to Lords Aubrey Meyer

Feb 11, 2004 08:51 PST

The Lord Bishop of Leicester

Maiden Speech in UK House of Lords

9th February, 2004

"My Lords, may I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Members of this House and to its officers and staff for the way in which I have been welcomed and guided both at my introduction and subsequently? It was particularly gratifying tonight to follow the noble Baroness, Lady Byford. I thank her for her kind and welcoming remarks.

As the noble Baroness, Lady Miller, pointed out, the Chief Scientific Adviser has drawn our attention to the overwhelming significance of the issues before us today. As he put it, they are, "more serious even than the threat of terrorism".

It is therefore difficult to imagine a more significant moral as well as scientific and political issue facing the human race. In the United Kingdom, we have not yet really felt the pain of global warming, so our response to the challenge can at times seem worryingly lackadaisical. The danger is that, when we do feel the full impact, it may be much too late.

The European heatwave of 2003, record temperature rises since 1991 and a 40 per cent thinning of the Arctic ice cap leading to rising sea levels, are evidence of this phenomenon. Our natural environment is being asked to cope with humanity's pollutants to an extent that simply cannot be sustained. We may say things and repeat them often, but the words become so familiar that they stop having an impact. Today's debate with its call for action rather than words is entirely apposite.

It is good to report, therefore, that the Churches and other faith communities are waking up to the need to respond to this global challenge. We have two great advantages in coming to address the issue.

First, we deal in matters of the spirit, of the heart and the emotions. Global climate change is of course a scientific matter, but it is also something that needs to touch us deeply and personally. To respond, we have to feel part of a global community not just of humans, but of all God's creatures and the planet itself. We have to feel responsible for all that is, and respond even though the real pain of global warming may not be experienced in our own backyards. The faiths are used to this kind of language, and we can and will use it to protect God's creation.

Secondly, our organisations are both global and local. Perhaps in recognition of these qualities, Defra has funded the Conservation Foundation to run workshops throughout the country for concerned Church people and others to learn what their faith teaches—spiritually and practically—about reducing humanity's ecological footprint. In my own diocese of Leicester, we will be organising such a workshop as an inter-faith event, because the issue brings the religions together like nothing else. Churches are taking up the Eco-congregation challenge. Dioceses are undertaking environmental audits and adopting environmental policies. The former Bishop of Hereford, who recently retired and is much-missed already, has championed contraction and convergence at every opportunity. He has persuaded the Anglican Communion and, most recently, called on the leaders of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to support the campaign.

Those are some examples of attempts that the Churches and other religions are making to encourage action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There are many other examples of action by local agencies to address climate change, including in my county of Leicestershire and in the East Midlands. As an environment city, and in partnership with the organisation Environ, Leicester has initiated the "Keep Leicester Cool" campaign, promoting 10 steps that local people can take to protect the environment as well as providing advice to the business and education sectors.

The East Midlands Community Renewables Initiative is also working with local communities such as former mining areas and local housing estates to integrate environmental technologies, using energy from biomass sources.

As the Chief Scientific Adviser pointed out, the Kyoto Protocol, although important, is not enough. We are now obliged to think carefully and urgently about what our post-Kyoto strategy will be. Sir David King has invited alternative ideas for future agreements about emissions control. Contraction and convergence is one such idea—a simple yet far-reaching proposal to deal with greenhouse gas emissions effectively and justly.

Your Lordships will be aware of the solution to global warming devised by Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute. Contraction refers to the movement towards a formal stabilisation target of emissions that is sustainable: a 60 per cent reduction by 2050 is the often-repeated suggestion. Convergence is the sharing out of permission to pollute among all the people of the Earth. On a per capita basis, countries would be allocated their share of permits to pollute. As we well know, post-industrialised countries emit far more greenhouse gases than those in the developing world, yet have smaller populations. The richer countries can buy permits to pollute from the poorer countries and offer much needed development aid thereby.

Contraction and convergence, therefore, is a simple yet radical solution, and one that I suggest we should be brave enough to support.

Next year, the UK enjoys simultaneously the presidency of the EU and G8. An opportunity that will not be repeated for decades is before us. The Prime Minister has said that he wishes to do something about climate change and about Africa, which is off-track for every one of the millennium development goals. Contraction and convergence is a solution that offers hope to both desperate situations. Climate change and sustainable energy use cannot be more pressing for the UK and the planet. It is in everybody's interest that these issues are debated and action initiated at all levels for the sake of our common future."

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199900/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds04/text/40209-10.htm#40209-10_head0

Church of England and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Feb 11, 2004 09:39 PST

The Church of England Board publishes the magazine "Crucible" on a quarterly basis.

The current edition (January March 2004) focuses on climate change.*

As it is not available on the web, copies are available from: -

je-@scm-canterburypress.co.uk

The editorial observes; -

"The poor, less industrial countries are largely those that will suffer the consequences of global warming: 'worsening and greater frequency of storms, floods, desertification, crop failures, famines, eco-system collapse, species migrations and extinctions, disease vectors, refugees, social tensions, economic failures and large-scale political conflicts . . . [with] the rising of sea levels through warming of the waters . . . [to] cap all of these tragedies'.

[Aubrey Meyer's article "Equity in Adversity"] compares the global apartheid, with the few offering a legacy of poverty - in the widest sense - to the many, with the political apartheid with which he grew up in South Africa.

In the end, the only solution that ensured a future of any description was one that involved every citizen of the country. The visionary genius and transcendental forgiveness of Nelson Mandela made that possible. Similarly, the solution to global warming has to be planet-wide, or it will not work. Contraction and Convergence answers this call to unity."

* Articles in Crucible do not represent the official view of the Board but they are published as significant contributions to Christian debate on contemporary issues.

A survey of Crucible over a number of years therefore provides a valuable insight into the develop-

ment of thinking on many social and ethical problems.

HoC Enviro-Audit to Gov - 'Where's C&C?' Aubrey Meyer

Feb 19, 2004 08:44 PST

The 60% target for 2050

11. The Government's commitment to a new direction in energy policy is specifically reflected by its adoption of a long-term carbon reduction target in direct response to the RCEP recommendation.[14] By including in the White Paper a specific commitment to a 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050, the UK Government has set a clear goal for domestic policy. It has also led the way internationally by emphasising to other nations the need to address the challenge of global warming. The Government deserves praise for doing so.

12. The impact of this internationally was reflected in comments made by the Chairman and members of the Environment Committee of the Canadian Federal Parliament, when they came to give evidence to us on another inquiry. In referring to the Government's 60% target for 2050, the Chairman stated:

"We would like, as parliamentarians, to congratulate you for your initiative, which we find far reaching and very enlightened and it sends out a signal also to us in Canada, which we will take seriously. We would like also to congratulate not only you in this room but outside this room those in the Energy Department of the UK who produced the White Paper in which the target of 2050 is elaborated for a reduction of greenhouse gases by 60 per cent. Although the choice of 2050 is a very bold initiative it forces us to think into the future more than we usually do and that 60 per cent reduction is a stunning item".[15]

13. However, the RCEP pointed out that the 60% target was in the context of an international agreement to a "contraction and convergence" (C&C) framework, and it recommended the adoption of such an approach, combined with international trading in emission permits, as offering the best long-term prospect of securing equity, economy and international consensus. The Energy White Paper says nothing about the latter, and the Government response to the RCEP recommendation is non-committal, citing C&C as only one of a number of possible approaches which could be adopted.[16] While we understand the need for some flexibility in international negotiations, we are aware of the difficulties of achieving a consensus. We believe that, just as the UK is setting a precedent in terms of adopting a long-term target, it could also exert greater influence over other nations by setting out and promoting more clearly what approach it favours in terms of an international framework for reducing carbon emissions."

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200203/cmselect/cmenvaud/618/61804.htm#a3>

Lord Hereford; *Superb* on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Feb 19, 2004 10:27 PST

Definitive Parting Shot from The Lord Bishop of Hereford: -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds03/text/31127-05.htm>

"The noble Lord, Lord Patten, is in his place. He invited me to respond to some of his remarks in his excellent speech. I thought that he had gone off to make a confession to someone better qualified to hear it than me. Let me assure him that I thoroughly disapprove of theft and boardroom malpractice, but that, as far as capitalism is concerned, my opinion is that, if properly regulated, like hunting, it is morally all right.

I greatly appreciated the speeches of the noble Lord, Lord Tomlinson and the noble Baroness, Lady O'Cathain. Although I had rather hoped to hear more from some of our great captains of industry, it was good to be led into the area of social enterprise by the noble Baroness, Lady Thornton, and to be reminded of the possibilities of breweries and oysters.

My main point is relevant to the topic of today's debate, though some may doubt it. I shall digress just for a moment to express a warm welcome to the announcement in the gracious Speech of the

pension protection fund and to the promise of legislation for civil partnerships, particularly in its helpfulness in terms of inheritance and pension issues.

I turn to my main point. Some of your Lordships may recall a short story by H G Wells, which gripped my imagination at the age of 12 or so. I should like, if I may, to read a short quotation from it. It will at least make a change from OECD statistics and the growth and stability pact. It is as follows:

"The master mathematician sat in his private room and pushed the papers from him, exhausted after four days and nights of feverish calculation.

"But he appeared calm and unruffled before his students at their morning lecture . . . 'Circumstances have arisen—circumstances beyond my control', he said, 'which will debar me from completing the course I had designed. It would seem, gentlemen'"—forgive the non-inclusive language of 100 years ago —

"if I may put the thing clearly and briefly, that—Man has lived in vain".

The "circumstances" referred to are that his calculations have revealed that a star is on course to approach very close to the Earth, or possibly even collide with it—a huge cataclysmic astronomical event. In the end there is no collision—it is only a short story, after all. The star passes the Earth and goes on its way into space. But its near passage has catastrophic consequences for the planet. There are immense floods, great surges of the sea, huge earthquakes, violent and continuing storms, vast mudslides, uncontrollable fires and a colossal rise in temperature to unbearable levels. Most of the human race perishes. A few survivors find that the former polar regions have become fertile while the rest of the Earth is uninhabitable because of the great heat. The event, my Lords, is not good for the economy or for industry and certainly not for pensions.

That is fiction, but the catastrophic effects described so vividly by H G Wells are not wholly unlike what is actually likely to happen as a result of climate change and will certainly grow rapidly worse if we continue with business as usual. The master mathematicians of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have made their calculations, and they are very scary indeed. The evidence is already all round us: unprecedentedly high temperatures, drought, rising sea levels, melting glaciers and ice caps, more frequent hurricanes and extreme weather events. Heroic efforts to reduce hunger in the world are frustrated by worsening climatic conditions. The United Nations report published two days ago indicated that 842 million people are going hungry, and that number is now increasing by about 5 million a year in contrast to the improving statistics of the 1990s. The few developing nations which have bucked this melancholy trend have not been the authors of their own good fortunes; they have simply been lucky—lucky to escape the high levels of drought and the natural disasters which have increasingly afflicted the third world in the past decade.

For us the dire effects of climate change may still seem in the future. But as the science fiction writer William Gibson put it: "The future is already here: it's just that it's unevenly distributed".

And it is nearer than we care to acknowledge: thousands of deaths from extreme heat in France this past summer; and seriously reduced crop yields in central and even northern Europe because of this year's exceptional drought. But was it exceptional?

It is not surprising or novel. We have seen it coming for a good many years, and wise scientists have pointed the way to a solution—a solution which would enable our economy to survive, our industry to flourish in a truly sustainable way, and even our pension schemes to be put on a secure footing. As it is, all three are in very grave danger.

Three years ago, in the executive summary to its magisterial report, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution said: -

"The most promising, and just, basis for securing long-term agreement is to allocate emission rights on a per capita basis—enshrining the idea that every human being is entitled to release into the atmosphere the same quantity of greenhouse gases. Because of the very wide differences between per capita emission levels round the world, and because current global emissions are already above safe levels, there will have to be an adjustment period covering several decades in which nations' quotas converge towards the same per capita level. This is the principle of contrac-

tion and convergence, which we support”.

The commission might have added that contraction and convergence is comprehensive, scientifically based and equitable, unlike the Kyoto Protocol, and that contraction and convergence meets every single objection raised by the United States to Kyoto.

That was three years ago. Two years ago, the Amsterdam Declaration, the report of the Global Change Open Science Conference, said: “In terms of some key environmental parameters the Earth System has moved well outside the range of natural variability exhibited over the past half million years at least. The nature of changes now occurring simultaneously in the Earth System, their magnitudes and their rates of change are unprecedented. The Earth is currently operating in a non-analogue state”.

Just one year ago, I was engaged with the Minister who opened this debate, the noble Lord, Lord Sainsbury of Turville, in correspondence following a Starred Question. The Minister wrote to me: “The Government is aware of the policy of Contraction and Convergence” - be thankful for small mercies. He continued: “As you will be aware, the policy requires industrialised countries to make enormous reductions in carbon emissions (up to 80 per cent). Contraction and Convergence have some appealing qualities, but discussions on future commitments to this policy are at an early stage, and there are likely to be other models which will need consideration. Contraction and Convergence was not in fact raised at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg”.

Indeed not, and shame on our Government for not raising it. Leaving aside the confusion in the Minister’s letter over whether contraction and convergence should be regarded as singular or plural—although the muddle within one paragraph does not inspire confidence in the grammatical competence of the department’s staff—this seemed to me a mealy-mouthed and very inadequate response to the most serious problem threatening the human race and the survival of the planet.

There was yet hope that the energy White Paper earlier this year might grasp the nettle and set out a ringing endorsement of contraction and convergence, or at the very least announce an urgent debate on the matter. Alas, those words did not appear, despite the fact that the Prime Minister’s foreword to the White Paper acknowledged:

“Climate change threatens major consequences in the United Kingdom and worldwide, most seriously for the poorest countries who are least able to cope”.

Amen to that, and the hunger statistics bear out the truth of that melancholy message.

Interestingly, and very much apropos of the theme of this debate, the Prime Minister went on to say:

“As we move to a low carbon economy, there are major opportunities for our businesses to become world leaders in the technologies we will need for the future”.

How very true, and how sad that the United Kingdom has at the moment 4 per cent of the market in environmental technology compared with Germany’s 15 per cent.

Prophetic witness and vigorous political action are needed to change the culture of government and of industry, but—rightly used—technology can serve the purposes of environmental concerns and begin to clear up the polluted legacy of two centuries of unbridled and environmentally irresponsible industrialism. The potential for selling green technology to the developing world in terms of clean energy generation, integrated crop management in agriculture, husbanding finite water resources, desalination, not to mention the obvious areas of pharmaceutical and medical resources to cope with the colossal AIDS epidemic all offer the prospect of a very creative partnership between the technologically advanced countries and the poorer nations of the world in a way which positively benefits the environment rather than adding to its degradation.

If we were to embrace contraction and convergence, with the enormous and comprehensive emissions trading system which is envisaged, the poorer nations would have the means, which at present they do not have, to buy the green technology from us. That would be very greatly to our economic and industrial advantage.

However, that requires the change of culture of which I spoke. At present, the position is getting

rapidly worse. There is enormous and accelerating economic growth in India, China and South East Asia. China's oil consumption this year will be 10 per cent higher than it was last year. The Kyoto Protocol—if and when it is implemented—will reduce CO 2 emissions from the annex 1 countries by 2 per cent, but global emissions are projected to rise by 30 per cent by 2012. It has been calculated that if storm damage continues to rise by the present 12 per cent a year—it will probably be worse than that—by 2065, annual damage caused by climatic destruction could equal the entire GNP of the world. That is a very black hole into which every known or imaginable pension plan would certainly fall.

Unless we find a way now to deal with the greenhouse gas problem internationally, growth will slow or stop anyway at very great human cost. By the middle of the century, there will be hundreds of millions of ecological refugees, starving and desperate, who will make our present asylum-seeker problem look very insignificant. My normal mode of address to your Lordships' House is, I hope, cool and rational. The mantle of the prophet is not one that sits very readily on my shoulders. I recall that the fate of most Old Testament prophets was to be mocked, ignored and driven out of town. I am quite prepared for that but, like Luther, I can say only, "Here I stand, I can do no other", because I know that the threat to our economy and industry and to civilised life is very great indeed.

"Climate change" were the last words in the substantive part of the gracious Speech. I am glad that they were there but I wish they had been at the beginning—in the preamble to the list of legislative proposals—indicating that the Government recognise the urgency and seriousness of the issue and see all other proposals in the context of tackling climate change with an energy and a single-mindedness which have yet to be seen.

The need is for leadership in breaking the straitjacket of short-term electoral cycle and in striving for all-party agreement so that there is no competition or disagreement about the urgency of this matter. There is also a need for leadership in setting up a community for global climate protection, which any and all who will participate are welcome to join. If some dirty dinosaurs such as the United States will not come in now, that is too bad. Someone must give a lead and we cannot afford to wait. There may just be time to act before a terrifying chain reaction of unstoppable, runaway climate change begins.

Klaus Toepfer, the highly respected head of the United Nations Environment Programme, said:

"The scientific consensus presented in the comprehensive [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] report . . . should sound alarm bells in every national capital and every local community".

My fear is that, by the time our Government hear those bells and act on them, it may be too late.

(Lynas) Aubrey Meyer

Feb 19, 2004 23:52 PST

Bench-mark New Statesman Essay by Mark Lynas

Monday 23rd February 2004

"The biomass of human bodies now exceeds by a hundred times that of any large animal species that ever existed on land."

[Pay Site]

http://www.newstatesman.com/site.php3?newTemplate=NSArticle_NS&newTop=&newDisplayURN=200402230015

"I write this as a former left-winger

. . . . thinking up solutions is not the problem. The "contraction and convergence" proposal for tackling climate change (global emissions contract to a sustainable level; per capita emissions converge between countries) knits both human equality and ecological survival into an elegant equation. Similarly, we can protect biodiversity by stopping habitat destruction and countering the

spread of invasive alien species around the world, especially in highly biodiverse "hot-spot" areas. And increasing women's control over their fertility is a straightforward way to reduce population growth.

Yet these proposals are so vast and all-consuming as to require a strong and durable consensus before they can be agreed or implemented. Biodiversity protection cannot be bolted on to existing growth-oriented economics. Contraction and convergence would require enormous resource transfers from rich to poor countries, as the developed world pays the developing nations not to follow in its own dirty footsteps.

Hence the failure of the various UN environmental summits: they take place in a political vacuum, with little public knowledge or interest to support or enforce their decisions. It is the formation of any durable political consensus towards ecological survival that the anti-green movement is determined to prevent.

In the meantime, the rest of us get side-tracked. I still believe that Tony Blair, for all his faults, remains unusually committed - compared to other government leaders - to tackling global warming. But by joining Bush's war on Iraq, Blair helped deliver the world's second-largest reserves of oil into the hands of the only major country fully under the control of climate change deniers. Rather than chasing all over the desert in search of a few mouldering old canisters of mustard gas, those seeking weapons of mass destruction need only have drilled down a few hundred metres until they hit oil, the most potent and destructive WMD of all "

LDCs for C&C in Kyoto Aubrey Meyer

Feb 29, 2004 06:23 PST

While the Kyoto Protocol continues to await critical mass, some in Government here have continued to make the point that Developing Countries don't support C&C.

Here is a transcript from the final debate at COP-3 Kyoto [1997] on "emissions trading".

This record supports the opposite view. Key Developing Countries do not merely support C&C, they actively campaign for it.

http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3_Transcript.pdf

ZIMBABWE: [for the Africa Group]

" we do support the amendment that is proposed by the distinguished delegation from India, and just to emphasise the point of the issues that still need a lot of clarification would like to propose in that paragraph the inclusion, after "entitlements" that is the proposal by the delegation of India, the following wording; after "entitlements, the global ceiling date and time for contraction and convergence of global emissions because we do think that you cannot talk about trading if there are not entitlements, also there is a question of contraction and convergence of global emissions that comes into play when you talk about the issue of equity "

Chairman:

I thank you very much. May I ask again the distinguished delegate of the USA if they have another suggestion to propose in connection with the proposals made by the distinguished delegate of India. He does.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

" It does seem to us that the proposals by for example India and perhaps by others who speak to Contraction and Convergence are elements for the future, elements perhaps for a next agreement that we may ultimately all seek to engage in "

[Woody Allen's first rule of success - "Be there!"].

Mayor of London supports C&C Aubrey Meyer

Mar 02, 2004 08:01 PST

Green light to clean power

The Mayor's [of London's] Energy Strategy

Big New Report out today - see at: -

http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/energy/docs/energy_strategy04.pdf
policy 2

The Mayor supports the principle of contraction and convergence as a long-term international policy objective. [page 74]

Box 3: Contraction and convergence [page 73]

Contraction and convergence is a simple approach to distributing the total greenhouse gas emission reductions required internationally, between various countries or groups of countries. The approach is based on two principles: -

- i) that there is an upper limit to acceptable global atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration, beyond which the damage from climate change would not be acceptable
- ii) that the atmosphere is a global commons, so that as individuals we all have equal rights to emit greenhouse gases.

These principles are applied to the problem of distributing internationally the right to emit greenhouse gases, as follows. First, the target atmospheric concentration is agreed, and a date is set at which point the atmospheric concentration will be stabilised at the agreed level. From these factors, the global annually allowable greenhouse gas emissions can be calculated for each year of the stabilisation period. This will be a decreasing number over time, as global emissions contract to the sustainable level defined by the target concentration.

An individual person's emissions entitlement for a given year is the global allowance for that year divided by the global population. From this, national entitlements are calculated on the basis of national population.

Therefore, a population cut-off point is required, after which additional population growth does not generate emission entitlements. To achieve these emission reductions via gradual transition, there would be a period during which emission entitlements for all nations converge to an equal per capita share globally. This period is independent from the stabilisation date for atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration: rates of both contraction and convergence would both be agreed through negotiation.

Emission entitlements created through contraction and convergence could be internationally tradable, so that the resulting system would be compatible with global carbon trading.

C&C at Asia-Europe Conference Aubrey Meyer

Mar 05, 2004 09:00 PST

C&C at Asia-Europe Environment Forum - Second Roundtable:

"Reinforcing Asia-Europe Cooperation on Climate Change"

25-26 March 2004 - Cheju Island, South Korea

C&C Session: - http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/CC_ABSTRACT_Cheju.pdf

C&C - UK Gov. Chief Scientist in Lords Aubrey Meyer

Mar 12, 2004 04:17 PST

UK Gov Chief Scientist - David King – responds to questions on C&C in Lords 29 01 04

Q412 Chairman:

We have a final question which links into Kyoto.

It may be that perhaps you can briefly discuss it and then we can get a written answer on this. Let me read it out and then we can see how we get on.

One of the most discussed international environmental issues at present is climate change and

one approach that is being discussed is contraction and convergence.

Could you briefly explain what this is?

In particular we have read this approach, compared to the Kyoto Protocol, is more based on science than on politics.

Do you agree with this? If you do how can you and the United Kingdom Government take steps to suggest this alternative agreement to the Kyoto Protocol?

Professor Sir David King:

Let me try and be very brief on my seminar on contraction and convergence and then perhaps put a paper in to you.

It is a matter of reaching international agreements, and the phrase often used is, what is a safe level of carbon dioxide that we should be aiming to converge towards? There is no safe level above the standard level of 270 parts per million, anything above that is problematic. Nevertheless there is a level which is realistically achievable given global agreement.

Let us suppose that level is for the sake of discussion 450 parts per million, we are currently at 372 parts per million, I do not believe that it would be possible to converge at a figure significantly below 450 parts per million. If we agree on that then the option that we are discussing it is that we agree that level and then we have convergence over a period of 20 to 50 years towards that level, which means that developing countries would be allowed to increase their carbon dioxide emission during that period and developed countries would be required to reduce their emissions.

As the period progresses the developing countries' emissions would also be required to turn round and decrease. This is recognising that developing countries will need to increase not decrease their use of energy as they emerge from their developing state and at the same time they will need to convert from fossil fuels into renewable energy forms. Do I think that this is a good alternative to the Kyoto process? At the moment there is only one international game in town, that is Kyoto, I frankly do not think it is particularly useful for us to be discussing, myself involved in negotiations, alternatives because we do have an international agreement, we have a significant number of countries signed up to it and that agreement contains an essential element in it which is carbon trading.

Carbon trading very simply puts a value on not emitting carbon dioxide and enables countries that are not able to cut down their emissions to trade access emissions with countries that were in terms of dollars and this would add not millions but billions of dollars to the trading arrangement. I think that is where the process ought to go because it creates a market. Within that free market process the overall limit, this convergence limit, could be approached. However in the discussions in Kyoto they have been focused entirely on the developed world and have so far not brought into play countries like China and India that are developing very rapidly and whose emissions are increasing.

I have to say that in China the minister of science, Minister Zhu is very much aware of this programme and the Chinese Government is already acting hard on reducing it emissions. Their emissions intensity despite their rapid growth is diminishing. I just point this out, you can decouple economic growth from emissions through careful planning, and that, of course, is what this country is aiming to do. How do we bring on board Indian and the African countries? My belief is that you are never going to bring them on board by lecturing to them about the importance of climate change, they have much, much bigger problems locally to deal with. The way we ought to be handling this is through capacity building between north and south so that we get technology transfer. I do believe in the 2008-2012 period once we have got to carbon emissions for trading going in developing countries we will need to move on to that phase in discussion with the developing countries, it is when we move into that phase that this principle that you asked me about could come into play.

http://www.gci.org.uk/UKParliament/King_HoL.pdf

or

<http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/ld/lduncorr/s&ti2901.pdf>

or

<http://66.102.9.104/search?q=cache:TMpYKYjpaSMJ:www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/ld/lduncorr/s%26ti2901.pdf+Contraction+and+convergence+David+King&hl=en&ie=UTF-8>

'A Climate Community' - European C&C Initiative Aubrey Meyer

Mar 14, 2004 02:29 PST

European C&C Initiative - European Federal Trust

< http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/CC_Layton2.pdf >

Revised and republished on the eve of the: -

CUSO Climate Conference <<http://www.cuso.org/conference/> >

March 19 - 22 2004 , Winnipeg, Canada,

This briefing by Christopher Layton, former Chef du Cabinet of the EC, is also now available in French [on request].

Executive Summary

1) MAN-MADE CLIMATE CHANGE is the overarching security challenge of this century. The scientific consensus is that greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut by 60% by mid-century and 80% by its end to avoid catastrophic damage. Yet global emissions are still rising, with the world's largest emitter, the United States, unwilling to act, and ratification of the Kyoto Protocol stalled. But even if the Protocol is carried out, global emissions will still rise by 30% over the next ten years. A new strategy is needed to solve the crisis.

(2) This paper proposes that the European Union and key developing countries could take the lead in creating a "global climate community" based on equity, solidarity and shared responsibility.

(3) To mobilise the South, such a community must be based on the equitable principle that emissions converge to equal quotas for every world citizen. This "contraction and convergence" would implement key principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change signed at Rio: precaution, equity, efficiency.

(4) Europe provides an example of leadership by the likeminded: Six countries pioneered the original coal and steel community which has since widened and deepened to unite all European states. A Climate Community, built on equitable principles could pioneer a global solution drawing in all states.

(5) The European Union and key developing countries could call a conference for all willing participants. This should: -

- * fix a carbon concentration target on the advice of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the necessary global budget for reducing emissions;

- * negotiate a transition period to equal emission rights per capita (say 30 to 40 years);

- * establish a global market in emissions allowances;

- * agree commitments and institutions to make the Community work.

(6) Institutions must include an effective executive and Council of Ministers to manage and ensure commitments are fulfilled; a judicial body to resolve disputes; a parliamentary body to ensure accountability - at least until a UN Parliamentary assembly can take over that role.

(7) For states that do not join initially, "empty chairs" would be defined ie targets for their share of global reductions in emissions. Appropriate association arrangements would be negotiated for outsiders as a path to full membership later. As climate change impacts America, a successful Climate Community will attract the large body of American opinion which wants the US to play its full part in a global solution to the climate challenge.

(8) A global climate community would give the European Union's emerging common foreign policy a constructive focus and help the world address the most serious threat facing humanity today.

Heat & Light - Mark Lynas Book Aubrey Meyer

Mar 17, 2004 02:32 PST

"High Tide" – Mark Lynas' book about global climate change is a great achievement.

It is published tomorrow.

Flamingo

ISBN 0 00 713939 X

In 2000 Mark became really concerned about the growing evidence of these changes here in the UK. So he undertakes a journey – literally to the four corners of the earth – to see for himself.

He finds evidence of similar changes in China, the US, Tuvalu, Peru and Alaska and hears and records what people in these places are saying about these. Photos showing the changes are included. He also describes in some detail recent chaotic attempts at the UN climate change negotiations to respond to these concerns.

Climate changes bring horrors. If you have yet to feel the sense of tragedy that comes with these, read this book and feel.

We can yet act to avoid the worst. If you have to decide how societies can organise to this purpose, read its conclusions and see how we can.

Lynas' remarkable journey, personal testimony and conclusions are both heat and light.

Very moving. Well done. Thank you.

C&C - Going for a Song? Aubrey Meyer

Mar 19, 2004 04:53 PST

Tam Dalyell - Father of the House [of Commons] - also writes a column for the New Scientist. He reports today on Kyoto, C&C and DEFRA's current comings and goings. <http://www.gci.org.uk/news/Dalyell.pdf>

At the same time, WWF-Russia's own networking rumours that Vladimir Putin may announce the 'Kyoto Kybosh' this weekend. Hmmm . . .

Climate-contrarians at Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) feeding Capitol Hill in Washington, must be on the verge of a 'CNE' [No - not Climate Network Europe; but a 'Collective Neural Event' - read 'schadenfreude'].

Previously CEI's oxymoronic line was both

"you can't solve a problem that doesn't exist" and,

"you can't solve it with Developing Countries out-of-the-frame."

Now, it is more like "This problem doesn't exist because it can't be solved."

Post COP-9, CEI are now also now openly fielding the C&C position which [of course] says "it does and you can."

[Well that's the line we'll stick to at the UNEP Climate Conference in Korea next week].

But for new light on C&C, see CEI at: -

<http://www.globalwarming.org/cop9/cop9e.htm>

<http://www.cei.org/gencon/014,03799.cfm>

[That's Director Myron Ebell];

<http://reason.com/rb/rb121103.shtml>

[That's Bailey at Reason-on-line, and CEI-linked];

<http://zeus.nascom.nasa.gov/~pbrekke/temp/Kyoto-Avery.doc>

[This is Fred Singer - [and I thought C&C was a song]].

As Satchmo once crooned, "Bill Bailey won't you please come home!"

COP10 - Estrada lets Kyoto go . . . ? Aubrey Meyer

Mar 22, 2004 03:11 PST

IPS - "Prepare for the Worst," Says Next Host of Climate Change Meet

Marcela Valente

<http://www.ipsnews.net/interna.asp?idnews=22904>

. . . . The suggestion to discuss the creation of "adaptation mechanisms" came from the Argentine Foreign Ministry's director of environmental affairs, Raúl Estrada Oyuela, who took part in the negotiations that led to the implementation of the Convention on Climate Change in 1994, and to the design of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

. . . . Argentina will recommend that the goal of getting Russia and/or the United States to ratify the Protocol should not be put at the top of the agenda, even though it remains the key objective of the negotiations carried out since the Convention on Climate Change was adopted in 1992.

. "If Russia ratifies the Protocol before COP-10, then we'll change our plans. But the most reasonable route is to prepare for the worst," Estrada Oyuela said at a March 15th meeting of representatives of local NGOs, where he announced the position to be taken by Buenos Aires in its preparations for the conference.

. Estrada Oyuela's position "is pragmatic, and we support it," said the Greenpeace activist, although he warned of certain risks. On one hand, he expressed the fear that the policies aimed at helping countries deal with climate change could begin to be seen as a solution to the underlying problem. Villalonga also warned of the risk that the international community could end up facilitating things for countries that refuse to make progress towards eliminating the causes of global warming.

. . . . Since the climate change conferences got underway in 1992, the emphasis has been on cutting emissions and mitigating their effects, said Estrada Oyuela. However, it is increasingly important for developing countries to put an emphasis on their vulnerabilities and on measures to address them, he stressed.

The proposal that Argentina will send to the Climate Change Convention General Secretariat in June breaks up the agenda for the December ministerial meeting into four major areas of debate: adaptation; energy and climate change; land use; and the negotiating process itself.

Instead of the traditional series of speeches by environment ministers, Buenos Aires suggests setting up four panels comprised of six ministers and a moderator to discuss the four main areas of debate. All of the regions would be represented on each panel.

"We must bring the big issues that were sent to the parallel meetings back into the conferences," Estrada Oyuela told the representatives of civil society Monday.

Some relevant proposals are at:

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/draft>

GCI's documentation for CHEJU [this week] is at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/cheju.pdf>

New Statesman - C&C saves Blair? Aubrey Meyer

Apr 02, 2004 05:51 PST

NEW STATESMAN

Friday 2nd April 2004

"Give Blair another chance"

Mark Lynas

http://www.newstatesman.com/site.php3?newTemplate=NSArticle_NS&newTop=Section:%20Front%20Page&newDisplayURN=200404050018

Mark Lynas proposes that we should forgive the PM for Iraq if he can redeem himself by embracing a big new idea for tackling both climate change and global poverty.

"It pains me to write this. I marched with the best of them last year on the Stop the War rally through the cold streets of London, and at that time my hatred of the Bush'n'Blair "axis of evil" knew no bounds. I still feel the same about Bush. But I now see new dangers, and as a result, new opportunities in politics this side of the Atlantic. It may be time, I suggest reluctantly, to move on, and to offer Tony Blair one last chance to earn our support.

The importance of Iraq can be overstated. Compared to other wars, relatively few people have been killed. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, there were no "embedded" journalists to watch while rebel armies committed cannibalism, raped thousands, and recruited children as young as seven for military service. An estimated four million people lost their lives, against 10,000 or so civilian casualties in the invasion of Iraq. Moreover, some good has come out of the Iraq campaign: most Iraqis, despite mixed feelings about the humiliation of military occupation, remain grateful - according to a recent BBC poll - for the removal of Saddam Hussein's tyranny.

Continual attacks on Blair from the left can lead only to more bitterness and cynicism. Instead, we should invite Blair to rise to a new challenge. This one, if he meets it, would give him the place in history that he craves so much.

In 2005, Britain will assume the presidencies of both the G8 and the EU. No 10 has already indicated that it wants to make climate change and Africa - including the UN Millennium Development Goal of halving world poverty by 2015 - the two big themes of the presidency. The growing impacts of global warming, from drowning Pacific islands to disappearing Alpine glaciers, create added urgency on the first issue, as does the recent report that a quarter of the earth's species might become extinct by 2050 because of climate change. Yet the Kyoto Protocol is increasingly imperilled by lack of Russian ratification.

On the second issue, only slow progress has been made towards meeting the UN targets for 2015, which include achieving universal primary education; reducing child mortality by two-thirds; reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters; and stopping the spread of Aids and malaria. At the current pace, according to the UN, sub-Saharan Africa will not meet the goals for poverty until 2147, nor those for child mortality until 2165.

Ministers and their advisers are always casting around for a "big idea" that might stand out against the usual stream of targets that are forgotten almost as soon as they are announced. Yet a single big idea - one that could solve the twin crises of global poverty and global warming - is already in circulation, and rapidly gaining steam in policy-making circles. First proposed by the London-based Global Commons Institute more than a decade ago, "contraction and convergence" (C&C) is now being taken seriously: Geoff Mulgan and David Miliband, the current and former heads of the No 10 policy unit, have both highlighted the idea publicly. More explicit support has come from Sir John Harman, chairman of the Environment Agency, Sir John Houghton, the UK's most eminent climatologist, and the MPs' environmental audit and international development committee. C&C aims to move gradually to a position where global greenhouse-gas emissions are reduced to sustainable levels but where every human being has an equal right to consume fossil fuels. So rich countries would "contract" their emissions, while the poorest could increase theirs, so that both sides ultimately "converge" on per capita equality.

C&C's biggest selling point is that it offers a science-based framework with reliable outcomes at the end of a process that must stretch for decades into the future. Although Kyoto is a good first step, there is no long-term planning: nothing else on the table can tell us with certainty where we will end up in 2050 or 2100.

C&C gets back to first principles. First, it asks how much climate change we are prepared to tolerate, and pins this to a specific, scientifically valid commitment, mandating an upper limit to the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. (The current level is the highest on earth in more than 420,000 years.)

Once this "cap" has been agreed, it implies a budget for the remaining emissions of greenhouse gases as fossil fuels are phased out. No longer will the atmosphere be a free-for-all dumping ground. This budget must be divided up fairly among the world's population - nothing less will be acceptable to the countries of the south, which will rightly be suspicious of any treaty that might

freeze their development. It is like food rationing during the Second World War - with a limited amount of atmosphere to go round, sacrifices will be accepted only if they are fairly shared.

A frequent objection to C&C is that America will never sign up to a global agreement based on equity. But opposing fairness will be a difficult negotiating position to sustain, and the US objection to Kyoto - that developing countries are not given targets - is tackled head on by a C&C regime where everyone has a converging target. Indeed, the US spoke in favour of C&C at the original Kyoto negotiations, saying it could be the basis of the next agreement.

Moreover, if the US or any other western country wants to go on consuming more than its fair share, that's fine - but it will have to pay for the privilege. C&C distributes atmospheric ownership rights fairly, and you can't use what you don't own. This is a quantum shift. Suddenly we are away from aid - where the rich condescendingly give a few pennies to the poor - and into trade, with hard-nosed commercial bargaining for mutual benefit. The rich will have to buy "emissions rights" from the poor - recognising the "ecological debt" we already owe for a century of fossil fuel-based growth, and generating potentially billions a year in revenue flows to the south.

So carbon trading could eventually bridge the yawning income gap that has opened up with globalisation, bringing the Millennium Development Goals out of the conference circuit for the first time and into the realms of practical possibility. There is no reason why income generated from carbon trading should not be earmarked specifically for providing access to safe water to the 1.1 billion people who currently lack it, for getting the 115 million young children who are currently excluded from school into lessons and for helping developing countries pay for clean generation of power.

But C&C needs a champion. Someone who can sell it to the EU. Someone who can go on to build an alliance between the EU and the south. Someone who can recruit the recalcitrant Americans, with a new president at the helm, one hopes. What better role for Blair?

Britain already has one of the most far-sighted climate change policies in the world. The UK's Kyoto commitment of 12.5 per cent reductions in carbon emissions by 2012 is one of the toughest in the EU, and the government's long-term target of 60 per cent reductions by 2050 is exactly what climate scientists and environmentalists alike have long been calling for. Meanwhile, the renewables sector is booming, again partly due to sustained government support. Although the wind-power industry is still behind that of Germany and Spain, capacity is expected to triple over the next two years, with much of the growth coming from huge offshore developments.

I have heard from several different sources that Blair is strongly committed to tackling climate change, and believes it poses the greatest long-term threat to humankind. At a speech to mark the launch of last year's white paper on energy, Blair said global poverty and climate change were "just as devastating in their potential impact" as weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. "There can be no genuine security," Blair rightly asserted, "if the planet is ravaged by climate change."

The man often pilloried as George Bush's poodle has never wavered in his opposition to American intransigence on global warming, even telling Congress last June (during his "history will forgive us for the Iraq war" speech): "Climate change, deforestation and the voracious drain on natural resources cannot be ignored. So America must listen as well as lead."

It now seems that Blair hopes some of the political capital he gained with his support of US policy on Iraq might be spent on shifting its policy on climate. Indeed, the energy white paper sets "as a key objective of . . . foreign policy" a 60 per cent cut in emissions throughout the developed world by 2050.

Blair's presidency of the G8 in 2005 could provide a forum for serious discussions on climate and poverty, assuming the PM can use his political capital to avoid a US veto. As I write, the forces of civil society are gathering for street demonstrations around the summit that could generate the same momentum as the Jubilee campaign in 2000. I would guess that almost all these people were alienated by the Iraq war, and many have turned away from what they see as repeated betrayals by new Labour. Yet they could - and should - be Labour's core support base. All it needs is

for Blair to show commitment and vision. Then, having turned from a warmonger into a champion of the poor and the planet, he may find even the war's strongest opponents ready to forgive him for Iraq."

C&C & EBCUS - New Green Manifesto Aubrey Meyer

Apr 03, 2004 07:24 PST

Green Alternatives to Globalisation: A Manifesto

Michael Woodin, Caroline Lucas

"Written by two of the most prominent members of the UK Green Party, this book is an accessible and concise introduction to the Green perspective on the major issues of today -- including the environment, climate change, globalisation, trade and finance, and international security. It's a book that will be of interest to anyone who wants a radical and environmentally-sound political alternative."

http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/0745319327/ref=sr_aps_books_1_1/202-2807008-1003057

[Page 87]

"Finally, a robust emissions-trading scheme should be introduced as part of a new international treaty to cut greenhouse gas emissions, based on the Contraction and Convergence (C&C) model. Under the C&C model each country would be allocated the same per capita allowance for greenhouse gas emissions. The per capita allowance would be reduced over time so that total global emissions would contract to an environmentally sustainable level. Initially, industrialised countries would vastly exceed their total budget. For example, the US hosts approximately 4 per cent of the world's population, yet produces a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions. The C&C model sets a time limit for countries to converge on the per capita allowance and permits them, within limits, to complete the element of convergence that they cannot achieve through technological innovation and energy conservation by purchasing surplus emissions budget from other countries. Thus, given the 1990s estimate of the value of the industrialised countries' annual output that was dependent on emissions in excess of their budget (\$13-15 trillion), very substantial sums of money would flow to the least developed countries with the greatest emissions budget surpluses."

[Schumacher Briefing 5]

[Page 198]

"One radical idea for a new neutral global currency is the Emissions-backed Currency Unit (Ebcu), proposed by Richard Douthwaite as a development of the Contraction and Convergence (C&C) method of cutting greenhouse gas emissions. 46

Under C&C, each country would receive an annual allocation of emissions permits on a per capita basis. Over an agreed period of time, the total annual allocation would be reduced until it no longer exceeds the planet's ability safely to absorb the emissions it permits. Countries would be able to trade in emissions permits using Ebcus, which would also be allocated on a per capita basis. Until they became more energy efficient, rich countries that emit more than their fair share of greenhouse gas emissions would need to buy emission permits from poorer countries. Poor countries would have an incentive to invest the Ebcus they receive in the development of energy-efficient economies so that they retained a surplus of tradable permits. Ebcus could also be used as a global reserve currency, as the dollar is now. Thus, the Ebcu would operate within an environmentally sustainable economic framework as a neutral and redistributive means of international exchange, deriving its value from a universally useful commodity, the right to emit greenhouse gases.

The Ebcu proposal is still at an early stage of development and, in common with any other proposals to replace the dollar, US opposition would hamper its implementation. Nevertheless, the economic implications of that opposition would become less powerful as self-reliance increased under economic localisation."

[Schumacher Briefing 4]

2 Irish C&C-linked Conferences in April Aubrey Meyer

Apr 05, 2004 07:22 PDT

"Bridging the Gap - Information for Action; Mobilising knowledge for a Better Environment" The Burlington Hotel, Dublin, Ireland, 28-30 April 2004

Organised by the Environment Agencies of Ireland, the UK and Europe.

" an opportunity to raise some agenda-setting, challenging ideas for discussion ending on a forward-looking, inspirational note."

"You are correct in thinking that I support the concept of Contraction and Convergence as does the Environment Agency."

Sir John Harman

Chairman

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/E_Agency.pdf

A conference jointly organised by Feasta and the Debt and Development Coalition Ireland on the links between climate change, the debt crisis and global inequity.

Held in association with the New Economics Foundation, Jubilee Research, the Global Commons Institute, Friends of the Irish Environment and GRIAN. the Irish arm of the Climate Action Network.

With contributions via a live video link from a simultaneous conference on the same topics in South Africa. Wednesday 28th of April 2004 09.00 – 17.30

€20.00 includes lunch & coffees

To be held as part of this year's Convergence Festival

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/feasta.pdf>

Africa Group, Climate Summit Aubrey Meyer

Apr 16, 2004 09:47 PDT

Organised by CNA, Nairobi hosts a Ministerial climate summit 23/24 April.

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Legislators_Africa.pdf

This is just prior to the two Climate Conferences in Dublin over the last week of April. These are organised by various civil service and civil society institutions in the last week of April.

C&C output from the former will be input to the latter, as outlined in documentation at: - http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Africa_Group.pdf

Megasupport: - Africa Group C&C Proposal Aubrey Meyer

Apr 21, 2004 15:25 PDT

In support of the Africa Group's 'Equity Proposal' in 1997 to the UNFCCC, this updated archive [1989 - 2004] shows support is steady.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/archive/megasupport.pdf>

Strong C&C signal from Kenya Climate Summit. Aubrey Meyer

Apr 26, 2004 09:57 PDT

Strong C&C signal from UNEP/CNA Kenya Summit

"Bring C&C urgently to the attention of the UNFCCC Secretariat for assessment by SBSTA," says the Honourable Anyang' Nyong'o, Kenya's Minister for Planning and National Development.

Bringing to a close the intensive two-day climate meeting for Ministers and Legislators in Nairobi over the weekend, Mr Nyong'o said: -

"It is now apparent that the world has to urgently agree to a more equitable method of reducing

greenhouse gas emissions based on per capita emission rights allocations. This brings me to the concept of Contraction and Convergence. This concept embodies the principles of precaution (contraction of greenhouse emissions) and of equity (convergence at to equal share per head through a globally agreed date) in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions between industrialized countries and developing countries.

The world must go an extra mile to avoid climate change, as it is cheaper than adapting to the damages. This in no way under estimates what the Kyoto Protocol aims to achieve from the flexible mechanisms. Kyoto should continue but due to the increasing and unbearable negative impacts of climate change on developing country economies, in particular Africa, the world must begin to evaluate other globally equitable approaches.

The concept of Contraction and Convergence therefore needs to be assessed and evaluated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change particularly, its Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. I am certain that our Ministers for Environment here present will see the need to bring this agenda very urgently to the attention of the Climate Change Secretariat."

The meeting passed a resolution that included a call for: - "proactive measures. The legislators of the four Assemblies urged the three governments [Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda] to put in place measures to deal with climate change and climate-related disasters . . . and . . . as a possible basis of the international climate change negotiations at the UNFCCC, the 1997 African Group C&C proposal on equity be analysed and evaluated by the SBSTA of the UNFCCC."

In a separate statement, the Director General of the ruling 'National Rainbow Coalition' [NARC] – the Hon Alex K Muriithi - urged that: - "Avoiding dangerous rates of climate-change from fossil fuel dependency must be strategically guaranteed with appropriate structural adjustment of the international system."

He stated that: - "the Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) scheme presented by the Africa Group at COP-3 in Kyoto, is the basis of this."

He also noted that, "combined with international currency arrangements, C&C determined carbon shares create an inclusive global standard for sustainable resource use."

"The full rent for the use of the environmental and atmospheric space of Developing Countries, can be paid by the Developed Countries helping the world moves from uneconomic growth to sustainable development for all," he said.

Report on FEASTA Climate Conference Aubrey Meyer

May 09, 2004 09:21 PDT

A short report on FEASTA's Climate Conference [Dublin - 28 04 04]is

available at: - http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/FEASTA_Event.pdf

"Linking Environment and Development, this well organised and very well attended conference debated a topic of the utmost importance: - what does it really take to avoid dangerous rates of global climate change?

Can we switch from the present uneconomic system of 'Expansion and Divergence' to a sustainable global system based on 'Contraction and Convergence'?

As the conference explored, central to the answer is the kind of money that's used. It was agreed that the present paper-money system of "Expansion and Divergence" is debt, growth and greenhouse-gas emissions dependent, and this makes it inherently unjust and unsustainable.

The answer considered was how JUBILEE 2000's, repudiation of debt crisis and GCI's proposals for the international "Contraction and Convergence" of fossil fuel dependency might be combined with FEASTA's proposals for the International Energy Backed Currency Units [EBCUs], in order to establish the resource basis for a globally just and sustainable system."

A report on GCI's C&C contribution [*] to the European, UK and Irish Environment Agencies' Conference ["Bridging the Gap"; Dublin - 30 04 04] with reactions to this and matters arising, will be

published next on GCN.

* <http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/EPA.pdf>

GCI's extensive documentation [big file] for both events is at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/GAP.pdf>

PS - Grace Akumu, Executive Director of Climate Network Africa, has written asking I correct an impression inadvertently given in the earlier GCN posting after the recent climate-workshop legislators' in Nairobi.

The event was a CNA event as stated. However, it was funded by UNEP - but not co-organised by - UNEP as stated.

Apologies for any confusion created on this point.

C&C at Hague Security Conference Aubrey Meyer

May 10, 2004 11:41 PDT

Climate Change and Mounting Financial Risks: What are the Options?

Paper for "The Hague Conference on Environment, Security and Sustainable Development" 9-12 May 2004

<http://www.envirosecurity.net/conference/ESSDProgramme.pdf>

The unifying policy: "Contraction and Convergence"

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/ClimateChangeFinancialRiskOptions.pdf>

"The most important step in reducing the risk of climate change, is to create a common understanding and will to solve the problem. This can only be done with a policy that is simple, fair and effective.

The one which offers the best hope of doing this is "Contraction and Convergence", devised by the Global Commons Institute. It is based on the idea of agreeing a "safe" level of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations, and allocating the right to emit ghg's equally percapita to all nations. Since we are not at the equal stage currently, with rich countries above the safe level and poor countries below, a future convergence date has to be agreed also (see Figure 8).

The merit of this simple approach is that it is clearly "fair" (equal percapita shares), pragmatic (allows time to adapt), it avoids "blame" (no retrospective differentiation), but at the same time it creates the possibility to redistribute wealth and transfer technology (emissions rights could be traded between over- and under- compliers), and it provides the incentive to develop RE and more efficient energy applications (by setting a clear direction).

Without an overarching framework like Contraction and Convergence to operate within, the financial sector will always be rather hesitant to commit its resources to a seemingly distant problem like climate change, when there are so many other urgent issues clamouring for attention."

Dr Andrew Dlugolecki Andlug Consulting 4 May, 2004

C&C at National HECA Conference Aubrey Meyer

May 10, 2004 21:51 PDT

NATIONAL HEAT ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT CONFERENCE

The Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA), 1995 aims to secure improvements in energy efficiency in the domestic sector. The HECA Fora are a network of support groups made up of UK Local Government HECA Officers, who have responsibility for reporting progress on the Home Energy Conservation Act. The network is supported by the HECA Fora Secretariat, who also maintain this website.

http://www.hecafora.com/index.htm?innerpage=conference_2004_files/exhibit.html

Three workshops on Climate Change:

Contraction & Convergence

Contraction and convergence (C&C) is a scheme to provide a framework for a smooth transition to a low level of CO2 emissions from human activity. It can either follow or replace the Kyoto protocol. The first step in C&C, contraction, is based on agreeing a safe target concentration level and the determination of global annual emission levels which should take the global atmosphere to that target. The second step, convergence, defines allocations to each country, assuming annual emission allowances that vary per-capita of population. This seminar will look at the links between global, international and national policy and how these can be strengthened.

Coordinator: Aubrey Meyer

Aged 43, Aubrey Meyer co-founded the Global Commons Institute (GCI) in London in 1990. He spent the next decade campaigning at the United Nations negotiations on climate change to win acceptance of the management of global greenhouse gas emissions through the framework of, 'Contraction and Convergence' (C&C).

In 1998 he won the Andrew Lees Memorial Award for this and, in 2000, the Schumacher Award. C&C is now cited as, ...destined to become one of the most important principles governing international relations in the 21st Century. It is a powerful ethic that incorporates global justice and sustainability.

C&C - Environment Agency GAP Aubrey Meyer

May 17, 2004 23:16 PDT

Bridging the Gap Conference in Dublin 28th – 20th April 2004.

This event was organised by the Environment Agencies of Ireland, the UK and Europe.

Representatives of the EEA were present at the Asia-Europe climate co-operation event in Korea in March GCI. In consequence, GCI was asked at the last minute to provide a keynote presentation at the end of the EA Dublin event on Contraction and Convergence on the 30th of April.

I was happy to accept this and encouraged by the earlier letter from Sir John Harman, the Chairman of the UK Environment Agency, in which he affirmed that both he and the Environment Agency support "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C). <http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/EnvAgency.pdf>

Over three hundred participants from all over the newly enlarged European Union met in Dublin. A convergence with the earlier very well-focused FEASTA civil-society event, the C&C contribution to the EA conference was a great success and regarded by some as the highlight of the event.

Once again, this was enhanced by the speaking presence of Mr Raphael Hanmbock from the Cameroon, whose statement to conference is at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Raphael.pdf>

I was also assisted by another two persons from GCI who worked hard to prepare and to deliver this success. In consequence, each participant received beautifully printed and bound copies of C&C booklet - with a meaningful and attractive cover - at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/GAP.pdf>

CDs of the full GCI archive of press and other materials from 1989 until the present were provided. These included a variety of FLASH and Power Point Presentations animating C&C and explaining its ethos, along with all printed articles and reports from GCI over the past decade. The full C&C banner adorned the entrance throughout. John Schelnhuber of the German Advisory Council and Policy Director at the UK Tyndall Centre made a presentation in which he reaffirmed their support for C&C, saying that the documentation provided was very interesting.

One oddity however, came in the form of a message from the office of a Ms Marilyn McKenzie Hedger. She is a middle-ranking official at the UK Environment Agency and long-time CAN activist. It was issued to a third party who wrote expressing interest in the Agency's support for "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C).

Her reply read: - "Contraction and Convergence is a complex issue of International Policy on which the Environment Agency does not have a policy [sic]. The views expressed by Sir John Harman

are his personal views.”

Sorastro – what a put down! Close the temple. If she was a coloratura, she’d be the Queen of the Night.

No matter; she would have enjoyed C&C at the HECA UK local government AGM in Wales; tremendous enthusiasm - pure sunlight.

What a tonic!

C&C takes Penguin Books . . . Aubrey Meyer

May 20, 2004 05:03 PDT

“How we can Save the Planet”

Penguin ISBN 0-141-01692-2 [2004]

www.penguin.com

This publication is remarkable.

In it authors Mayer Hillman and Tina Fawcett have not only captured the spirit and the letter of the age, they have also captured one of the most prestigious publishing institutions in the business into the bargain.

It is a manifesto for action, and yes of course it argues for C&C, otherwise it wouldn’t be GCN related. But it argues so much of the substance and practicalities of C&C as well.

Mayer has ‘walked the walk’ for his [now more than] seventy years. In this volume he and Tina talk the walk, and its detail, with a clarity and commitment that is an example to all.

It puts no-one to the sword. But it does put everyone to the test and many academics to shame.

Penguin should be congratulated too for having seen the future and helped to make it so visible and readable.

RICS on C&C Aubrey Meyer

May 20, 2004 19:20 PDT

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors – RICS – is one of the most respected and high profile global ‘standards and membership’ organisations for professionals involved in land, valuation, real estate, construction and environmental issues.

Here is what they say about C&C.

<http://www.rics.org/ricscms/bin/show?class=Feature&template=/includes/showfeature.html&id=1115>

What’s on after Kyoto?

22 April 2004

Number 75 in a series of features produced by Frank Booty for the FM Faculty

With the Kyoto protocol in tatters following last year’s damning rebuttals by the US and Russia, plus the admission by the EU – the key promoter – that most members (other than the UK and Sweden) were nowhere near meeting the treaty’s obligations, what now? The global plan currently in favour for bringing greenhouse gas emissions under control looks like being ‘contraction and convergence’, or ‘C&C’

One day in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, 171 nations believed they were coming together to save the world – an international treaty was signed which was designed to save the world from rampant global warming. Then in December, 2003, signatories to the 1992 Rio Framework Convention on Climate Change met in Milan, Italy, for their (ninth) annual meeting.

In December, the US finally washed its hands of the agreement. Meanwhile the European Union – the key protagonist for the Kyoto protocol – embarrassingly had to admit that most of the member states are not on track to meet their obligations under the treaty, with the notable exception

of the UK and Sweden. Then Russia appeared to be about to deliver the coup de grace
US developments

It's not all quiet in the US however. In late January 2004, a report appeared, released by Andrew Marshall, founding director of the Pentagon's Office of Net Assessment (a key and powerful think tank), called 'An abrupt climate change scenario and its implications for US National Security'. An important conclusion from the report is that the real threat to national security is from global warming which would trigger an 'abrupt climate change event.'

Reading details of the ONA report is the stuff of nightmares, and it could all happen by 2020. Marshall rams home the point that the status quo is simply not tenable. There is nigh on total agreement on climate change – in a body of movers and shakers that includes most of science, the other OECD members, and the key major corporations, like Alcoa, DuPont, General Motors and IBM. Some clout.

The UK's Chief Scientific Advisor is on record with a remark that climate change is more serious than the threat of terrorism. The Marshall report envisages global emissions markets as the best answer. Actions are possible that would reduce the conditions that fuel terrorism and the medium term threat of abrupt climate change while ushering in a new economic engine and age for the US and the world. It will not initially be easy.

The darker side to all the talks of an abrupt climate change event however is that if the US continues to expand and use fossil fuels at the same rate as it has done hitherto, in 20 years time, the scenario will be that the US is consuming more resources than the earth can produce.

What next?

The question on observers' lips now is how are greenhouse gas emissions going to be brought under control? Is there to be widespread flouting of any restrictions on pumping out noxious gases to clog the Earth's upper atmosphere with damaging greenhouse gases?

Contraction and Convergence

The saviour appears to lie in a term that has been circulating for a decade but which is currently flavour of the moment: 'contraction and convergence' or 'C&C'. The originator of the concept is Aubrey Meyer, Director of the Global Commons Institute. The word contraction refers to the means of reducing the total global output of greenhouse gases. Back in 1992, at the Rio earth summit, all governments had agreed it was necessary to act to prevent terrible changes to the world's climate. The 1997 Kyoto meeting produced plans that potentially would have drawn up emissions targets for all industrialised nations for the years 2008 to 2012.

However it soon became apparent that the Kyoto treaty was a bureaucratic nightmare. There were some countries, which discovered it would be possible to offset emissions restrictions with schemes like forestation as a carbon-sink project. Complexity ruled with a vengeance. Prosecutions became impossible to pursue. Had the treaty's proposals become international law, nothing could have been enforced beyond 2012.

The thinking progressed to a move back to the first principles, ie to work out a formula to combat the dangerous climate change referenced at the time of the Rio meeting. The pervasive opinion is that any warming of the atmosphere over two degrees Centigrade above pre-industrial levels is considered dangerous. To date, temperatures have risen by 0.6 degrees Centigrade.

So, to stay under the two degree ceiling, global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (the key greenhouse gas) will have to be kept below 450 parts per million. However, as carbon dioxide (and other greenhouse gases) are present in the atmosphere for at least 100 years, keeping below the bar is going to involve swingeing cuts in emissions for the next half Century.

In the UK, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has already decided that a 60% cut in global emissions by 2050 is required, which the UK Government has set as the national target. However if the world is to adopt such a target and timescale, some difficult decisions will be necessary.

Now enter the convergence term of C&C. Under the C&C regime, emissions from industrial sites in each country will converge year by year towards an agreed target based on an individual country's

population. The intention is that by or in 2050 every person on the planet will have the equal right to pollute.

The date of 2050 was mooted by both the Royal Commission and the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU). In a report in 2003, the WBGU asserted that anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions must be cut globally by 45-60% by 2050 relative to 1990. This means industrialised countries have to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020 (the WBGU adds that industrialised countries have committed to reducing emissions by 5% by 2012 relative to 1990).

Today the 'average' person introduces about a tonne of carbon into the atmosphere each year. Computations suggest that to halt hazardous climate change, the figure needs to be reduced to 0.3 tonnes per person (while also factoring in an allowance for any population increases). But it also needs to be remembered that some parts of the world are set to experience decreases in population.

Conclusion

There are technologies for generating energy without having to resort to burning fossil fuels. Some quarters in the industry believe it will be possible to produce economically-justified (and justifiable) 'green' energy in the desired quantities by or in the years surrounding 2035. But forecasting is not a precise science.

Now?

The 10th annual meeting on climate change will be held in Argentina, although the precise date has yet to be set. It could be this December, but Aubrey Meyer equally believes it could be the following month, or even the month after that.

Prevarication is not the way forward. Decisive action is needed now, with everyone agreeing to work toward the same goals. The alternative is too gruesome to contemplate.

The phrase 'dangerous climatic changes' is referenced by the WBGU as meaning growing health hazards caused by the spread of malaria, increasing harvest failure risks, mounting freshwater scarcity due to increased frequency of drought, and the onset of a cold period in the Atlantic-European region as a result of the Gulf Stream shutting down. These are equally highlighted in the Marshall report's addressing of the threat posed by global climate change.

In mid-January 2004 some of the world's leading experts on the environment met at the HQ of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to attempt to pinpoint knowledge gaps in the forecasting process relating to mankind's actions on the environment of the 21st Century. Links between global warming and heavy metal pollution, soil microbes and bumper crop yields and the degree to which a degraded environment can trigger political instability are key issues confronting scientists attempting to resolve issues concerning the Earth's fate.

Areas needing improved scientific research include environment and poverty; environment and trade; environment and conflict; disturbance of the global nitrogen cycle as a result of agricultural fertilisers and traffic fumes; and the health and environmental effects of a build-up of toxic chemicals.

Opinion on Contraction and Convergence Director of ABS Consulting, partner of Carbon Sense, and Chair of CIC (Construction Industry Council) Sustainable Development Group, Dave Hampton, comments:

'It's common sense reality – the planet simply cannot go on unleashing all the billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide that are released when ancient fossil fuel is burnt. We are unlocking, as fast as we can, and from its multi-million year fossilised carbon storage place safely underground, all of the earth's treasure of amazing hydrocarbons – oil, coal and gas. We are downgrading our fuel store into Giga-tonnes of invisible, but not quite harmless, carbon dioxide gas. It's a classic case of trying to live off our assets, instead of living off income. No wonder the climate is changing. The miracle would be if it wasn't.

Yes, sure, the air we all share can absorb all this extra carbon dioxide gas, no problem, and it has

been, for ages. In fact it has been doing so uncomplainingly for a hundred years already. But the signs are it just cannot go on this way. As we wake up to this reality, scientists are telling us that we are already way past the point of no return. So how do we react to this?

It is massive news. We can ignore it, we can believe it, or we can disbelieve it. But it's still big. One awkward twist is that all the people who do get it, understandably, can get down and angry – and indeed can become bad company, and are best avoided. But there is still hope.

All this 'burn-out' only started 100 years ago, and like Concorde, it can finish as fast as it started. If we are to survive, all nations have to agree to contract (dramatically) our total national carbon dioxide emissions. Prime Minister Tony Blair got us all off to a flying start suggesting 60% cuts for UK by 2050. This is way ahead of most other countries, but is still not fast enough (contraction) for scientists to be sure we will survive as a species. New evidence from the Hadley Centre is suggesting that even this target may not be nearly enough.

The convergence part is also non-negotiable. Once scientists have worked out how much carbon dioxide we can continue to release globally, then common sense (and our common atmosphere) says that all nations must start to converge until, in an ideal world, every country (and every person) takes responsibility for its share and limits its carbon dioxide to a rationed amount. That was essentially the process Kyoto embarked on. There is no alternative than that Kyoto picks up again, and common sense will prevail, once all the petit politics are exposed. There simply is no alternative, if we wish to have a future. People are not stupid, and awareness is growing that carbon dioxide is a real and present danger of mind-blowing proportions.

Tony Blair's Chief Scientist recently stated that global warming was more of a threat than global terrorism. We are an amazingly inventive species, and we can avoid this, but only if we choose to acknowledge it.

Curiously, initial ration limits of carbon dioxide (it's important not to confuse tonnes of carbon with tonnes of carbon dioxide, they are different) need not be uncomfortable. Although we need to contract to something like two tonnes (average) per capita, as compared to the 10 - 20 in the UK and US now, with carbon trading, it would be possible to 'buy' some carbon credits from those who don't need it, thus redistributing wealth. More significantly, the tremendous force of creative innovation would be unleashed on solving the problem, and a whole world of exciting new products and solutions would emerge. If we continue to value the atmosphere at zero, we continue to have a problem.

Useful websites

Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

German Advisory Council on Global Change or WBGU

United Nations Environment Programme

Global Commons Institute

Carbonsense

UK Gov. now 'Happy' with C&C . . . ? Aubrey Meyer

May 21, 2004 01:14 PDT

House of COMMONS

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

BUDGET 2004

Tuesday 30 March 2004

PROFESSOR SIR DAVID KING [Government Chief Scientist]

Mr Challen:

You said in your January article that you were setting up a team to look at how the UK could miti-

gate its carbon emissions. I wonder if you could give us a progress report on that. In particular, whether you have had a chance to look at the cost to the UK of doing so, and whether indeed in its remit you might be asking it to look at the principle of contraction and convergence to see if that is a workable proposal?

Professor Sir David King:

Can I take the second question first? Contraction and convergence has definite attractions, but there, again, we are talking on a global scale and we are talking about an alternative to the Kyoto process with carbon emission trading. Contraction and convergence is a permit system where you can exchange permits between countries. In essence it is a trading system but it does look at developing countries, so they can be brought on board by allowing them to build up their CO2 emissions while developed countries reduce, but they should peak at a certain level. I can see the attraction in the whole process, but I have to emphasise that the only game signed up to internationally is Kyoto, and until we have those absent from the signatories coming forward and saying "We would rather discuss contraction and convergence", I think we have to work within the Kyoto agreement. That is the process that we are set on.

Chairman:

If Kyoto does not make progress because of the reluctance of some countries (and we know who they are and where they live) to participate, contraction and convergence must be a viable alternative.

Professor Sir David King:

I think it is a very interesting alternative, but as I say I think the key thing is that if those countries that are not satisfied that Kyoto is the way forward come to us at the negotiating table, I am happy for us to negotiate on that, and I believe our government is - as long as it is not seen to be a delaying tactic, because I think this is a matter of some urgency.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/cgi-bin/ukparl_hl?DB=ukparl&STEMMER=en&WORDS=contraction+&COLOUR=Red&STYLE=s&URL=/pa/cm200304/cmselect/cmenvaud/uc490-ii/uc49002.htm#muscat_highlighter_first_match

C&C - "A Modest Proposal" Aubrey Meyer

May 26, 2004 19:02 PDT

"A modest proposal to save the planet."

UK Independent; 27 May 2004

"Our leaders are finally waking up to the fact that climate change, far from being a 'green' fantasy, is a real, imminent and potentially catastrophic threat to humanity. Yet preventative action seems to be as remote as ever. Isn't there something we could be doing?"

In an extract from his acclaimed new book, Mayer Hillman advocates radical changes to the way we conduct our daily lives that would ensure a future for our children."

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/environment/story.jsp?story=525198>

"Climate change is the most serious environmental threat the human race has ever faced; perhaps the most serious threat of any kind. The dangers can hardly be exaggerated. Within 100 years, temperatures could rise by 6C worldwide. Much of the earth's surface could become uninhabitable, and most species could be wiped out. In the UK, over the next 50 years, we will experience hotter, drier summers, warmer, wetter winters and rising sea-levels. In most of our lifetimes, millions of British people will be at high risk from flooding; there will be thousands of deaths from excessive summer temperatures; diseases from warmer regions will become established; and patterns of agriculture and business will have to change for ever.

This is not the view of alarmists, but the considered opinion of the overwhelming majority of international climate scientists. It is acknowledged by most governments and their advisers. Last month, government-funded scientists at the University of Washington in Seattle made the key admission that the troposphere is indeed warming at 0.2C per decade - precisely as predicted by the

main global-warming models. The UK Government's chief scientist warned the same month that if global warming continues unchecked, by the end of this century Antarctica is likely to be the only habitable continent.

The World Health Organisation blames climate change for at least 160,000 Third World deaths last year. Tony Blair admitted that climate change was "probably the most important issue that we face as a global community". The message is clear. Doubting the imminence of significant global warming may once have been an intellectually defensible position. It isn't now.

Decisions must be taken as a matter of urgency. We cannot rely on optimism. We need to think beyond energy efficiency and renewable energy, towards ideas of social and institutional reform and personal changes that require much lower energy use. Yet government action is only scratching the surface, and current policies on transport and growth can only make things worse. We are on the road to ecological Armageddon, with little apparent thought for the effects on the current population, let alone those who follow.

It doesn't have to be like this. Nor does anyone want it to be. The UK government said in 1990 that it was "mankind's duty to act prudently and conscientiously so that the planet is handed over to future generations in good order". This is crucial. As well as posing the most demanding challenges to the character and quality of our way of life, the issue has to be seen and acted on from a moral perspective.

Taking this as a starting point - that it is a matter both of necessity and of responsibility to try to save the planet - only one solution has a realistic prospect of success. This article is an attempt - made more fully in the book I have written with Tina Fawcett, *How We Can Save the Planet* - to bring that solution to the centre of public debate.

The direction is simple and generally agreed: cuts must be made to greenhouse-gas emissions. The difficult part, where moral as well as scientific questions arise, is deciding by how much, by when and by whom. Should the most "energy profligate" nations and individuals be obliged to bear the greater burden of emissions reductions?

The solution set out here - first at a global level and then at a local, individual level - is radical. But it can achieve a sufficient decrease in emissions, by a set date, transparently and fairly, so that it can command wide public and political support. For the UK to adopt this strategy will mean that it can meet its own commitments to greenhouse-gas reductions and show global leadership.

The most plausible way to reach a just - and thus realistic - global agreement on emissions reduction is the system known as Contraction and Convergence (C&C). This brilliant and simple method was first proposed by the Global Commons Institute (GCI) in 1990, and its unique qualities have been widely recognised. A large number of national and international bodies have endorsed it, including - in the UK - the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, the Cabinet Office's Performance and Innovation Unit, and the Greater London Authority.

C&C is founded on two principles: first, that global emissions of carbon dioxide must be progressively reduced; and second, that the reductions must be based on justice and fairness, which means that the average emissions of people in different parts of the world must ultimately converge to the same level. This latter requirement has not been included for moral reasons alone; climate change cannot be restricted to a manageable level without all countries sharing this common objective.

C&C simplifies climate negotiations to just two questions. First, what is the maximum level of carbon dioxide that can be permitted in the atmosphere without serious climate destabilisation? Second, by what date should global per capita shares converge to that level?

The targets in the Kyoto protocol are not based on a reliable understanding of the safe limits of greenhouse gases: rather, the reductions were determined by what was considered to be politically possible in developed countries. By contrast, C&C would use the best scientific knowledge to set maximum safe levels of carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere (now estimated at 450 parts per million), and hence the maximum cumulative emissions.

While the date of convergence would be subject to agreement, the principle of equal rights for all

would remove the potentially endless negotiations that would otherwise occur, with each country making a case that its contribution to global reductions should be modified in light of its special circumstances.

Another important element of the C&C proposal is the ability of countries to trade carbon-emissions rights. Countries unable to manage within their agreed shares would, subject to verification and rules, be able to buy allocations of other countries or regions. Sales of these unused allocations, almost invariably by vendor countries in the Third World, would fund their development in sustainable, zero-emission ways. Developed countries, with high carbon-dioxide emissions, gain a mechanism to mitigate the expensive early retirement of their carbon capital stock, and benefit from the export markets for renewable technologies this restructuring would create.

The next step is for our government to adopt the principle of C&C, and to lead diplomatic efforts to establish it as the basis of future international agreement. The UK cannot act unilaterally. But this does not mean it cannot be in the vanguard. What would happen if it did? Or, put another way: how can a reducing emissions quota be shared out?

Based on the equity principle in C&C, the obvious answer is for a system of personal "carbon" rationing for the 50 per cent of energy that is used directly by individuals. Indeed, as part of a global agreement, per capita rationing would be the obvious mechanism for all countries.

The main features of this would be:

- * Equal rations for all adults (and an appropriate fraction for children);
- * Year-on-year reduction of the annual ration, signalled well in advance;
- * Personal travel (including travel by air and public transport) and household energy use to be included;
- * Tradeable rations between individuals; and
- * A mandatory, not voluntary, arrangement, instituted by government.

Clearly, giving people equal carbon rations - an equal "right to pollute", or an equal right to use the atmosphere - is equitable in theory and reflects the international equity principle in the C&C proposal. There may have to be some exceptions to this rule. However, in general, it will be better for society to invest in provision for the energy efficiency of "exceptional" cases so that they can live more easily within their ration, rather than to keep tinkering with the ration. The more exceptions granted, the lower will have to be the ration for the rest of the population.

The rations will have to decrease over time, in response to the need both to reduce emissions and to allow for a rise in population. Giving due warning of future ration reductions would allow people to adapt homes, transport and lifestyles at the least cost and in the least disruptive way to them individually. Experience has shown that industry has been able to produce more efficient equipment (fridges, washing machines) at no extra cost if given time to adapt the design and manufacturing processes. The same is likely to be true of people adapting to low-energy, low-carbon lifestyles.

With personal travel and household energy use included, half of the energy-related emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in our economy is covered. The other half comes from the business, industry, commerce and public sectors, which produce the goods and services we all use.

In theory, it might be possible to manage this half by calculating the "embodied" emissions in each product or activity (such as all the emissions from the processes entailed in the production, transport and disposal of, say, stereo equipment, or cars) and give consumers a further allowance for buying products. But this would be very complex and data-intensive, as well as being very difficult to apply to some goods and services - how could you "carbon rate" a haircut, or a hospital stay? It would be much simpler to make the non-domestic sector directly responsible for reducing its share of CO₂ emissions (for which a separate rationing scheme, on similar lines but not described in detail here, would be needed). Not everyone will need to use their full carbon ration. Those who lead lives with lower energy requirements, and who invest in efficiency products and energy renewables, will have a surplus, which they can sell. Those who travel a lot, or live in very large or inefficient homes, will need to buy this surplus to permit them to continue with something like

their usual lifestyle. Thus people will want to trade carbon rations.

Economic theory says that by allowing trading, any costs of adapting to a low-carbon economy will be minimised. Price would be determined by availability of the surplus set against the demand for it. For this purpose, a "white" market would be created, possibly via a government clearing "bank", or a version of the online auction system eBay (cBay?). There would be little chance for a "black" market to develop.

History suggests that appeals to reason and conscience have not been sufficiently effective in achieving major changes in our irresponsible patterns of behaviour and consumption. To be effective, therefore, carbon rationing would have to be mandatory. A voluntary approach would not succeed: the "free-rider" would have far too much to gain.

But managing carbon rationing should be simple. Each person would receive an electronic card containing that year's carbon credits. The card would have to be presented on purchase of energy or travel services, and the correct amount of credits would be deducted. The technologies and systems already in place for direct-debit systems and credit cards could be used.

A number of social, technical and policy innovations would be needed to make it possible for people to live within their carbon allowances. On the technical side, these could include "smart meters" that inform people how much of their annual ration is left; which appliances are using most energy; and how much carbon could be saved by, for example, reducing the time spent in the shower, or by heating bedrooms only in the late evening. Alternatively, energy companies could install sophisticated carbon-management systems in houses, which take these decisions automatically and guarantee carbon savings. In terms of policy, equipment that uses less energy could be favoured through devices such as VAT, labelling, minimum standards and subsidy.

At present, the purchase of the most efficient types of equipment is encouraged, whether it be cars, refrigerators or washing machines. In future, the emphasis will be on items using the lowest amount of energy or with the lowest emissions, with much better information available at the point of purchase of everything that uses energy, from new and existing homes to televisions and mobile phones. It will thus be in the economic interest of manufacturers to supply goods that make the lowest use of carbon. Socially, one would envisage that attitudes would change so that thrift rather than profligacy in energy use and carbon emissions was increasingly preferred.

There has been no recent experience of long-term rationing (other than by price) in the UK. The nearest comparison is the food rationing introduced in the Second World War, when the availability of food, clothing and other goods had to be reduced drastically. Despite difficulties, contemporary opinion polls showed that rationing and food control were, on the whole, popular. Equity - the principle of a flat-rate ration for all - was a key feature of its introduction and maintenance and was widely accepted as the only fair approach, to which no one could reasonably object.

In the case of climate change, the principles of carbon rationing are far more straightforward than the quite complicated wartime system. But the benefits would be less immediately obvious. It is therefore particularly important that a cross-party consensus be achieved on the benefits of C&C and the adoption of carbon rationing. The future of the planet is too important an issue to be treated as a political football. It would be devastating if there were no common purpose, and instead political groupings vied with each other to obtain electoral support by making less demanding commitments on climate change in manifestos.

However, the likelihood of achieving such co-operation is by no means remote - it is just that a consensus has not yet been sought. None of the main UK parties has expressed reservations about either the significance of climate change or the need for serious, concerted action to limit its impacts. The challenge now is to convince politicians - and the electorate they represent - that the time for concerted action has arrived.

Carbon rationing is not a perfect solution. It will have its losers as well as its winners. Energy-intensive industries, such as motor manufacturing and international tourism (dependent as it increasingly is on flying, which is the most damaging of all human activities from a climate-change perspective), will no doubt object strongly to the concept of C&C. Its adoption will lead to a steady reduction in demand for their products and services, with consequent job losses. The future of

international events attracting participants from across the world - whether for sporting, cultural, academic or business purposes - is, clearly, threatened. But such consequences cannot be considered a sufficient justification to reject what is so obviously the only assured solution to a planet-threatening problem.

The rationing system will bring rising environmental benefits in its wake, particularly in terms of the imperative of limiting damage from climate change, while spheres of the economy that are not energy-intensive - such as education, non-motorised travel, local shopping and leisure activities and domestic tourism - are likely to prosper. The important thing to remember is that this proposal is for a phased reduction, over a sufficiently long period to ease the transition towards ecologically sustainable patterns of activity.

And if a world with personal carbon rationing seems unacceptable, just imagine how much less acceptable would be a world in which effective action had not been taken to tackle climate change. The point of departure must be that, if we do not make substantial alterations to our lifestyles, the problem of climate change will intensify.

Education will be vital to break the cycle of denial. The media, too, will have a role to play - although given the proportion of their income derived from advertising "high carbon" products and activities, they are unlikely to lead the way. Meanwhile, anyone who cares about our future well-being and that of the planet should not turn a blind eye to the likelihood that the consequences of inaction will be awesome.

For most readers, the notion of calculating one's own carbon-dioxide emissions will be an unfamiliar one. The tables are intended to aid the development of what might be called "carbon literacy" - a vital first step towards adopting energy-thrifty lifestyles. The concept is not very different from the familiar idea of a household budget in which we manage our expenditure so that we do not run into debt. We must now learn to apply the same kind of simple management skills to energy-dependent aspects of our lives - at home, at work, in our travel and in our leisure activities.

There are three stages to the process: first, to calculate the carbon emissions from the energy we currently use; second, to calculate how much we can actually be allowed; and third, to work out how best to make the necessary transition from our current emissions to sustainable emissions.

CURRENT HABITS

DIRECT HOUSEHOLD ENERGY USE

Most of the energy used in households is gas and electricity. In each case, your usage will be indicated on your bill, in kWh (kilowatt hours). To calculate your carbon dioxide emissions, multiply your annual consumption of electricity in kWh by 0.45; and multiply your annual consumption of gas in kWh by 0.19. This will establish your emissions from these sources in kilograms of CO₂. (For heating oil, the multiplier is 2.975.) Finally, you should divide each total by the number of people in your household to give you your individual emissions.

TRAVEL USE

First, estimate the annual distance you travel, in kilometres, for each method of transport: car, rail, bus, bicycle, air, etc. The table shows all the options. For car travel, discount journeys in which you were not the driver (to convert miles into kilometres, multiply the miles by 1.6). Next, multiply each annual total by the "kilograms co-efficient" shown in the table. You can make this calculation both for yourself as an individual and, if you like, for your household.

When you have added up all your major sources of personal CO₂ emissions shown in the table, you will know your approximate annual emissions from direct energy use. Compare this with the current British individual average of 5.4 tonnes CO₂ to see how you are doing. However, remember that about half the energy in the UK economy is used by the industrial, commercial, agricultural and public sectors to provide our goods and services. So, your total should actually be doubled to cover your share of these non-domestic sectors of fuel consumption. For the projections in the rest of this article, however, we will focus simply on your domestic consumption.

SUSTAINABLE USE

* The UK government's 60 per cent reduction target for 2050 would stabilise carbon concentra-

tions at 550 parts per million (ppm). A more realistic view, in the light of current scientific knowledge, is that the maximum concentration in the atmosphere that should be considered safe is 450ppm. The table shows the degree of reduction required for both targets. Either will require substantial changes in our lifestyles.

Compared with expected average emissions figures for 2005, the 550ppm scenario requires a personal reduction of 63 per cent by 2050, and the 450ppm scenario requires an 80 per cent reduction by 2050. In both these scenarios, the ration shown would be equal for everyone in the world by 2050. For the 450ppm scenario, which requires a faster rate of change, the ration would be equal by 2030.

The figures in our tables, including the total you have calculated of your own emissions - should shock you. Under the 450ppm scenario, a single return flight from London to Athens would exceed your entire personal carbon ration for the year in 2030. Even on the less rigorous 550ppm scenario, your annual ration in 2030 would not be enough to cover a return flight from London to New York.

Yet there is no need to despair. Energy-use patterns have changed considerably in recent decades. Energy used for personal travel has almost doubled since 1970. Under the 450ppm scenario, CO₂ emissions from personal travel would have to halve over the next 20 years. If a significant reduction in motorised travel is made in parallel with energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies, this will not represent a much greater rate of change in mobility than the UK has already experienced in recent memory - it will just be moving in a different direction. The change isn't going to be easy, but it is not unrealistic.

CHANGING OUR HABITS

Climate change cannot be limited solely by the actions of individuals. However, each individual needs to make a contribution by reducing his or her "carbon impact". This advice suggests ways you can do so.

HOME USE

As with any destructive habit, part of the answer is simply to face the facts. So, having looked at your annual energy consumption in order to audit your current emissions, it is worth considering in more detail how that energy is used, so that you can identify the major areas of opportunity in which to make savings.

The split of energy use in the home between heating and hot water depends very much on your house and style of life. For gas central-heating, the average split has been estimated as: 70 per cent space heating; 28 per cent water heating; and 2 per cent for cooking with gas. This split between heating and hot water also applies to other fuels. A more efficient or newer house will use less heating energy; large, inefficient or old homes will use more heating energy; households with more people will use more hot water. Think about your own household and how you might differ from the average.

How electricity is used in your home will again depend on what lights and appliances you have and how you use them. The average UK home uses 24 per cent of its electricity on fridges and freezers, and 24 per cent on lighting. Lighting can easily and cheaply be made more efficient, but the same is not true of fridges and freezers.

But heating is where we are most wasteful. Many people can make very significant savings simply by learning to use their heating and hot-water systems more efficiently. Are you making the best possible use of times and thermostats? Are there minor adjustments you could make to be less profligate with heat? Simply switching off your heating half an hour earlier could save more than 5 per cent of your energy bill.

Areas to consider include:

- * Bathing and showering options: could you use less, or less hot, water?)
- * Lighting: installing energy-saving light bulbs in the four lights you use most could save 200kWh per year, or more than a quarter of the electricity typically used for household lighting.
- * Saving on standby: turning off all the TVs, rechargers and other gadgets that you leave on

standby can save up to 10 per cent of your electricity. (In some cases you may need to unplug them.)

- * Washing machines: switching from 60C to 40C could save 40 per cent of energy per cycle.
- * Dishwashers: again, a 55C cycle uses around a third less energy than a 65C cycle.
- * Kettles: boil only as much water as you need.
- * Cooking: using a microwave rather than a normal oven will save energy.
- * Microwaves: switch off the electronic clock display, which could well be using as much electricity per year as you use for cooking.
- * Insulation of lofts and cavity walls: this requires some investment, but it is one of the most cost-effective ways in which to save energy. Insulating unfilled cavity walls can save up to 30 per cent of your heating energy and will pay for itself within a few years.
- * Ultra-wasteful options: avoid patio heaters; air conditioning; a large, frost-free fridge-freezer; a power shower; a 300-500W security light that switches on all the time; heating your conservatory.

TRAVEL USE

Again, your first step here should be to face the facts. Begin by writing up your own transport use diary, for a week or a month. Note the day of the week, time, origin, destination, purpose, method, cost and duration of each trip. This information will be critical in helping you to prioritise changes in your patterns of travel.

Having understood your patterns, you may find it easier to see ways of making them less carbon-expensive. Flying needs to be drastically reduced: it is not only the most damaging means of travel per mile but is also associated with the longest journeys, and thus adds both considerably and disproportionately to climate change.

Other changes might include walking and cycling for local trips; using more buses; combining several purposes in one journey; or simply cutting out less essential long-distance car and rail journeys.

It is also possible to reduce your own carbon emissions when you do travel by car. Government advice includes:

- * Plan ahead: choose uncongested routes, combine trips, share cars.
- * Cold starts: drive off as soon as possible after starting.
- * Drive smoothly and efficiently: avoid harsh acceleration and heavy braking.
- * Travel at slower speeds: driving at 70mph uses 30 per cent more fuel than driving at 50mph.
- * Use higher gears.
- * Switch off the engine when stationary.
- * Don't carry unnecessary weight.
- * Use air conditioning sparingly.

GENERAL USE

Individuals are also responsible for, and can control, their indirect energy use as consumers. Modifications to consider include:

- * Buy food and drink that has not been transported over long distances.

Where possible, buy local, or at least British, produce.

- * Choose more seasonal food, which is less likely to have been grown abroad or in heated greenhouses in the UK.
- * Buy recycled products, or those with a high recycled content.
- * Buy products that are recyclable, and whose packaging can be recycled.
- * Avoid disposable products. Buy better quality ones, which have a longer life.
- * Reduce the amount of waste you produce. Re-use what you can, and recycle the rest.

* Compost garden and vegetable waste.

Incorporating all these changes into your lifestyle will not be easy. But that does not mean that - if we adopt carbon rationing - they will all be negative. On the contrary, many of them should be highly positive in their effects. Better health, quieter and safer streets, more stable communities, less oil dependency, and less road danger will be among the wide range of likely benefits.

But they run counter to current trends in society, and require thought and commitment. The challenge facing us is to invest that thought and commitment today, while there is still time. It is all too clear that we cannot go on as we are now, paying little more than lip service to this most critical of issues.

If we in the developed world do not agree to substantially restrict our own carbon dioxide emissions, there are only two possible outcomes. Either we will witness and bear the costs of an inevitable and devastating intensification for future generations of the problems caused by climate change - as well as the burden on our consciences. Or poorer people, mainly in developing countries, will have to be prevented from having their fair share of the fossil fuels required to maintain even a basic standard of living. Burying our heads in the sand on this topic to avoid facing reality cannot continue.

Responsibility lies with government to take the lead in international negotiations for the urgent adoption of the contraction and convergence framework, and for the early introduction of an equal per capita annual carbon ration.

We have to choose a better future."

Dr Mayer Hillman is Senior Fellow Emeritus at the Policy Studies

Institute. This article is an edited extract from 'How We Can Save the Planet', by Mayer Hillman, with Tina Fawcett (Penguin, £7.99)

C&C - An idea whose time has come Aubrey Meyer

May 28, 2004 00:09 PDT

An idea whose time has come

By tackling global warming, Blair can show he is not a US poodle

Larry Elliott

Friday May 28, 2004

The Guardian

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/columnist/story/0,9321,1226568,00.html>

A month ago, Tony Blair made a big speech about global warming. The prime minister's message could not have been clearer. The Kyoto treaty, for all the haggling, fell far short of what was needed to crack the problem, and time was running out. "The issue of climate change is now very, very critical indeed," he said. Clearly Blair has been listening to Sir David King, the government's chief scientist, who says that within a century the last humans will be sharing Antarctica with the penguins. Others, however, appear deaf to the warnings.

The Department of Transport has been lobbying furiously to stop the Office for National Statistics publishing data showing an 85% increase in pollutants from the airline industry and a 59% rise from freight transport since 1990. Joined up government or what?

It's easy to see why the mandarins would find the ONS report a tad embarrassing. This, after all, is the department that has sanctioned a fifth terminal at Heathrow and a third London airport to cope with the seemingly insatiable demand for air travel. It would not - as they say in Whitehall - be "helpful" to have this information in the public domain.

Actually, it's helpful to find out which bits of Whitehall are subject to capture by pressure group, and it's helpful to understand the conceptual problem to be overcome if action is to follow rhetoric. In essence, this boils down to whether modern industrial capitalism is compatible with a healthy planet. Does it make sense, for example, for the G8 to pressurise Opec into pumping more

crude in order to bring down the cost of a scarce resource? Is it right that airlines pay no tax on aviation fuel, thus aiding their attempts to boost demand by keeping prices low?

Make no mistake, the forces of conservatism arguing for business as usual are powerful. The good news is that they are opposed by an even stronger lobby - the insurance sector - that sees climate change as a real and immediate threat. These guys have seen weather-related claims rise over the past decade; they believe the planet is warming up and they fear the risk of ruinous losses in the not-too-distant future. The latest evidence shows an accelerated rise in CO2 emissions over the past three years, seen by scientists as a sign that the carbon sinks that soak up a proportion of the gas have started to shut down.

Insurance companies, quite rightly, feel that Kyoto is not the solution - even if the Russians now ratify the treaty, as they almost certainly will. They are among the critics who say that the 1997 deal is timid and based on questionable science, and fails to bind every country in the world into solving a global problem. Kyoto is plan A, but the need - as the prime minister correctly argues - is to use it as a springboard to plan B.

The good news is that plan B already exists, and stands to be the long-term solution that Blair is looking for, provided he has the political courage to back it fully. Contraction and convergence (C&C) provides a three-stage blueprint for coping with climate change.

Initially, there would be an international agreement on how much further the level of CO2 in the atmosphere could be allowed to rise before the changes in climate became unacceptable. Once that had been worked out, estimates of how much of the gas was retained in the atmosphere would be used to work out how quickly global emissions needed to be cut in order to meet the target. This is the contraction part of the process.

Finally, once a target was established for cuts in greenhouse gases - one figure is 60% - it would be possible to allocate the fossil fuel consumption that those emissions represented. Although people in rich countries pollute far more per head than people in poor countries, supporters of C&C say that everybody should have a basic human right to emit the same amount of greenhouse gases, and that a date - say, 2050 - should be fixed for arriving at this point. This is the convergence part of the equation. Rich states would be given time to adjust, and in the meantime could buy the right to pollute from poor countries, providing resources for development.

C&C is an idea whose time has come. The Americans have backed the idea, and if Blair has built up political capital in Washington as a result of Iraq, he should think about cashing it in next year when Britain holds the G8 presidency.

Britain's recent experience, the prime minister should point out, shows that countries can cut emissions and enjoy growth. An even better example is China, the fastest growing economy in the world. China is not just switching from coal to gas, but has been investing heavily in alternative energy sources while the UK has been in thrall to the transport lobby: a lesson Blair would do well to heed.

Larry Elliott is the Guardian's economics editor

larry.e-@guardian.co.uk

IPPR/FoE on C&C Aubrey Meyer

May 28, 2004 08:47 PDT

Excerpted from, "Strengthening the Link between Climate Change, International Development and Social Justice"

Tony Juniper: - IPPR, "Sustainability and Social Justice" – 05 2004

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Juniper.pdf>

Equal rights to the atmosphere:

"A fair approach to allocating emission entitlements If the world is to stabilise concentrations of greenhouse gases at a safe level, a 'global emissions budget' consistent with the target concentration will need to be implemented.

At some point therefore a 'global deal' on sharing our atmospheric property rights will also have to be agreed. This in turn raises questions about how to allocate this global emissions budget in a manner that is fair and reflects developing country concerns that they have adequate room for their economies to grow."

"Agreeing emission limits on a 'per capita basis' would, as a guiding principle, ensure that every person is entitled to release into the atmosphere the same quantity of greenhouse gas emissions. Without a long term guarantee of equitable emission entitlements, developing countries are likely to continue to refuse to participate in international action on climate change which would provide an excuse for further procrastination by the US.

Perhaps the best chance of getting developing countries on board would be to allocate emission entitlements on a per capita basis rather than in proportion to national wealth or even existing emissions. This approach has already received some support from developing countries including India and the African Group of the Non-Aligned Movement.

An immediate per capita allocation of emissions would probably not stand much chance of being implemented as it would mean that industrialised countries would have to cut their emissions by far more, while many developing countries could increase theirs.

Because of the very wide differences between per capita emissions levels around the world, there will have to be an adjustment period covering several decades in which nations' quotas converge on the same per capita level (Blundell 2002).

This transitional framework is known as 'Contraction and Convergence' and was first proposed by the London based Global Commons Institute."

C&C in the European Election Aubrey Meyer

Jun 01, 2004 04:13 PDT

Can you help please?

FEASTA - the Irish Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability - have taken a C&C-defined initiative in the coming elections for the European Parliament.

FEASTA has provided a briefing on the urgency of responding effectively to global climate change. See: -

<http://www.feasta.org/events/climatecampaign/climatecampaignletter.htm>

The idea is to circulate this widely across the EU; to all -

Candidates - in all . . .

Parties - in all . . .

Countries in the New EU.

All candidates are being asked to consider a pledge as follows: -

"I pledge to call on European Commission to act on climate change.

The threat posed by climate change cannot be overstated. The accumulating greenhouse gases, mainly from the lifestyles presently enjoyed in the affluent world, are way beyond the planet's capacity to support them. Serious damage is already occurring.

Contraction and Convergence, the comprehensive, science-based framework devised by the Global Commons Institute, seems to me to be the only well-developed strategy for responding adequately to the crisis. It carries both moral justification and the political prospect of broad intergovernmental agreement. If elected to the European Parliament, I will therefore support a resolution calling on the European Commission and Council of Ministers to take the lead in international negotiations for the urgent adoption of the Contraction and Convergence framework and for the early introduction of equal per capita annual carbon emissions rights."

If you would like to help FEASTA in this initiative, especially reaching candidates outside the UK and Ireland, please contact Richard Douthwaite: -

All help warmly welcomed.

C&C in UK Parliament Aubrey Meyer

Jun 01, 2004 06:48 PDT

You are warmly invited to an evening in the UK Parliament for asking: -

Michael Meacher, MP

Mayer Hillman and Tina Fawcett,

[authors "How We Can Save the Planet?"]

Aubrey Meyer, Global Commons Institute

"What can we do about climate change?"

Tues 15 June, 6 - 7.30pm,

Grimond Room,

Portcullis House,

House of Commons,

Westminster.

St Stephens Entrance (please allow plenty of time for security)

Lively discussion is anticipated, followed by drinks, more discussion (and book signing) in The Sanctuary House pub, 33 Tothill St (on the corner of Broadway). To reserve a place please email:

mailto:Gra-@insideeurope.fsnet.co.uk

The meeting marks the publication of "How We Can Save the Planet?" by Mayer Hillman with Tina Fawcett, published by Penguin and featured in the UK Independent on 27 May 2004 -

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/environment/story.jsp?story=525198>

The meeting will cover action that we can take; the "Contraction and Convergence" strategy; and the politics of climate change as the most serious issue facing the planet.

Organised by Action Committee for Global Climate Community with GCI and One World Trust Action Committee for Global Climate Community

<http://www.climatecommunity.org/index.php>

GCI <http://www.gci.org>

One World Trust <http://www.oneworldtrust.org>

C&C at Royal Institution 14 06 04 Aubrey Meyer

Jun 04, 2004 05:27 PDT

Monday, 14 June at 7pm

At the Royal Institution in association with Penguin Books

Mayer Hillman and Tina Fawcett

Introduce their new book,

"How we can Save the Planet"

The C&C animation will be projected.

Royal Institution,

21 Albermarle Street,

London W.1.

Phone Events Assistant:

Naomi Temple:

Tel 020 7409 2992

or email ntem-@ri.ac.uk

Their flyer is at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Hillman_PUBLICATION_Note.pdf

To underline the seriousness of their C&C-centred message, and also in association with FEASTA's C&C-pledge, Mayer and Tina are collecting signatures in support of the letter below. So far support has primarily been sought from 'membership-organisations'. A list of signatures-at-present appears below.

This is being widened so if anyone on GCN [any status; individual and/or institutional] is inclined to tend their signature, and/or to lend their support, please let me know. The letter with support is intended for eventual publication in the press.

CALL to GOVERNMENT TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The threat posed by climate change cannot be overstated. The accumulating greenhouse gases, mainly from the lifestyles presently enjoyed in the affluent world, are way beyond the planets capacity to support them. Serious damage is already occurring.

We recognise that Contraction and Convergence, the comprehensive, science-based framework devised by the Global Commons Institute, is the only strategy for responding adequately to the crisis. This requires the contraction of global carbon emissions to safe levels being made at the same time as they converge steadily, over a number of years yet to be negotiated, from the current average down to identical emissions for the worlds population. It is the only solution that has both moral justification and political prospect of broad intergovernmental agreement.

We therefore call on the Government to take the lead in international negotiations for the urgent adoption of this framework and for the early introduction of equal per capita annual carbon rationing.

Yours faithfully

Mayer Hillman

Author "How we can Save the Planet."

Chris Layton,
Action for a Global Climate Community;

Paul Allen,
Centre for Alternative Technology;

Paul Bodenham,
Christian Ecology Link;

Richard Douthwaite,
Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability;

Trewin Restorick,
Global Action Plan;

David Chaytor,
MP, GLOBE-UK;

Tom Franklin,
Living Streets (formerly Pedestrians Association)

Caroline Lucas,

Green Party;

Dr. Camilla Toulmin,
International Institute for Environment and Development;

Dr. Robin Stott FRCP, FSPH,
MEDACT;

Simon Burall,
One World Trust;

Lucy Pearce,
People and Planet

Alex Morrell,
Socialist Environment and Resources Association;

John Grimshaw,
SUSTRANS;

Stephen Joseph,
Transport 2000.

Andrew Simms,
New Economics Foundation

Aubrey Meyer
Global Commons Institute

C&C Letter published on World Environment Day Aubrey Meyer

Jun 05, 2004 03:31 PDT

Today is World Environment Day

[05 06 2004]

With a slight alteration to reflect this day, the Guardian publishes the C&C letter organised by Mayer Hillman.

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/green/story/0,9061,1232118,00.html>

It is published with some [strangely garbled - Grauniad] of the seventeen signatories attached yesterday at the time it was sent.

Since then several people have been in touch signing on. I am adding these as they are offered.

Several people have pointed out that the topica server from which the GCN posts are sent, 'scrambles' * email addresses. I didn't spot this and that it has an effect of making getting back in touch difficult. [* presumably an anti-spam procedure]. Apologies - thank you - information sought as follows: -

To sign on to the letter, please let me know at: -

aubrey [at] gci.org.uk (please substitute the @ sign for [at])

To sign on to the FEASTA climate pledge, please let Richard know at:

richard [at] douthwaite.net

To enquire about the Royal Institution/Pengiu launch of Mayer Hillman's book "How to Save the Planet" [14 06 2004],

please enquire at: ntemple [at] ri.ac.uk

or phone Naomi Temple on 020 7409 2992

To enquire about House of Commons meeting to discuss Mayer Hillman's book "How to Save the Planet" [15 06 2004],

please enquire at: Grace [at] insideeurope.fsnet.co.uk

FEASTA Polls MEPs on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 09, 2004 05:09 PDT

FEASTA Initiates Campaign for EP Elections

Electoral MEP candidates of all parties are asked to read the briefing and pledge to back "C&C to deal with Climate Change " to the European Parliament whether elected or not.

www.feasta.org

GREENS and Independents way ahead in FEASTA's poll

<http://london.greenparty.org.uk/news/392>

FEASTA writes

"No international organisation is better-placed, or better disposed, than the EU to take drastic action to curb climate change.

Amazingly, however, despite the mounting evidence of the seriousness of the crisis, no political party apart from the Greens has tried to make the necessity for prompt action to reduce greenhouse emissions an issue in this weeks' elections to the European Parliament.

Accordingly, although Feasta is not a campaigning organisation, the Feasta Executive Committee decided at its meeting in May to try to form a coalition with other NGOs to convince politicians that the public really was becoming prepared for them to take the radical measures that are necessary.

First, we e-mailed out a Briefing Paper

www.feasta.org/events/climatecampaign/climatecampaignletter.htm

stressing the seriousness of the situation to every Euro candidate in Ireland and to all those for whom we could trace e-addresses in Britain. We asked the candidates to promise that, if elected, they would support a motion in the Parliament in favour of Contraction and Convergence, which the Briefing Paper had explained. Today, Wednesday, the promises are still coming in but if you go to the website -

<http://www.feasta.org/events/climatecampaign/EPcandidates.htm>

for Irish candidates,

<http://www.feasta.org/events/climatecampaign/EPcandidatesUK.htm>

for British ones, you will see very big differences in the reactions of the parties.

In general, only the Greens and, in Ireland, the Independents, have responded well. Not a single e-mail has come from a Fianna Fail, PD or Sinn Fein candidate so far.

Getting to this stage was the easy bit. The next stage needs lots and lots of people to join in if we are to show the parties that there are votes in the issue and people do care. So we would ask you to send out an e-mail to everyone on your personal e-address list urging them to send messages within the next 24 hours to the political parties

If they live in Ireland they should e-mail the two big political parties, the PDs and Sinn Fein, asking them why none of their candidates have sent pledges to the climate campaign. Is it that they have never considered Contraction and Convergence and have no policy on it? The e-mail ad-

addresses are: -

rich-@progressivedemocrats.ie fine-@finegael.ie

sfad-@eircom.net, rob-@media.fiannafail.ie

If they live in Britain, they should ask the Labour Party why it ignored two requests to send a list of candidates. (The Tories did, and very promptly). Some smaller parties also failed to reply except the BNP which just said: 'No.' so they should be asked why too and why they aren't taking climate change seriously.

The addresses are:

in-@new.labour.org.uk webm-@ukip.org

enqui-@englishdemocrats.org.uk off-@respectcoalition.org

presso-@bnp.org.uk

They should also send messages to all the candidates listed for their constituency on the Coalition website asking those who have not made the pledge why they have not done so and congratulating those who have.

And, of course, you should do all of the above yourself! If candidates reply making the pledge, their message should be forwarded to clim-@feasta.org to ensure that a star goes on the website.

Let's make it a real mass e-mailing. Here's the e-letter Emer O'Siochru sent to all the candidates in her constituency. It seems a good model as she got several replies.

Dear EU Dublin candidate,

I am a mother of three over 18 which, including my partner, makes 5 votes in my house at 39 Windsor Road, Rathmines. I am pretty influential in how they are cast.

Whether you get them depends on your position on climate change. I want to know how much you know and what you are prepared to do about it. Will you for instance, support Contraction and Convergence at EU level to make the necessary changes to address this immense challenge. You should have got a letter from Feasta by now but if you haven't yet, please check out the Feasta website (www.feasta.org) and respond. I will see by your answers on the website how to vote.

Emer O'Siochru

PS I am pretty influential with many of my neighbours too.

Please join in. Sending a few e-mails will take you very little time and the fact that you have bothered to do so will demonstrate to politicians of all parties that people care about the climate issue and want them to take determined action to deal with it. FEASTA: The Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability,

159 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6,

T: +353 (0)1 4912773

M: +353 (0)87 6340697

E: fea-@anu.ie

W: www.feasta.org

C of E gets to grips with C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 09, 2004 05:45 PDT

Church of England gets stuck in.

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/>

Its worth subscribing just for the cover.

Excerpt from centre pages . . .

"In some ways, climate change — the most awesome of issues ever to have faced mankind — can be seen as a divinely-inspired conspiracy to prevent the world from destroying itself by the ever-widening adoption of unsustainable lifestyles, especially with its burgeoning populations nearly

all of whom are intent on raising their material standards. From this perspective, on both moral and political grounds, the only strategy with any prospect of delivering the degree of reduction in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions required to avoid serious destabilisation of the planet's climate is one based on equity.

The framework for this has been devised by the Global Commons Institute. It is called Contraction and Convergence. Within it, the 'contraction' to relatively safe levels of emissions is targeted at the same time as the 'convergence' is progressively delivered according to a system of national quotas of the emissions, based on population. At the domestic level, this quota will have to be translated into a system of personal carbon rationing. In effect, it is equivalent to a new currency which will be able to be traded on the 'white market'. Only in this way will it be possible for the difficult transition to very different lifestyles to be made without considerable public opposition."

Blair Challenged to C&C at PM's questions Aubrey Meyer

Jun 16, 2004 06:07 PDT

1:12pm (UK) 16th June 2004

In the context of unfettered air-travel, today the Leader of the UK Liberal Democrats [Mr Charles Kennedy] tackled UK Prime Minister Tony Blair climate change.

"On Monday you acknowledged that you have got little expectation that this US Government is going to sign-up to the Kyoto treaty in terms of climate change. This further emphasises the need for Europe to be seen to be taking a lead," Mr Kennedy said.

"Will you commit the Government to join with France, Sweden, Holland and Denmark, in pressing the principle of contraction and convergence as the fairest way forward in controlling greenhouse gas emissions?"

His reply is at the link below and can be read in the light of these recent points that are all on the record: -

Senior advisors to the UK Prime Minister Tony Blair describe climate change as, "a weapon of mass destruction" and "worse than the threat of terrorism".

In response, Mr. Blair himself now says these words: -

1 The situation is very, very critical

2 Even if Kyoto is fully implemented, it falls significantly short of what we will need over the next half century if we are to tackle this problem seriously and properly

3 The cost of not acting is so overwhelmingly greater than any short-term cost of action that we have to act and we have to act now

If you would like to read his response, go to: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/news/Scotsman.pdf>

The words in-the-clouds, air-head and attention-deficit-disorder come to mind.

"Operation Noah" - CEL and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 21, 2004 10:10 PDT

Christian Ecology Link [CEL] Conference 2004

Sat 9 October - Coventry, UK

"THE RAINBOW PILGRIMAGE"

The title recalls God's everlasting promise to every living creature in the rainbow covenant. (Gen. 9.8-17)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

THE MORNING CONFERENCE

in the spacious Coventry Methodist Central Hall, from 9.45am to 12.40pm, will feature, in order of speaking:

- Sir John Houghton FRS, eminent meteorologist and Christian, with an update on the latest climate change science
- Aubrey Meyer, of the Global Commons Institute , explaining the 'contraction and convergence' policy which holds out the best hope for a just response to global warming
- John Cridland, Deputy Director-General of the CBI exploring how business can act on climate change
- Trewin Restorick, Director of Global Action Plan, presenting ideas for ways in which you can make a difference
- Rev John Kennedy, of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland will chair the conference. Rev Jenny Dyer will open the conference with prayer.

Specially arranged activities for children will take place during the morning conference. See the Families Welcome section.

THE RAINBOW PROCESSION

After lunch we process through the streets of central Coventry to the ruins of the old Cathedral, destroyed in World War II and preserved as a symbol of reconciliation.

CATHEDRAL SERVICE

Bishop John Oliver will preside at a special Service in the new Coventry Cathedral at 2.30pm. Children from Coventry and Warwickshire schools will sing songs from 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo'.

Dr David Hallman , who co-ordinates the World Council of Churches climate change programme, will join us for the day and give a talk during the Cathedral Service.

More details at: - <http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/conf2004.htm>

Lovely poster at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/noah-poster.pdf>

Oily reality at the heart of C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 24, 2004 01:57 PDT

SAUDI OIL – UNFOLDING CRISIS

GHAWAR is the biggest Saudi Oil Field.

The fraction of water in Ghawar output is now at 60% and rising fast. Page 2 -4 of the document at: - http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/Ghawar_Trends.pdf

has analysis from the field's surveyors.

An image comparing total [all-country/past-future] world oil production and consumption is on page one. Ghawar yields +/- 70% of Saudi output.

This is game over. The world's biggest gush is becoming a busted flush. UN Climate Change negotiators should call the Saudi's bluff.

As Wangari Maathai - Kenya's Environment Minister - once said, "when push comes to shove, there's a lot of pushing and shoving."

C&C in Jewish Chronicle Aubrey Meyer

Jun 25, 2004 08:22 PDT

New Frontiers for C&C

Anne Karpf in this week's UK Jewish Chronicle reviews Mayer Hillman's book C&C-centred Penguin, "How to Save the Planet".

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Jewish_Chronicle.pdf

In her neatly judged review she also alludes to "Ahead of Time", the essays published by the Policy Studies Institute in honour of Mayer's recent 70th birthday.

Some of these are C&C essays and can now be read at the end of Tim's beautifully updated GCI archive at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc_19.pdf

More C&C news over the next two months includes: -

1. An incisive C&C-campaigning article in Third World TIEMPO magazine;
2. "Awesome Tenacity" - a report on the C&C meeting in Parliament;
3. A C&C report from SBSTA 20 in Bonn [D&D in the doldrums];
4. Michael Meacher's "Save the Planet" shocker-speech in Dublin;
5. "From Gore to Gorbachev"; - C&C at San Rossore Conference Italy;
6. The grass-roots/local government HECA network returns to the C&C fray;
7. The World Bank considers C&C?
8. Asia Europe Foundation publishes a detailed C&C exposition.

Archbishop of C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jul 06, 2004 10:19 PDT

Last night [05 07 2004] Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, made a speech at Lambeth Palace.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Williams.pdf>

In a theologically reasoned and deeply felt argument, he made the case for the urgent adoption of C&C.

As the Guardian reported: -

"He backed a plan by the Global Commons Institute for fair shares of fossil fuel use between countries known as "contraction and convergence". This involves every person on the planet having an equal right and quota to emit carbon dioxide.

He explained that in the first 48 hours of 2004, an average American family would have been responsible for as many emissions as an average Tanzanian family over the year.

Dr Williams appealed to Tony Blair to use the coming chairmanship of the G8 group of industrialised countries and the presidency of the EU to press the environmental case. "The prime minister has already declared that his international priorities for 2005 will include climate change and the future of Africa; contraction and convergence addresses both of these. It seems the moment to look for a new level of public seriousness about environmental issues."

http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1254684,00.html

The speech was well reported on the BBC

"He feared "the prospect of a world of spiralling inequality and a culture that has learned again to assume what Christianity has struggled to persuade humanity against since its beginning - that most human beings are essentially dispensable, born to die".

Contraction and convergence, the archbishop said, sought to achieve fairly rapid and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions "in a way that foregrounds questions of equity between rich and poor nations".

He said: "This kind of thinking appears utopian only if we refuse to contemplate the alternatives honestly."

Calling for a new sense of public seriousness about environmental issues, Dr Williams urged the UK Government to take the lead in pressing the contraction and convergence agenda."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3866543.stm>

UK Domestic C&C Bill to Parliament Aubrey Meyer

Jul 07, 2004 03:40 PDT

Colin Challen, Labour MP for Morley and Rothwell, is introducing a bill to parliament today. It picks up on C&C and the work on Domestic Tradable Quotas [DTQs] being done by Kevin Anderson at the Tyndall Centre.

http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/general/staff/anderson_k.shtml

If you would like more light to be shed on this quiet and certain flowering of reason on climate, you can help by writing to your MP and asking that they consider it.

Colin can be reached with your news at: -

[colinchallenmp\[at\]parliament.uk](mailto:colinchallenmp[at]parliament.uk)

or via his website

<http://www.colinchallen.org.uk/>

The Bill text as it stands is at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/DTQs_Parliamentary_Bill.pdf

Hillman and C&C at IPPR tonight. Aubrey Meyer

Jul 08, 2004 04:58 PDT

The Institute for Public Policy Research, with the generous support of npower, invites you to attend the Sustainability Team's Summer Event

"How we can save the planet"

Dr Mayer Hillman

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/mayer6.pdf>

Thursday July 8,

Institute of Materials, 1 Carlton Terrace 5pm - 8:30pm

5:00pm

Debate chaired by Geoffrey Lean, Environment Editor Independent on Sunday

Speakers:

Dr Mayer Hillman

Author of "How we can save the planet"

John Ashton, Founder and Chief Executive, Third Generation Environmentalism

Madeline Bunting, Columnist on the Guardian

6:30pm Drinks and refreshments will be served on the Terrace

8:30pm Close

Please confirm attendance through Nathan Sansom by E-mail at

n.sa-@ippr.org or by phone on 020 7470 6112

"How We Can Win The Election" is at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/C&C_DTQ.pdf

TIEMPO C&C - Opposing the Economics of Genocide. Aubrey Meyer

Jul 12, 2004 08:45 PDT

TIEMPO is a fine and valued Climate Change Magazine. For many years it has been a constant voice for sanity.

In the mad - indeed maddening - debate about how we are sowing the winds of climate change and reaping the whirlwind future, bureaucracy and vested interests have persistently discarded the vulnerable, and this is openly now annihilating the small-island and other states.

TIEMPO has always highlighted this issue. And it has repeatedly given a platform for those who have sought to resist this genocidal trend. When recently GCI was asked to contribute "2,000 blistering words" on this, we were happy to do it.

Primarily the article provided projects C&C as the global basis of any sane precautionary climate policy. But it also targets an under-recognised redoubt of growing folly . . .

"The UNFCCC set out to defend the planet against the devastating uneconomic growth of the rich. The Kyoto Protocol reversed this trend in favour of those whose interests are vested in this growth at the expense of the poor and the planet."

"Former consultants to the Small Island States now broker emission permits under the Protocol, while the homes of their former island clients are made uninhabitable by the rising seas." [1]

"Former climate action radicals, who denounced the original Kyoto Protocol at its birth in 1997 as a 'tragedy and farce', now defend its horse-trading and weakened revisions as a basis on which to continue to the Kyoto Protocol's second commitment period."

The article provided by GCI is published this week, and is also readable at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/TIEMPOlayout.pdf>

TIEMPO's excellent news-service is at: -

<http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/tiempo/newswatch/>

[1] Extraordianry testimony to the House of Lords in this regard is at:

<http://www.gci.org.uk/evidence/eud2403.pdf>

C&C - "A New Global Vision" Aubrey Meyer

Jul 13, 2004 14:44 PDT

"A NEW GLOBAL VISION"

San Rossore - A Conference on Climate Change, Convened by the Regional Government of Tuscany, PISA - July 15th and 6th

Programme includes Mikhail Gorbachev, Al Gore, Romano Prodi and more . . . and a special C&C presentation.

http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/San_Rossore_Programme.pdf

A joint C&C statement from

Global Commons Institute [GCI] London and

Global Dynamics Institute [GDI] Rome is at: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Pisa_Statement_\(english\).pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Pisa_Statement_(english).pdf)

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Pisa_Statement_\(Italian\).pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Pisa_Statement_(Italian).pdf)

GCI Conference Flyer at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Toscana.pdf>

Very Useful Study from Benfield Aubrey Meyer

Jul 25, 2004 07:18 PDT

Excellent [Diag/Prognosis] Documentation from Benfield Hazard Research Centre

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Benfield_Hazard_CandC.pdf

Climate Change - Evidence - Reality/Recovery?

Executive Summary

□ Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations have risen more in the last three decades than in the previous three centuries. The rate of increase itself is also on the rise. During the 1980s and 1990s, concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide rose by an average of 1.5 ppm a year. In both 2002 and 2003, however, the level has risen by 2.5 ppm.

□ The Kyoto Protocol requires that greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to 5.2 percent below 1990 levels within the 2008 – 2012 period. In actual fact they have already risen by 10 percent.

□ The 15 hottest years on record have occurred since 1980, the 10 hottest since 1990 and the five hottest since 1997.

- The Earth is hotter now than at any time in the last 2,000 years.
- During the 20th century, a veil of soot, smoke and particulate matter may have provided a shield against three quarters of the effects of global warming. With the atmosphere growing cleaner, the worst case temperature rise by 2100 may be 7 – 10 degrees Celsius.
- Even taking global warming into account, last year's European heat wave was an event that should only happen every 46,000 years.
- A worst case 8 degrees C temperature rise by 2100 would result in wholesale melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet and a rise in sea level of 6 m by the end of the millennium.
- In the UK, summers may be 50 percent or more drier and winters up to 30 percent wetter by 2080.
- In the south east of the UK, sea levels are expected to rise by between 26 and 86 cm by the 2080s.
- Annual economic damage due to UK flooding could increase from £1 billion now to between £1.5 and £21 billion by the 2080s, depending on the scenario.
- In the last 50 years the number of severe winter storms affecting the UK has risen significantly.
- Global warming may lead to the formation of more tropical cyclones in the South Atlantic.
- Independent studies point to significant contemporary changes in the behaviour of North Atlantic ocean currents; perhaps heralding a weakening of the Gulf Stream.

Conclusions

Evidence in support of an anthropogenic cause for contemporary climate change is now overwhelming and every few weeks further observations or new studies are published that provide added weight to the conclusions of the IPCC TAR.

Global climate models remain far from definitive, however, and the range of predictions for the Earth's climate at the end of the 21st century and beyond continues to be wide. Such models also need to be substantially improved before they can provide a reasonably accurate picture of the regional to local scale impacts of climate change.

Politically, there is some way to go before a global agreement designed to stabilise and reduce GHGs is ratified. The Kyoto Protocol may come into force later this year if ratified by Russia.

Looking ahead, however, any serious attempt to tackle the climate change issue is likely to involve the contraction and convergence model.

The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) will be completed in 2007 and published either towards the end of that year or in 2008.

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Benfield_Hazard_CandC.pdf

Houghton - Global Warming Briefing Aubrey Meyer

Jul 27, 2004 08:09 PDT

Global Warming

The Complete Briefing

3rd Edition

John T. Houghton

Published August 2004

CUP ISBN: 0521817625

<http://titles.cambridge.org/catalogue.asp?isbn=0521817625>

Written by a climate scientist [some might say 'the' climate scientist] for non-scientists, this updated classic contains reliable information about the causes and effects of climate change . . . and what we can and should do to deal with this situation. This edition has C&C on its radar.

http://www.gci.org.uk/books/Houghton_Book_C&C.pdf

C&C: EDM 1529 & DTQ Bill, 2nd reading Aubrey Meyer

Jul 28, 2004 03:45 PDT

Two opportunities to write to UK constituency MPs re C&C: -

EDM 1529 and DTQ Bill Second reading.

Early Day Motion [EDM] 1529

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S VIEWS ON

CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE

15.07.04

Chaytor/David

"That this House welcomes the Archbishop of Canterbury's call for the Government to take the lead internationally in pressing for contraction and convergence of greenhouse gas emissions as the underlying principle of its policy on the Kyoto Protocol during the Prime Minister's chairmanship of the G8 and presidency of the European Union in 2005."

So far signed by

Conservative Party

Bottomley/Peter

Labour Party

Barnes/Harry

Best/Harold

Burden/Richard

Caton/Martin

Chaytor/David

Colman/Tony

Corbyn/Jeremy

Dean/Janet

Dobbin/Jim

Drew/David

Edwards/Huw

Flynn/Paul

Gibson/Ian

Griffiths/Win

Jenkins/Brian

Jones/Lynne

Lewis/Terry

Marris/Rob

McNamara/Kevin

Morgan/Julie

Prentice/Gordon

Simpson/Alan

Turner/Dennis

Vis/Rudi

Williams/Betty

Liberal Democrats
Breed/Colin
George/Andrew
Hancock/Mike
Jones/Nigel
Stunell/Andrew
Tyler/Paul

Plaid Cymru
Thomas/Simon
Ulster Unionist Party
Smyth/Martin

<http://edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=1529>

DTQs - 07 07 2004; Second Reading 15 10 2004

Colin Challen Introduced his Domestic Tradable Quota Bill in the UK House of Commons on the 7th of July 2004.

The Second Reading is scheduled for Friday 15th October 2004

"Emissions trading schemes generally work partly on the principle of what is known as contraction and convergence—we set a target to reduce or contract our emissions each year, and eventually our emissions are no greater than anybody else's. The concept of convergence means that we have a right to use only our fair share of carbon-emitting resources."

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmhansrd/cm040707/debtext/40707-04.htm>

Also see: - "How to Win The Election" and Save the Planet: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/C&C_DTQ.pdf

Really Well Done BBC&C! Aubrey Meyer

Jul 29, 2004 02:47 PDT

Wednesday, Thursday [today] and Friday [28th – 30th July 2004]

BBC TV Channel One [BBC1] are running a series of stories and debates about global warming and climate change.

Learning of this, I had cautious expectations as the BBC itself – newly chastened - is very cautious about things like the end-of-life as we know it etc.

Yesterday's session was broadcast from the lush and beautiful Kew Gardens. Then the live reports from around the world where from, drowning islanders in the Maldives, parched peasants in China, Eskimos on melting permafrost in Alaska, the dissolving ice-sheet in Greenland and power stations and cars belching emissions.

The experts responding from the studio were Sir David King and Sir Crispin Tickell. They and the journalists pulled no punches: - The wealthy 'we' with fossil fuel emissions, were causally implicated in the destruction and death we were witnessing.

We have to stop this they said. We must get global action to bring right the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving this. This is becoming an emergency.

I thought I was battle-hardened . . . well I'm not. It was heart-breaking and just awful. But then, at least the very sober BBC is now on the case. This was and is Rubicon reporting.

Perhaps we can still put things right. King and Tickell seem to think so.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/breakfast/3930347.stm#climate>

[Tried cheering myself up by converting 'uneconomic growth' into 'Gekkonomic Growth' – remember (?) it was agreed and agreed that 'Greed is Good' . . . 'Greed is GOD']

Well the story doesn't stop there The phone rang: - "BBC TV1 here. Will you come and talk live about Contraction and Convergence in the studio tomorrow morning [Friday]?"

We want to know about the politics."

"!" "Yes."

Then, I go to their website and see "BBC&C!"

If you can bear to, read below through their Q&A to "ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?"

You can send in comments, criticisms and questions if you want to . . .

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/breakfast/3930347.stm#climate>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/3929425.stm

THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

Fossil fuel burning is one of the biggest sources of CO₂ emissions. Climate change is the biggest long-term question facing the global community, British Prime Minister Tony Blair has said.

BBC News Online looks at the international agreement which many say is the best hope for curbing the gas emissions thought partly responsible for the warming of the planet.

WHAT IS THE KYOTO PROTOCOL?

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement setting targets for cuts in industrialised countries' greenhouse gas emissions.

These gases are considered at least partly responsible for global warming - the rise in global temperature which may have catastrophic consequences for life on Earth.

The protocol was established in 1997, based on principles set out in a framework agreement signed in 1992.

WHAT ARE THE TARGETS?

Industrialised countries have committed to cut their combined emissions to 5% below 1990 levels by 2008 - 2012.

Each country that signed the protocol agreed to its own specific target. EU countries are expected to cut emissions by 8% and Japan by 5%, while Russia agreed to maintain 1990 levels. Some countries with low emissions were permitted to increase them.

HAVE THE TARGETS BEEN ACHIEVED?

Industrialised countries cut their overall emissions by about 3% from 1990 to 2000. But this was largely because a sharp decrease in emissions from the collapsing economies of former Soviet countries masked an 8% rise among rich countries.

The UN says industrialised countries are now well off target for the end of the decade and predicts emissions 10% above 1990 levels by 2010. Only four EU countries are on track to meet their own targets.

SO IS KYOTO ON ITS LAST LEGS?

It is certainly on the brink. The agreement stipulates that for it to become binding in international law, it must be ratified by countries responsible for at least 55% of 1990 global greenhouse gas emissions. The treaty suffered a massive blow in 2001 when the US, responsible for about quarter of the world's emissions, pulled out.

Now the 55% threshold will only be reached if Russia ratifies the agreement - and there is great uncertainty about the country's intentions.

WHY DID THE US PULL OUT?

US President George W Bush pulled out of the Kyoto Protocol in 2001, saying implementing it would gravely damage the US economy.

His administration dubbed the treaty "fatally flawed", partly because it does not require developing countries to commit to emissions reductions.

Mr Bush says he backs emissions reductions through voluntary action and new energy technologies.

WILL IT MATTER IF IT DOESN'T COME INTO FORCE?

Some say the agreement is already too toothless and without US support is virtually obsolete. Others say its failure would be a disaster, as despite its flaws it sets out a framework for future negotiations which could take another decade to rebuild.

Kyoto commitments have been signed into law in some countries, US states and in the EU, and will stay in place regardless of the fate of the protocol itself.

But if Kyoto falls apart, both politicians and companies working towards climate-friendly economies will face a much rougher ride.

WHAT ABOUT POOR COUNTRIES?

The agreement acknowledges that developing countries contribute least to climate change but will quite likely suffer most from its effects.

Many have signed it. They do not have to commit to specific targets, but have to report their emissions levels and develop national climate change mitigation programmes.

China and India, potential major polluters with huge populations and growing economies, have both ratified the protocol.

WHAT IS EMISSIONS TRADING?

Emissions trading works by allowing countries to buy and sell their agreed allowances of greenhouse gas emissions.

Highly polluting countries can buy unused "credits" from those which are allowed to emit more than they actually do.

After much difficult negotiation, countries are now also able to gain credits for activities which boost the environment's capacity to absorb carbon.

These include tree planting and soil conservation, and can be carried out in the country itself, or by that country working in a developing country.

HOW MUCH DIFFERENCE WILL THE TREATY MAKE?

Most climate scientists say that the targets set in the Kyoto Protocol are merely scratching the surface of the problem.

The agreement aims to reduce emissions from industrialised nations only by around 5%, whereas the consensus among many climate scientists is that in order to avoid the worst consequences of global warming, emissions cuts in the order of 60% across the board are needed.

ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?

One approach gaining increasing support is based on the principle that an equal quota of greenhouse gas emissions should be allocated for every person on the planet.

The proposal, dubbed "contraction and convergence", states that rich countries should "contract" their emissions with the aim that global emissions "converge" at equal levels based on the amount of pollution scientists think the planet can take.

Although many commentators say it is not realistic, its supporters include the United Nations Environment Programme and the European Parliament.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3927813.stm>

[Slowly, slowly up Mt Fuji . . . O Snail].

C & Sea – Acid Bath in the Oceans? Aubrey Meyer

Aug 02, 2004 08:25 PDT

The usual strategy lies appears to lie behind this new development; - support - indeed force - further economic growth at any risk, at any cost.

Here are links to an alarming clutch of carbon-in-the-ocean stories in the recent UK press [but with a whacky 'rescue' from David Bellamy].

The Independent on Sunday reported on research into how seas are literally turning to acid as

they absorb our extra global CO2 pollution:

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/environment/story.jsp?story=546761>

contact: - Dr. Christopher Sabine

University of Washington

Joint Institute for the Study of

the Atmosphere and the Ocean (JISAO)

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7600 Sand Point Way NE,

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Seattle, WA 98115

phone: (206) 526-4809

fax: (206) 526-6744

Electronic address: sab-@pmel.noaa.gov

Apart from crashing the oceanic sink, this has linked effects through the food chain to calamitous crash effects on sea-bird reproductive patterns, and was news in the Independent a few days before at: -

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/environment/story.jsp?story=546514>

Cutely timed, the Observer reported on Sunday the UK government announcement of a programme to actually increase oceanic carbon through burying it at sea: -

http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,6903,1273680,00.html

The Energy Minister [Stephen Timms] took out a holding position on this issue in Parliament, at: -

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmhansrd/cm040712/text/40712w10.htm#40712w10.html_sbhd6

The DTI programme referred to is at: -

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/coal/cfft/co2capture/>

The DTI interim summary comment on the proposals here was: -

"The marine environment globally is at risk from the effects of increasing concentrations of CO2 in the atmosphere. Apart from the well know effects of temperature increase, rising sea levels, and increased storminess, the seas will become more acid and this and the changes in the carbonate cycle will have major, harmful effects on marine ecology. Action to stabilise atmospheric CO2 levels is therefore essential and urgently needed to protect the marine environment."

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/coal/cfft/co2capture/conclusions_for_osparl1.pdf

That's government.

Global oil is now at peak: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/OIL_with_Depletion_Producers_and_Consumers_Compared.pdf

Indeed Minister Stephen Timms only mentions Gas and Coal. So all his DTI based programme appears to anticipate a significant return to coal dependency.

What an example to set! Al-and-Acid-aholics-Anonymous this ain't. UK Emissions are less than just Texas. And China is less than just the US. God help us.

And there was that small matter of the peat-bogs massive turning from sinks to sources: -

<http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99996124>

All is not lost however, at least according to David Bellamy's Bunkummy.

Bellamy - that avuncular TV celebrity plant lover - showed up at the BBC's Kew Gardens broadcast Friday morning saying man-made global warming was bunk.

The atmospheric CO2 level is following the Temperature upwards [yes - not the other way round] because [wait for it] the plants are getting healthier in the heat and so emitting more CO2!

In his argument, this makes the healthy [not the dying] plants a source not a sink [and proves

Bellamy the botanist is from planet bonkers]. Until they die, plants are much more sink than source. Indeed that's the the basis of the carbon-fertilization effect beloved of the climate-change deniers, of whom he is one.

Threat of the climate-weapon-of-mass-destruction has been invented by people who want green conflicts for nefarious reasons. Even thant Houdini at MI-6, John Scarlett could learn a trick or two from this.

Each part per million atmospheric CO2 weighs 2.13 billion tonnes of carbon. The extra 40% atmospheric carbon since industrialisation weighs around 250 billion tonnes. Consistent with the Constant Airborne Fraction (CAF), this is roughly half the weight of the integral of carbon from industrial CO2 emissions since 1800.

So on this planet [which is probably going bonkers anyway] this means that we're all flying and driving and heating and cooling ourselves more to ensure that his proof of temperature rise is correct! The CO2 linkd greenhouse effect has mysteriously been eliminated. Our economic growth is [here] an involuntary response to global warming.

What a relief.

George Bush and Dick Cheney would love this. Its as whacky as creationism; [though one never could understand why the God-fearing creationists were social darwinists when it came to liberalising the market].

Anyway, even the BBC anchor-man seemed to recognize that Bellamy had lost the plot.

The reporting seemed to recognize that we've as good as already lost the Maldives to sea-level rise.

I hope for their sakes it doesn't get too acid to swim.

UK, C&C, Match Point? Aubrey Meyer

Aug 11, 2004 12:22 PDT

" . . . I am happy for us to negotiate on that [Contraction and Convergence], and I believe our government is . . . "

Sir David King

UK Government Chief Scientist

to House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee Report

Published today [11 08 2004]

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmselect/cmenvaud/490/490.pdf>

Q118 Mr Challen:

"You said in your January article that you were setting up a team to look at how the UK could mitigate its carbon emissions. I wonder if you could give us a progress report on that. In particular, whether you have had a chance to look at the cost to the UK of doing so, and whether indeed in its remit you might be asking it to look at the principle of contraction and convergence to see if that is a workable proposal?"

Professor Sir David King:

"Can I take the second question first? Contraction and convergence has definite attractions, but there, again, we are talking about an alternative to the Kyoto process with carbon emission trading.

Contraction and convergence is a permit system where you can exchange permits between countries. In essence it is a trading system but it does look at developing countries, so they can brought on board by allowing them to build up their CO2 emissions while developed countries reduce, but they should peak at a certain level. I can see the attraction in the whole process, but I have to emphasise that the only game signed up to is Kyoto, and until we have those signatories coming forward and saying "We would rather discuss contraction and convergence", I think we have to work within the Kyoto agreement. That is the process that we are set on."

Q119 Chairman:

"If Kyoto does not make progress because of the reluctance of some countries (and we know who they are and where they live) to participate, contraction and convergence must be a viable alternative."

Professor Sir David King:

"I think it is a very interesting alternative, but as I say I think the key thing is that if those countries that are not satisfied that Kyoto is the way forward come to us at the negotiating table, I am happy for us to negotiate on that, and I believe our government is —as long as it is not seen to be a delaying tactic, because I think this is a matter of some urgency."

C&C - Hi & Lo, Near & Far & Wide Aubrey Meyer

Aug 12, 2004 09:14 PDT

C&C Editorial in ONE WORLD news, now on the web at: -

<http://www.oneworld.net/article/view/91223>

C&C - SHRINKING THE CARBON ECONOMY

04 August 2004

"The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was agreed in 1992. By the UNFCCC's Kyoto Protocol, adopted at the third session of the Conference of the Parties, in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997, the developed countries nations agreed to limit their greenhouse gas emissions relative to levels emitted in 1990.

The objective is, of course, to stabilise the rising concentration of greenhouse gas (GHG) in the atmosphere before this becomes "dangerous". However, the Kyoto agreement is partial, not going far enough to meet scientifically assessed needs for GHG emission reductions.

Unlike Kyoto, Contraction and Convergence (C&C) - the basis proposed by the Global Commons Institute (GCI) for international agreement to control greenhouse gas emissions – addresses the problem in its entirety."

C&C Article in TIEMPO #52, now on the web.

Low resolution at: -

<http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/tiempo/floor0/recent/pdf/tiempo52low.pdf>

High low resolution at: -

<http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/tiempo/floor0/recent/pdf/tiempo52high.pdf>

"In May 2004, the New York Times wrote, "Without international action – a new Manhattan Project to develop low-impact energy technologies and a revolutionary commitment to global equity – climate change promises social and economic collapse".

Some senior advisors to the United Kingdom's (UK) Prime Minister, Tony Blair, know this very well. Sir John Houghton, ex-head of the UK Meteorological Office, has described climate change as "a weapon of mass destruction" that is "already upon us" (The Guardian, 28th July 2003). Sir David King, the UK government's chief scientific adviser, has called climate change a far greater threat than international terrorism (BBC News, 9th January 2004). Mr Blair himself declared on 27th April 2004, when launching the Climate Group, that "the issue of climate change is now very, very critical indeed."

He is right. Humanity is increasing rather than reducing its emissions of the greenhouse gases that are changing the world's climate. To avoid disaster, a comprehensive response is urgently required. The global community must negotiate a plan to bring emissions down rapidly using the flexible, science-based Contraction and Convergence (or C&C) framework.

It is difficult to think of any other effective approach in the battle to avoid dangerous rates of global climatic change."

C&C – FINDHORN FELLOWSHIP

GCI Honoured, 1st August, 2004: -

"Aubrey Meyer is a professional violinist who has largely bracketed his music career to address the global challenge of climate change. Having attended the first UN meetings on the subject in the early 90's, he has since fully engaged with the issue and developed the 'Contraction and Convergence' model as an antidote to it. He created and directs the Global Commons Institute in London as a vehicle to advance his formula to virtually all who will listen.

The great news is that his views are now being endorsed by prominent members of the British establishment (including, most recently, the Archbishop of Canterbury). There is a bill to enact Contraction & Convergence currently in the British Parliament and there are moves afoot that would see the Blair government embrace and advance it as the obvious successor to the flawed Kyoto Protocol.

I hope you join me in welcoming Aubrey to the Fellowship and in supporting his remarkable, indeed heroic, initiative. For details, go to www.gci.org.uk - To follow its progress, you can subscribe to Aubrey's e-list at GCN-sub-@igc.topica.com By my reckoning, Aubrey Meyer is to global warming what Michael Moore is to the current US election saga - a delightful maverick who just might 'save the day'.

In the Spirit of Fellowship

A Roger Doudna, Coordinator

http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/FINDHORN_FELLOWSHIP.pdf

C&C at TURKISH GOVERNMENT CLIMATE CONFERENCE

GCI Presentation, [Details in de course]

Ankara, Turkey

2nd September, 2004: -

http://www.cevreorman.gov.tr/iklimkonferansi/index_e.htm

C&C at WORLD BANK

GCI Presentation,

[State of the Art Analysis/Prognosis and 3D Animation Graphics

Details in due course],

Washington DC, USA

20th September, 2004: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/memos/CandC_World_Bank_200904.pdf

[Better yet lies ahead – struggle for the living, then rest for the dead Tyaktvo Uttishta Parantapa - Abhyasa, Vairagya]

"A wee bit 'dotty'? . . . " Aubrey Meyer

Aug 30, 2004 01:24 PDT

Joining some of the dots around climate-policy, Madeleine Bunting of the UK Guardian wrote an ambiguous but useful piece last week [26 August 2004] called, "Put us all on rations".

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1290840,00.html>

She says, "With a kind of savage justice, climate change is an issue which exposes the weakest link in the cultural mindset of western market capitalism: the collective capacity for self-restraint in pursuit of a common good. Never before has humanity had to recognise its common identity as a species, over and above race, nationality or creed."

These points are fundamental and well-made. However, her article was presented as a review of Mayer Hillman's book, "How to Save the Planet" [with C&C-derived personal carbon-rations] [and Madeleine has a few more dots to join up].

She says, " . . . carbon rations has all the plausibility of an idea which will be commonplace in a couple of decades, perhaps sooner. If everyone is given the same allocation - a big "if" - it has the

potential to be a radically redistributive measure with the less well-off able to sell their unused allocation."

[This is a relevant point, but C&C carbon rationing is not about RE-distribution: - it is about 'rational' PRE-distribution – [before the fact, not after the fact - indeed 'capping' *has to precede* 'trading']].

She says, "Until then, the dilemma is that the enormity of climate change makes individual action pretty meaningless."

[This is a relevant point, but hardly one Mayer's book or anyone fails to recognize].

She says, "The analogy of the meaningless individual sacrifices at an international level is that even if Britain blazed a trail of exemplary, carbon-friendly behaviour, all our efforts would be cancelled out by the carbon-belching US.]

[This is a relevant point but not Mayer's book or anyone fails to recognize this].

She says, "The solutions to climate change have to be collective, involving not just the local community or even nation, but the entire globe."

[This is an excellent point and precisely what Mayer's book and many others recognize and advocate as a C&C predistribution of carbon rations].

I hope she reads Mayer's "How to Save the Planet" more carefully before she reviews it next. It is worth it. It is a well-thought-out, precise, practical - indeed rational - book.

As a review, her piece was definitely useful . . . but still a wee bit 'dotty'.

Four responses to this, joining a few dots, appeared on today's Guardian letters page: - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,,1293497,00.html>

C&C at Turkish Conference: 1-3 Sept. Aubrey Meyer

Aug 31, 2004 03:41 PDT

C&C at CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE in ANKARA 1-3 SEPTEMBER 2004, Hotel Dedeman, Ankara

Hosted by Republic of Turkey Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and UNDP Turkey Programme

http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Ankara_Programme.pdf

"Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) statement in Turkish at: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Ankara_CandC_statement_3\[screen\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Ankara_CandC_statement_3[screen].pdf)

With contributions from;

UNFCCC Secretariat European Commission

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

Hadley Center – UK Met Office

Technology Development Foundation of Turkey (TTGV)

Turkish Environmental Protection Fund (TÜÇEV)

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Programme

http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Ankara_Programme.pdf

"Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) statement in Turkish at: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Ankara_CandC_statement_3\[screen\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Ankara_CandC_statement_3[screen].pdf)

C&C Translations for World Bank Meeting Aubrey Meyer

Sep 14, 2004 10:19 PDT

"Curing Damaging Growth"

By invitation of the Latin America Division of the World Bank, Washington DC,

A briefing on "Contraction & Convergence" [C&C] A Framework to Avoid Dangerous Climate Change

will be given by GCI, from 10.00 am, Monday, September 20th, 2004

[see: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Bank.pdf>]

[contact: - wped-@worldbank.org]

The presentation, including new animations of "Expansion and Divergence" and "Contraction and Convergence", will be posted at <http://www.gci.org.uk> on the 20th.

The Framework Statement for this meeting is available now at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/translations.html>

in

English

French

German

Portuguese

Spanish

Russian

Turkish

Italian

It will also be available in: -

Chinese (Mandarin)

Japanese

Hindi

Arabic

Swahili

On the 20th at the same URL

At present the global community asymmetrically generates dangerous rates of climate change, faster than it organizes to avoid them.

Increasing greenhouse gas [GHG] emissions have been closely correlated with economic performance. Since 1800, this growth of emissions and economies has been mostly in the industrialized countries. This has created a global pattern of increasingly uneconomic expansion and divergence [E&D], environmental damage and international insecurity.

This "damaging growth" highlights the issues of global inequity and irresponsibility that must be dealt with to avoid damages from dangerous rates of climate change.

This means reversing the ratio of damages to growth. It also means recognizing asymmetric 'historic responsibilities' for rising atmospheric concentrations of GHG, as a development opportunity-

cost to developing countries.

Future 'emissions-entitlements' become scarce and valuable as they become tradable. C&C structures the creation of these. By deliberately basing entitlements on future equal rights per person to use the atmosphere, C&C can correct this asymmetry. It pre-distributes global entitlements rationally with a rate of convergence to equal shares that is faster than the global rate of contraction needed to stabilize GHG concentrations at a safe value.

The faster the convergence, the greater the correction. The faster the contraction, the less the danger and damages.

This simplifies the international negotiation. It finishes Kyoto's unfinished business. It is straightforward, full-term, constitutional and has substantial support.

"This [Contraction and Convergence] appears utopian only if we refuse to contemplate the alternatives honestly. The [UK] Prime Minister has already declared that his international priorities as chair of the G-8 in 2005 will include climate change and the future of Africa.

Contraction and Convergence addresses both of these."

Dr. ROWAN WILLIAMS - THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

New C&C Animations for Bank - Blair G8 . . . Aubrey Meyer

Sep 18, 2004 16:37 PDT

Simple animated images for the bank: -

These model the "Damaging Growth" trends of 'expansion and divergence' feeding the growing injustice of Climate Change.

". . . two thirds of global population have just 6% of global purchasing power [GPP] . . . vulnerable to growing damages caused by the pollution of the other third, who have 94% of GPP."

Each file has two pages. The key is on page one. The animation is on page two [click image - flash-enabled browser required].

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Expansion_Divergence_Animation_1.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Expansion_Divergence_Animation_2.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Expansion_Divergence_Animation_3.pdf

Seemingly aware of the enormity this, the UK Prime Minister this week announced a climate-strategy for the G-8: -

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3657120.stm>

<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/page6333.asp>

"Prior to the G8 meeting itself we propose to host an international scientific meeting at the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research in Exeter in February.

This gathering will seek answers from the science to the big questions of:" -

1. "What level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is self-evidently too much?"
2. "What options do we have to avoid such levels?"

"One of the most difficult things in politics is working out what the balance of risk is, especially where it involves drastic action. Often it's not that the politicians can't see the problem, or lack the courage to act. It's that they need to know the political support is out there for them among the electorate."

"The G8 Presidency is a wonderful opportunity to recognise that the commitments reflected in the Kyoto protocol and current EU policy are insufficient - uncomfortable as that may be - and start urgently building a consensus based on the latest and best possible science."

1. Agreement on basic science on climate change and the threat it poses providing the foundation for further action.
2. Agreement on a process to speed up the science, technology, and other measures necessary to meet the threat.

3. While the eight G8 countries account for around 50% of global greenhouse gas emissions, it is vital that we also engage with other countries with growing energy needs - like China and India; both on how they can meet those needs sustainably and adapt to the adverse impacts we are already locked into.

A journalist present said he appeared to be pleading with the public to create the pressure for change away from danger that is so urgently needed.

C&C Assessed by Commons Committee Aubrey Meyer

Sep 21, 2004 03:06 PDT

Environmental Audit Committee House of Commons

Press Release – for immediate use 20 September 2004

NEW INQUIRY

The international challenge of Climate Change:

UK leadership in the G8 and EU

The Environment Audit Committee is launching today a new inquiry on the challenges posed by Climate Change and the need to begin negotiating an international framework to succeed Kyoto and bring about more radical cuts in carbon emissions. The inquiry will build on work the Committee has already done on energy policy issues and the scope for including aviation within the EU Emissions Trading System.

The overall objective of the inquiry will be to assess the feasibility of emissions trading systems, including Contraction and Convergence, as a framework for negotiating a post-Kyoto agreement.

It will examine whether such systems can be enforced and the practical difficulties involved, taking account of what has been learned from the development of the EU ETS and the growth of carbon trading initiatives such as the Chicago Climate Exchange. From this perspective, the Committee will examine the objectives to be pursued by the UK during its presidencies in 2005 of both the G8 and the EU, and the contribution of the various departments involved such as the FCO, DEFRA, HMT, DfT, and DFID.

In particular, the Committee is interested in:

- whether an international ETS is feasible, given that targets and compliance penalties would need to be rigidly enforced and bearing in mind the political pressures to which an international ETS would be subject;
- what other alternatives to an international ETS exist; and whether an ETS would be more effective than such alternatives in maximising carbon reductions worldwide and in channelling investment in low-carbon technologies into less developed countries;
- what approach and specific objectives in relation to climate change the UK Government should adopt during its presidency of the G8 and EU in 2005; and
- what contribution individual departments can make (eg FCO, DEFRA, HMT, DfT, and DFID), and whether they are sufficiently “joined-up” in delivering a coherent UK agenda.

The Committee expects to take oral evidence on this inquiry In November and December.

Written evidence should be sent to the Committee by Friday 29th October 2004, preferably by e-mail to eac-@parliament.uk (with a hard copy by post). A brief guidance note on the preparation and submission of evidence is available on the Committee’s web pages. For further information on the Committee’s inquiry, please telephone 020-7219-1378.

Notes for Editors

1. Details of all the Committee’s press releases and inquiries, together with its Reports, oral evidence and other publications, are available on the Committee’s Internet home page, which can be found at: www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/environmental_audit_committee.cfm

The Environmental Audit Committee

Under the terms of the Standing Order No. 152A the Environmental Audit Committee is to consid-

er to what extent the policies and programmes of government departments and non-departmental public bodies contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development: to audit their performance against such targets as may be set for them by Her Majesty's Ministers; and to report thereon to the House. The Committee was set up on 16 July 2001.

Membership

Chairman: Mr Peter Ainsworth MP

Mr Gregory Barker MP

Sue Doughty, MP

Elliot Morley, MP*

Mr Harold Best, MP

Mr Paul Flynn MP

Mr Malcolm Savidge, MP

Mr Colin Challen, MP

Mr Mark Francois, MP

Mr Simon Thomas, MP

Mr David Chaytor, MP

Mr John Horam, MP

Joan Walley, MP

Mrs Helen Clark, MP

Mr John McWilliam, MP

Mr David Wright, MP

* The Minister for the Environment has ex-officio membership of the Committee in like manner to the Financial Secretary's membership of the Committee of Public Accounts.

C&C and "Operation Noah" Aubrey Meyer

Oct 02, 2004 07:23 PDT

The UK-based 'Christian Ecology Link' hold a climate-conference on the 9th of October 2004 in the UK City of Coventry.

THE RAINBOW PILGRIMAGE

The title recalls God's everlasting promise to every living creature in the rainbow covenant. (Gen. 9.8-17)

In the spacious Coventry Methodist Central Hall, from 9.45am to 12.40pm, will feature, in order of speaking:

- Sir John Houghton FRS, Chairman of the John Ray Initiative and eminent meteorologist and Christian, with an update on the latest climate change science
- Aubrey Meyer, of the Global Commons Institute , explaining the 'contraction and convergence' policy which holds out the best hope for a just response to global warming
- John Cridland, Deputy Director-General of the CBI exploring how business can act on climate change
- Trewin Restorick, Director of Global Action Plan, presenting ideas for ways in which you can make a difference
- Rev John Kennedy, of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland will chair the conference. Rev Jenny Dyer will open the conference with prayer.

Specially arranged activities for children will take place during the morning conference. See the Families Welcome section.

THE RAINBOW PROCESSION

After lunch we process through the streets of central Coventry to the ruins of the old Cathedral,

destroyed in World War II and preserved as a symbol of reconciliation.

CATHEDRAL SERVICE

Bishop John Oliver will preside at a special Service in the new Coventry Cathedral at 2.30pm. Children from Coventry and Warwickshire schools will sing songs from 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo'.

Dr David Hallman, who co-ordinates the World Council of Churches climate change programme, will join us for the day and give a talk during the Cathedral Service.

<http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/conf2004.htm>

Bursaries may be available on application for students and those on low income.

Contact details for more information:

CEL, 3 Bond Street, Lancaster LA1 3ER.

Tel. 01524 33858 or 01949 861516.

Email. in-@christian-ecology.org.uk

www.christian-ecology.org.uk

C&C Conference at Br. Council in Delhi Aubrey Meyer

Oct 04, 2004 14:35 PDT

The British Council

New Delhi - INDIA

9th October 2004

The Agenda

- Keynote address – PM or Environment Minister (Mr Raj)
- General Introduction – Dr Tush Moulik, Chair, Environment resources Management (ERM) Christopher Layton, Chair AGCC
- Climate change – an Indian political perspective (Chair of Parliamentary Environment Committee)
- Climate change – a European political perspective (Dr Hartmut Grassl, Chair, German Advisory Council on Global Change)
- Kyoto & Beyond
- Contraction & Convergence (Tim Helweg-Larsen - GCI)
- Climate change and commerce (including carbon trading)
- The building of a Climate Community

Full details and discussion at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/India.pdf>

UNFCCC say "C&C is inevitable" Aubrey Meyer

Oct 07, 2004 09:17 PDT

At COP-9 in Milan the UNFCCC secretariat positioned itself as the

"UNFCCC Secretariat".

Janos Pasztor is the Sustainable Development Programme Coordinator of the secretariat of the UNFCCC. On the 4th of December 2003, he made a presentation in 16 slides. Speaking about the objective of the UN Convention [stabilization of rising GHG concentration in the atmosphere] he made the following point: -

"Stabilization inevitably requires "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C)."

http://www.gci.org.uk/slideshow/C&C_UNFCCC.pdf

This effectively makes the UNFCCC the "United Nations Framework Convention for Contraction and

Convergence”.

Mr Pasztor says that the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC – Joke Waller Hunter – now regularly uses these slides in her public presentations.

This brings to sharply into focus the nature of the struggle at the heart of the debate: - cause and effect [C&E]. It is a classic power struggle about “who – an what - will be in charge.”

In contemporary politics, we have constitutions. This comes on the back of a long learning process. The bible deals with the point like this; “As ye sow, ye shall reap”. In the Vedanta and in Buddhism the same cause-and-effect [C&E] is simply called “Karma”. In New York slang we say, “What goes around comes around”. Most basic education, pretty well every legal system devised [whether secular or sacred], not to mention the odd bit of perennial literature, tends to see cause and effect in terms of crime-and-punishment: - cause produces effect. To Vedantists it is the ‘iron-law’ of cause and effect – it tends to say things like, “I get warm because I’m standing in the Sun. The sun isn’t hot because I am standing in it” that sort of thing.

[There is a George-Bush/White House variant which now says; - if God wants to change the climate we will change it]

But probably these small points about power remain a little too subtle for some of the actors in this debate.

Take James Cameron, former defender of the now sinking small island states and recently turned “climate-venture capitalist”. He [typically] says, “If, after decades of continuous negotiation, we have managed the climate change problem we will (to quote my friend Tom Burke) ‘have contracted and converged’. “The purpose of Climate Change Capital [his bank] is to make money, it is a commercial business.”

[http://www.gci.org.uk/news/IPPR_Report.pdf and http://www.gci.org.uk/UKParliament/HOL_Cameron.pdf]

Never mind how many hundreds of millions of people in a climate ravaged world go into extinction because ‘we contracted and converged’ too slowly and were overwhelmed by adversity in the rates of change, C&C is simply the outcome of the process, not an input.

This effects/not-cause line of reasoning could be in some White House/Green House Press Release yet . . .

GCI feels Mr Cameron and his colleagues need to get a feel for the epistemology here; - the issue is comparative rates of change.

So we have placed some more “Expansion and Divergence” graphics at: -

[<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>].

This briefing will soon be published in a prestigious UK journal.

“The charts on page four are stacked one above the other on the same horizontal time axis [1800 - 2200]. This helps to compare some of what is known about existing rates of system change with an underlying assumption in favour of a C&C arrangement being put in place.

[This “Double Jeopardy – Asymmetric Growth and Climate Damages” will be presented yet again this week-end, at the Delhi and Coventry C&C Conferences].

It reads: - “A newly drawn feature shown is the rate of economic damages from increasingly ‘unnatural disasters’ (measured as ‘uninsured economic losses’ by Munich Re) now rising at 7% per annum, twice the rate of global growth.”

“Another is the devastating and worsening economic asymmetry of “Expansion and Divergence” (E&D). This shows a persistent pattern of increasingly dysfunctional economic growth. One third of population have 94% of global purchasing power and cause 90% of GHG pollution. [We call these ‘debtors’]. The other two thirds, who live on less than 40% of the average global per capita income, collectively have 6% of global purchasing power and a 10% share of GHG pollution. [We call these ‘creditors’].”

[It is really worth *looking at* these images. The data is sound. The analysis is transparent. The prognosis is frankly terrifying].

"To escape poverty, it is creditors who embody the greatest impulse for future economic growth and claim on future GHG emissions. But this group also has the greatest vulnerability to damages from climate changes. Most institutions now acknowledge that atmospheric GHG stabilization, "inevitably requires Contraction and Convergence". However, some of the response to C&C, sees it merely as 'an outcome' of continued economic growth with only tentative acknowledgement of the damages and little comprehension of E&D."

"While C&C is not primarily about 're'-distribution, it is about a 'pre'-distribution of future tradable and valuable permits to emit GHGs. Its purpose is to resolve the devastating economic and ecological imbalance of climate change."

"GCI's recommendation to policy-makers at the United Nations is for the adoption of C&C globally for ecological and economic recovery as soon as possible."

This is asymmetric state of the 'global market'. This is where Mr Cameron's purpose is [and apparently all emissions traders intend] to 'make money'. With emissions rights opportunistically assigned to polluters, this 'carbitrage' seems like a pre-emptive attack with a weapon of Mass Destruction. And here however, unlike the WMD in Iraq which 'weren't there after all', the real weapon of "Expansion, Divergence and Climate Damages" is there. Ignored, or falsely refuted, it increasingly represents the most awesome weapon of mass destruction in human history.

It seems rather dysfunctional to permit bankers to limit this merely to being a market opportunity for venture capitalists. This, like other pre-emptive attacks, is rather like making your living out of how other people are dying. The awesome danger is defaulting to genocide.

Mr Cameron says, "I admire the motivation and tremendous analytical effort of the Global Commons Institute but I found it impossible to incorporate the contraction and convergence framework in these negotiations. There was no place to start. I could not begin a negotiating argument because I knew that it would take too long to agree the ground rules before we began."

Well, thank you. But these comments are trivia. I am afraid to say that judging by all Mr Cameron's remarks in the IPPR Journal last year and to the House of Lords this year, this NGO lawyer-turned-banker appears to have conflated himself with the negotiations and with arguments that assume governments are increasingly irrelevant.

This may be some sort of post-millennial realism, but if so, why bother to intervene in the multi-lateral process at all?

Emissions trade under C&C may help. But I find it impossible to incorporate this trade as trivia into the intergovernmental process as set up by the UN.

Feeling as he does, why does Mr Cameron assume he is relevant to the international process? Perhaps he might declare in whose interest he really works . . . knowing this will surely temper the evidence GCI will bring to the next parliamentary hearings on climate change and C&C.

[http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/EAC_response_GCI_300904.pdf]

Bankers who say "C&C is wait-and-see" are bonkers. They effectively say that the governments at the UNFCCC and their secretariat, do not understand cause and effect and they are wrong to say "Stabilization inevitably requires "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C)."

What this hubris really say is; "if God wants to change the climate, we will change it." It is the old adage gone mad, "God helps those who help themselves."

Gov of India for C&C? Aubrey Meyer

Oct 11, 2004 02:26 PDT

"I suggest that the way forward should be based on the fundamental principles of equity incorporated in the proposals known as "Contraction and Convergence."

Speaking about Food Security and Climate Change at the Climate

Conference in Delhi last Saturday,

Shri S. K. Sahay

The Honourable Minister of Food Processing Industries Gov. of India made the following remarks on how to respond globally to avert dangerous climate change.

"The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the centrepiece of global efforts to combat global warming. Adopted in 1992

at the Rio Earth Summit, its ultimate objective is the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (man-made) interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner".

We have to find an acceptable and equitable way to reduce emissions that involves every society but recognizes differentiated responsibilities. I suggest that the way forward should be based on the fundamental principles of equity incorporated in the proposals known as "Contraction and Convergence."

In this increasingly interdependent world, there is no reason to suggest that any individual in any country should have a lesser right to see prosperity or comfort involving green house gas emissions than any other. On what basis is it acceptable that an American or European should have a greater right to consume the World's precious resources than an Indian, an African or indeed any other human being?

Thus, if the principle of "Contraction and Convergence" is acceptable, then it may be possible to develop a system of carbon trading that would allow those already over dependent on the use of environmentally damaging energy to plan their emissions reduction more slowly by transferring renewable energy technologies to those countries presently less dependent on the carbon emissions."

C&C Unity - Diversity of voices . . . Aubrey Meyer

Oct 13, 2004 08:17 PDT

"The Ethics of Global Warming"

University of Cardiff Centre for Applied Ethics, 23 July 2004.

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Ethics_Global_Warming_C&C.pdf

"Contraction and Convergence is likely to be the most sensible long term policy for human society." [Sir John Houghton]

"The pressing need for Contraction and Convergence" [Michael Grubb]

"Only a policy of Contraction and Convergence coupled with emissions trading can solve this problem." [Donald Brown]

" . . . for Dec 04 in Buenos Aires (COP10 UNFCCC) . . . a short white paper outlining the ethical components of climate change, leading hopefully to a larger conference on equity issues and Contraction and Convergence soon."

African C&C Appeal to Faith Groups'

Coventry Climate Conference, 9th October 2004

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Faithbasedgroups-C&C.pdf>

"With Africa being the least emitter of greenhouse gases globally, the equitable solution offered by the concept of Contraction and Convergence to humanity is an opportunity which must be harnessed after twelve years of labyrinthine negotiations that resulted in even more emissions from industrialised countries.

African negotiators reminded the world during the Kyoto Protocol negotiations of the principle of equity based on equal per capita approach and that the concept of Contraction and Convergence was the vehicle to use. African negotiators will continue to stand by this principle as the continent to be most impacted by climate change.

At this Faith-based groups meeting, we appeal to your conscience to support the concept of Con-

traction and Convergence as it is not only ethical and moral, but it provides the avenue through which all countries can participate in restoring the ecological and climate change imbalance in an equitable manner. Africa has suffered enough in human history, from slavery to colonialism and now our people are at the mercy of the unbridled economic development of the North."

C&C at the heart of The National Energy "Carbon Challenge Campaign"

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Carbonchallengecampaign.pdf>

"The project is based on the principle of Contraction and Convergence (C&C) developed and promoted by the Global Commons Institute."

Contact Gareth Ellis at The National Energy Foundation

Ph 01908 665555 or gar-@greenenergy.org.uk

Consultation on Climate Change

9th October at the British Council Video Conference Suite

"The Equity, Contraction and Convergence framework is a simple and powerful concept that may yet break the deadlock of climate negotiations. It may be the only approach that developing countries may be willing to accept.

Equity means that on a planet where the most precious of commodities, a stable climate, is under threat, and where, in consequence, emissions must be rationed - every citizen should in the long run have an equal emission quota. This concept, known as Contraction and Convergence, is familiar enough to cognoscenti of global climate negotiations.

Contraction and Convergence concept is being adopted as a policy goal by many developing countries. Now it is time for uniting Europe to take an initiative, together with other like-minded major nations and regions, to pioneer and form a Global Climate Community on the basis of commitments to Contraction and Convergence.

The clear framework of Contraction and Convergence within a Climate Community would offer companies both the challenge and the opportunity to make innovation for sustainability the focus of endeavour. Contraction and Convergence is now becoming one of the most widely supported global framework within which to resolve policies and measures to avert dangerous climate change."

<http://www1.britishcouncil.org/india/india-connecting-2004/india-connecting-north/india-connecting-north-2/india-connecting-oct04-northindia-climate-change.htm>

London launch of the World Future Council 11th October, 2004

"How can we advance the widely acclaimed Contraction and Convergence . . . ?"

Further information

World Future Council Initiative

Trafalgar House

11 Waterloo Place

London SW1Y 4AU;

Telephone: 020-7863-8833.

E-mail: info-@worldfuturecouncil.org

<http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/launch.htm>

"Up in Smoke? Threats from, and responses to, the impact of global warming on human development".

The document, which specifically advocates "Contraction and Convergence" will be launched by Dr R K Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), who has also written the foreword.

Wednesday, 20 October 2004

09.00 for 09.30. Ends 11.00

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors,

12, Great George Street,
Parliament Square, London SW1P 3AD
Andy Atkins, Tearfund
Camilla Toulmin, International Institute for Environment and Development
(IIED)
Andrew Simms, New Economics Foundation (nef)
Steven Tindale, Greenpeace
Ritu Kumar, TERI Europe
A representative from ActionAid
Contact Kim.J-@iied.org

C&C, DTQ Bill - Parliament Tomorrow . . . ? Aubrey Meyer

Oct 14, 2004 10:14 PDT

Colin Challen MP is the prime mover behind the "Private Member's Bill" for *DTQs* - Domestic Tradable [Carbon] Quotas.

DTQs help to make the real community-politics of C&C possible.

The idea is basic to an "Ecology of Money": - Critical resource-conservation is indexed to the equal rights/responsibilities per person embedded in this simple, direct and effective DTQ concept.

The Bill just might get a second reading tomorrow in the UK Parliament.

However [as this letter below] from Colin shows] this depends on whether Mr Blair and his government really take the mass destruction of climate change seriously or not.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Challen.pdf>

The increased velocity of money under Business-as-Usual [BAU], is accelerating the rate of entropy in the biosphere. This Scorched Earth policy, reflexively linked with accelerating rates of climate change, will be the inevitable result. Already, Africa is afflicted by system changes from the Sahel outwards, where dehydration has been strongly correlated over two centuries with greenhouse gas accumulation in the atmosphere. [The word crime springs to mind].

DTQs linked to C&C, initiate an "Ecology of Money" and are proposed to re-establish neg-entropy [us, life, biology . . .]. In this cause, it would be useful to get past the nano-crats in DEFRA, [if not the nongo-crats in GREENPEACE], to make the case - Africa's case - for C&C at the G-8. This might just rescue our often poorly advised and increasingly damaged Prime Minister.

But alas our top climate civil servant, Henry Derwent - surely a very intelligent man - apparently won't have it. Henry has become the UK policy gate-keeper between No 10 Downing Street and DEFRA. Henry is now also sitting on the openly anti-C&C 'policy-jury' at the US PEW Centre [why?].

In these roles on global climate policy, he has effectively made DEFRA into a psychiatric clinic for climate's trans-Atlantic outpatients.

Thanks very much.

Privately he says that C&C is "a mathematical inevitability, if we are to avoid dangerous climate change". But for reasons unspecified, he feels he can't say that publicly.

Excuse me while I do.

Even <the UNFCCC Secretariat> itself, has been saying <publicly> for a year that, "C&C is inevitable the requirement of [GHG] stabilization."

Nongo-crat denial about this is trivial, a sort of small-minded intellectual agrophobia.

But when our nanocrats are in designed-and-stage-mangled faux-denial, this kind of 'poor intelligence' leads - as we've seen again over the last two years - to lies, more lies and unspeakable tragedies.

And we ain't seen nuttin' yet: - this weapon of mass destruction [global-emissions-climate-change]

actually does exist. Moreover, two years in a row [no El Nino], virtually net zero sink function . . .
. there is no precedent for this. In fact if you go on the NOAA website for rising atmospheric CO2
data in detail, there are out-rider values being returned well above average i.e above 380 ppmv . .
. .

The wording of Colin's Bill is here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/C&C_DTQ.pdf

Colin's leaflet advertising the Bill is here: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/DTQs.pdf>

And say a prayer for our Tony tonight to allow time for discussing the bill. It is said he wants to
become a Catholic and [if the rumour is true] we might yet just get a yes-vote from the Holy C&C.
Ave Maria: its all music to me. I know you read this Henry. Try listening too. You know, my little
girl, your little girl Daddy is the planet really dying? . . .

Colour C&C in Asia Europe Journal Aubrey Meyer

Oct 18, 2004 11:38 PDT

This edition of the Asia-Europe Foundation Journal is specially produced. It contains the full pro-
ceedings of the Asia-Europe Environment Forum Second Roundtable in Korea in March this year.
ISBN 981-05-1551-0 - Price \$12.50

There is an extended C&C piece at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Asia_Europe.pdf

Beautifully produced by Bertrand Fort and Sol Dorotea Iglesias.

The Churches' Coventry Conference flyer [9 10 04] is now at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Coventry_Flyer_Print.pdf

An interesting moment in the Coventry Conference was when John Cridland of the CBI was chal-
lenged from the floor. In the session chaired by John Kennedy of the CTBI [Churches Together in
Britain and Ireland] John Cridland was asked to take a position on C&C.

John spoke after what he called, "the philosophical" contributions from Sir John Houghton [on the
science and the dangers] and GCI [on the C&C way of responding to the dangers].

He suggested that C&C was a sort of "Holy Grail", longed for but never attained. Speaking, one
felt, like a Lion in a Den of Daniels, he said the CBI had short-term Monday-morning sort of issues
to deal with and suggested that emissions trading was a promising way ahead.

The challenger from the floor - saying he was an "ex-EXXON employee" - asked John Cridland if
that meant he disagreed with the positions taken by Sir John Houghton and GCI. The inference
clearly being that not to achieve the grail was the same as not avoiding dangerous rates of climate
change.

John wavered, but the challenger persisted: - "do you agree with them, yes or no!"

John took refuge in the following answer: - "I cannot speak for the CBI but yes, personally
I agree with them."

"A cause for celebration Aubrey!", ventured John Kennedy from the chair.

"If the only thing between the CBI and the CTBI is the 'T' for 'togetherness', this promises much,"
I replied.

Lite-weight FT on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Oct 19, 2004 02:47 PDT

Michael Meacher on C&C in the FT, October 18 2004

<http://news.ft.com/cms/s/2c266efa-20a3-11d9-af19-00000e2511c8.html>

"First, the level of global carbon emissions that can be absorbed "safely" into the atmosphere

needs to be determined.

The world's scientists have generally reckoned that this level is about 550 parts per million. At present it is 379ppm, and increasing by 3ppm per year. The only rational way then to keep below the 550ppm ceiling is by setting an emissions quota for every country.

Initially this quota would be set at each country's current emissions level. The quotas of the developed nations would then be gradually reduced, and those of the developing countries increased to allow them to industrialise, until all countries converged at a uniform figure per head.

Each national quota would then be reduced so that global emissions contracted and the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases did not exceed the "safe" level.

This process is called "contraction and convergence".

Here is a link to GCI's C&C definition statement: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/translations/CandC_Statement\(English\).pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/translations/CandC_Statement(English).pdf)

13 languages are at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/translations.html>

Here is a link to a some support-statements: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/C&C_Support\(screen\).pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/C&C_Support(screen).pdf)

Links to provenance acceptance by UK government: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Meacher_15_11_02.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Meacher_15_11_02_reply.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Meacher_23_12_02.pdf

Link re the Definition Statement letter GCI to EAC: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/EAC.pdf>

Acceptance of the Definition Statement by EAC: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/EAC_response_GCI_300904.pdf

I'd say permissive on the science, vague on derivation and the properties of the 'rights' in the C&C Constitution; . . . and completely out to lunch on to lunch on the agreement between us . . . shall we say five out of ten . . . ?

C&C on US nasa.gov website Aubrey Meyer

Oct 19, 2004 09:44 PDT

C&C is in the NASA [US Gov] weblogue at: -

http://gcmd.nasa.gov/records/Contraction_and_Convergence.html

Maybe this is why for the last couple of months, the US Government and the US Military average eight visits a day between them to the C&C website.

With much detail supplied, their summary reads as follows: -

"Contraction and Convergence" is intended to show how to shape a global GHG abatement strategy so as to solve the political and ecological double-jeopardy of climate change.

If you have Microsoft Excel (v5 or later) you can explore yourself the effect of changing the parameters of GCI's model of "Contraction and Convergence" and create graphics of the results, of the global emissions budgets and of the allocations for any one country, and of projections of future atmospheric CO2 concentrations, global mean temperature rises and damage costs.

Crocodile-Tears and Cookie-Jar Semantics Aubrey Meyer

Oct 27, 2004 03:00 PDT

A recent report about climate change from a consortium of NGOs organised by IIED and the New Economics Foundation [NEF] has just been published. It is mostly about adaptation to climate change, but it also makes these point: -

□ Thousands of people are aiming to make poverty history, but global warming has been critically overlooked.

□ To rescue the situation we need a global framework to stop climate change that is based on equality, and we have to ensure that plans for human development are made both climate-proof and climate-friendly.

□ Faced by the intertwined challenges of obscene levels of poverty and a rapidly warming global climate, humanity has no choice.

The report's first point is obvious and lacks rigor. The increasingly obvious reality is, "uncorrected, climate change will make all of us history." Charity is relevant to charities. To argue for a moral global framework on behalf of the vulnerable third parties who are in effect our victims, is vainly to argue again [like Jubilee 2000] from weakness with an in-built sub-text of defeat.

Globally interdependent security and survival are self-evidently relevant to us all. As no-one, can shoot or bomb climate change or solve it alone [including the US who have said as much], this is the real-politik in the reasoning for the global framework.

The report's advocacy of the need for a global argument is noted. However, not only does this lack rigor, playing antics with 'semantics', it services the arguments of its opponents. Without referencing C&C, the report authors cite "Contraction and Convergence" [C&C], but then idiotically describe it as a system of "entitlements-to-pollute". As the contrarian lobby have successfully argued in court in the US, CO2 is not a pollutant.

To saddle C&C with this is stupid. C&C is a calculus that organises globally equitable "entitlements to emit". All GCI referencing for the last ten years is clear about this.

Consortium bosses contracted to correct this and include appropriate referencing. However, on publication they reneged saying the point was semantic. Whatever the reason, it embeds again the veteran objections to C&C from the Climate Action Network who have made their livings out of this for 15 years.

The third point - "obscene levels of poverty" - is truly awash with crocodile tears. Using their charitable status and citing themselves as having world C&C expertise, NEF is raising £1,000,000,000 of charitable money to write a book about Contraction and Convergence.

Put aside the lack of referencing to GCI, just look at the cookie-jar salaries . . . £70,000 a year . . .

<http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/NEF.pdf>

Obscene poverty? No wonder NEF appeared at the recent Green Party Conference road-testing their new programme; - "Economically Measuring Happiness".

Angels fall.

C&C Interview - Times of India Aubrey Meyer

Nov 02, 2004 02:17 PST

TIMES of INDIA

1st November 2004

Interview with Peter Luff

Action for a Global Climate Community (AGCC)

"AGCC is calling for a new political initiative within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change that will unite a group of countries, north and south, to lead the world in a commitment to reduce their carbon emissions farther and faster than existing Kyoto obligations.

We hope to work on the principle of contraction and convergence — the contraction of emission of greenhouse gases and convergence to equal emission rights for all.

In the European Union, industries have a ceiling on emissions. They are penalised with fines if they exceed their limits. We're merely extending this."

Full Interview at: -

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/905819.cms>

"Urge C&C on Mr Bush Mr Blair" Aubrey Meyer

Nov 02, 2004 23:56 PST

5:54am (UK)

Blair Urged to Press U.S. on Climate Change

By John Deane, Chief Political Correspondent, PA News

Prime Minister Tony Blair will be urged today to push for action on climate change in his first contact with the winner of the US presidential election.

Liberal Democrat environment spokesman Norman Baker will underline that message during a Commons debate on UK/US relations.

Mr Baker will say: "Tony Blair must now make it an urgent priority to press for American action on climate change.

"His first telephone call ... should start, 'Congratulations on your victory Mr President. Can I talk to you about climate change?'

"Today the Queen is raising the profile of the environment in a very public manner and Mr Blair should take a leaf from the 'Green Queen' and start engaging with the issues."

Mr Baker was referring to the Queen's presence today, during her state visit to Germany, at a major conference at the British embassy in Berlin which will make recommendations on climate change to the Government.

According to reports at the weekend, the Queen has already told Mr Blair of her concern that America is lagging behind in combating global warming.

Mr Baker continued: "We now know that climate change is the greatest threat to our planet, but the last four years of the Bush administration have completely ignored the situation.

"If we are to succeed in bringing the US into an international agreement on climate change, Tony Blair and his international counterparts must look beyond Kyoto (the Kyoto Treaty on climate change) to a fairer system of contraction and convergence.

"By allowing every country its fair share of carbon use, this system puts paid to American excuses for not signing up."

<http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=3709045>

Bush for C&C? Reason-online . . . Aubrey Meyer

Nov 03, 2004 20:44 PST

George W. Bush, Man of Science

What will science policy look like over the next four years?

Ronald Bailey

"Global Warming—Negotiators from 160 or so countries will meet next month in Buenos Aires at the 10th Conference of the Parties for the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change. This should be an interesting meeting, because both houses of the Russian legislature have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. It will now come into force without the United States' approval sometime next spring. The Kyoto Protocol mandates cuts in the emissions of greenhouse gases by industrial country signatories between 2008 and 2012. President Bush announced that he opposed implementing the Kyoto Protocol in March 2001. However, he has never officially withdrawn the United States from UN climate change negotiations—he merely refused to send the treaty to the Senate for possible ratification.

While the climate talks in Buenos Aires will deal with the minutiae of implementing the Kyoto Protocol, they will also turn to considering what the next steps might be. And there will have to be next steps, because even when fully implemented the Kyoto Protocol will have next to no effect on

any actual global warming trends.

My bet is that negotiations will start to consider contraction and convergence schemes, which allocate to each country a portion of an overall declining carbon budget based on its share of the global distribution of income. Over time, to achieve convergence, each year's ration of the global carbon emissions budget for each country will progressively converge to the same allocation per person until they become equal by an agreed-upon date.

I suspect that the Bush administration could actually sign on to such a scheme if the date for the beginning of compliance is sufficiently far out—say, 2030 or so."

<http://www.reason.com/rb/rb110304.shtml>

Reason is the monthly print magazine of "free minds and free markets." It covers politics, culture, and ideas through a provocative mix of news, analysis, commentary, and reviews. Reason provides a refreshing alternative to right-wing and left-wing opinion magazines by making a principled case for liberty and individual choice in all areas of human activity.

TEARFUND urge C&C on Mr Blair Aubrey Meyer

Nov 05, 2004 07:39 PST

. . . from Tearfund's Campaign and Policy Brief to Downing Street: -

"Contraction and convergence (C&C) is a science-based, global climate-policy framework proposed by the Global Commons Institute, that is based on the objective of achieving safe and stable GHG concentrations in the atmosphere. It promises global participation in efforts to reduce GHG emissions and a unique solution to the equity principle that is the hardest one for the international community to address.

The framework proposes: -

A global emissions budget based on a formal GHG stabilisation target. The target would be science-based so that it would actually be effective at preventing dangerous climate change.

This target, and the global GHG budget it implies, form the framework for an equitable global distribution of emissions permits, assigned to different countries on a per-capita basis.

Every country converges from their current GDP-proportionate levels of GHGs to equal per capita levels by an agreed date.

Countries with the largest populations will get the most permits, but for the sake of efficiency and to achieve economic convergence these permits will be internationally tradable.

Developing countries can grow their economies up to the per capita share of emissions and would be able to profit from their lower per capita emissions by selling surplus permits. The proceeds of sales could be invested in sustainable technologies with sharing of knowledge and resources from industrialised nations.

Thus the C&C framework is global, long-term, effective, and, importantly, equitable – without which it would stand no chance of being agreed. From the outset developing countries would have a guarantee of equitable allocations and assurance as to when this would happen.

2005 presents the UK government with a key opportunity for positive steps forward in avoiding dangerous climate change. There have been numerous discussions about the problem, but a genuine concerted effort to tackle it effectively is now urgently needed. The G8 should produce a G8 Action Plan for a solution to climate change that is based on the question: 'what is a safe atmospheric concentration of GHGs, and what is the equitable path to get there?'"

<http://www.tearfund.org/webdocs/Website/Campaigning/Policy%20and%20research/climate%20changes%20policy%20briefing.pdf>

<http://www.tearfund.org/Campaigning/Whose+Earth/Three+climate+changes.htm>

IEA on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 09, 2004 10:28 PST

Arthur and Martha? Love is in hot-air.

The IEA on "Contraction and Convergence."

<http://www.iea.org/Textbase/envissu/cop9/files/Summary.pdf>

Commenting on C&C 'Beyond Kyoto', the IEA or the International Energy

Agency now says: - "Ways must be found to accelerate the phase-in of commitments." OK; this means, developing countries must be brought into the paradigm of emissions control.

Then the IEA then go on to describe C&C thus: -

"Allocation can be differentiated. Framing the issue in terms of a "resource-sharing" paradigm has led some analysts to consider "equal per capita" allocation as the only fair option. Recognising that such per capita levels may not be immediately achievable, others have argued for a long-term convergence – what has been termed "contraction and convergence". Allocation would be based on an interpolation between the current situation and the future equal per capita emission allowances."

Even the Secretariat of the UNFCCC now openly says: - contraction is an "inevitable" function of stabilising concentrations and convergence is an "inevitable" function of contraction: - Securing the objective of the UNFCCC, "inevitably requires "contraction and convergence."

One would have hoped after 15 years that the IEA might suggest this too. But they don't. What the IEA says is that . . .

" . . . in the short term, such allocation schemes would provide large quantities of surplus emissions [hot-air], most likely leading to a significant reduction in the efficiency of mitigation efforts from developed countries."

Here the IEA's "Arthur" says 'hot-air' to Developing Countries will make Developed Countries 'inefficient'.

This is rich. Countries in Africa for example typically generate around 50,000 dollars of GDP per tonne of fossil fuel burned. The UK and the United States typically generate a mere 4 to 5,000 dollars per tonne. But, though African countries are typically 'ten times more efficient' than OECD countries, according to the IEA the problem with C&C is that it will make Developed Countries 'less efficient'.

And then, the IEA's "Martha" weighs in saying, "future binding targets following this scheme may be felt unfair by developing countries, whose emissions would be bound at much lower levels than those enjoyed by industrialised countries in the course of their development."

Suspending the simplest logic, the IEA counts C&C two ways at once.

While Arthur says C&C, "provides developing countries with large quantities of surplus emissions", Martha says it doesn't as it "binds them at much lower levels than those enjoyed by industrialised countries in the course of their development."

This - in the same paragraph - is worthy of a Nobel prize!

Love must be in Hot-Air. But do you believe Arthur or Martha?

Trick question. Don't answer.

Suggesting it's actually a dyslexic Arthur-Martha suicide pact, the IEA finish off by saying,

"Thus, while contraction and convergence seems more efficient for achieving low concentration levels than the graduation approach described above, the exchange of immediate hot air against the promise of future binding efforts may not prove particularly effective either."

Speechless . . .

WWF - C&C in LIVING PLANET INDEX Aubrey Meyer

Nov 09, 2004 21:58 PST

WWF - LIVING PLANET INDEX

Editors Jonathan Loh and Mathis Wackernagel have completely excelled themselves with this lat-

est [2004] edition of LPI.

Download this comprehensive and beautifully produced report at: -

<http://www.panda.org/downloads/general/lpr2004.pdf>

10. Contraction & Convergence and Shrink & Share

Contraction & Convergence (C&C) as proposed by Aubrey Meyer from the Global Commons Institute (Meyer 2001) provides a simple framework for globally allocating the right to emit carbon in a way that is consistent with the physical constraints of the biosphere.

The approach rests on two simple principles:

- contraction: reducing humanity's emissions to a rate that the biosphere can absorb
- convergence: distributing total emissions so that each person ultimately gets the same portion of the "global budget".

Although C&C focuses exclusively on CO₂ emissions, which are responsible for about 50 per cent of humanity's Ecological Footprint, the C&C framework can be extended to other demands on the biosphere.

The extension of C&C to all demands on the biosphere is referred to as Shrink & Share. Shrinkage would occur when nations, organizations, and individuals reduce their footprints so that consumption, production, investment, and trade activities do not exceed the regenerative capacity of the globe's life-supporting ecosystems. Sharing would occur if these reductions were allocated in ways considered equitable by the participants.

This includes many possibilities: for example, it might imply that consumption, production, investment, and trade patterns change such that the per capita footprints in various nations deviate less and less from each other, that there is a more equitable distribution of the rights to use resources, or that resource consumption rights are more closely tied to the resources a region or nation has available.

Further discussion on Shrink & Share and how this can support risk assessments and ecoinsurance schemes can be found in Lovink et al. (2004).

UK HoC-EAC - Limits & Principles . . . Aubrey Meyer

Nov 15, 2004 07:24 PST

Tomorrow, the UK House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee [EAC], start C&C-related hearings on the UK's role at the G-8. EAC's understanding with GCI is reflected in correspondence at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/C&C_Letters_Integrity_of_Argument_and_EAC.pdf EAC's report comes hard on the heels of their remarkable 'tough-but-true' report on 'Sustainable Development - Illusion or Reality'.

Here is the gist [from the foreword] . . .

"Sustainable development is the over-arching framework within which all human activity should take place. It involves, crucially, the concept of environmental limits. While we may not be able to specify exactly the nature of those limits in all its forms, we can be certain that our global assault on ecosystems is now pushing those limits hard – with potentially catastrophic results not only for the natural world but for humanity itself. This is reflected most clearly in the extent of concern about global warming; but equally the loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, land cover changes, and acute water stress may also have disastrous social and political impacts.

If we are to avoid such consequences, governments must now take radical steps to address environmental objectives, and the window of opportunity for doing so is limited. There is an urgent need to promote a deeper understanding of sustainable development and to incorporate it within all aspects of policy making. This is the context in which the Environmental Audit Committee views all its work, and indeed our various reports aim to evaluate progress towards sustainable development across the range of Government activity.

This report, however, transcends our other work. It addresses the concept of sustainable development itself and is intended to make a fundamental contribution to the development of a new Sustainable Development Strategy. In our view, it is no longer appropriate simply to consider environmental objectives as an adjunct to social and economic objectives. The new Sustainable Development Strategy must place overriding importance on the need to abide by environmental limits, and to that extent it should have a primarily environmental focus.

We appreciate the difficulties the Government is facing in adopting a more radical approach. Problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss are global, and the contribution which the UK can make is relatively small. The Government also has legitimate concerns over issues such as international competitiveness. However, the UK is in the position to give leadership here and to influence other nations. We applaud the extent to which the Government has already done so—in particular, by setting the 60% carbon reduction target for 2050. We would urge it to display still greater courage in taking forward its Sustainable Development Strategy and turning the illusion into reality.

This is the greatest challenge the world now faces, and we must not fail.”

http://www.gci.org.uk/UKParliament/EAC_13th_Report_SDS.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/UKParliament/EAC_13th_Report_SDS_evidence.pdf

C&C and ‘facetious’ Whitehall Waffle Aubrey Meyer

Nov 17, 2004 02:21 PST

In a lengthy session at the first Environmental Audit Committee [EAC] C&C-hearing yesterday, GCI thanked EAC for being concerned with the need to protect the integrity of the ‘sustainable development’ language.

GCI also agreed with EAC’s concern over “facetious” Whitehall waffle. The extended evidence is available on request. GCI will present further evidence to the Committee on 01 12 04

Preliminary remarks concerning Concept Language

“Protecting the Integrity of the C&C Argument”

The Global Commons Institute [GCI] welcomes the hearings by the Environmental Audit Committee [EAC] of the UK House of Commons into, “The International Challenge of Climate Change, UK Leadership in the G-8 and the EU.” We also welcome that the EAC recognize the “Contraction and Convergence” [C&C] concept as a frame of reference for investigating how this challenge might be met.

In EAC’s “Sustainable Development Strategy” report [No 13, November 2004] they identify climate change as, “the greatest challenge the world now faces”. Focusing on the issue of global CO2 emissions rising out of control, they note, “potentially catastrophic results” if humanity continues to ignore the environmental limits to economic development activities. EAC also recognizes the concept-discourse of ‘Sustainable Development’ as the over-arching framework within which human activity should now take place. Noting that the language of ‘sustainable development’ is, “ambiguous and complex” EAC also say, “there is an urgent need to promote a deeper understanding of sustainable development and to incorporate it within all aspects of policy making.”

Crucially, EAC further recognizes a deeper and really fundamental problem. As terms are coined and taken into common everyday usage, EAC is correctly concerned about how these initially meaningful terms can become debased when Governments and other parties use them indiscriminately to describe what they were doing anyway. They cite, for example, how the term ‘sustainable development’ now proliferates in departmental formulations such as ‘sustainable transport’, ‘sustainable communities’, and even ‘sustainable growth’. EAC suggests that such attempts to lend what it calls ‘ethical credibility’ to existing programmes are, “a cause for serious concern” and potentially even “facetious”.

We agree. The opportunistic and oxymoronic use of concept language, especially when trade-offs between basic survival rights and economic wrongs are linked to rates of environmental change, is

counter-productive. In the already fraught international negotiating conditions to avert dangerous rates of climate change, many people are already dying as a result of the associated impacts. Consequently converting concept language into oxymorons and euphemisms to disguise unresolved ideological conflicts over economic and other forms of future growth makes yet more difficult the possibility of coming to the constitutional terms of sustainable development - indeed of security and survival - at all.

The cost of failing to avert dangerous rates of climate change is inestimable. But the prospect of paying this is increasing, as with the growth of population, the economy and the resultant greenhouse gas pollution, we generate trends of climate change faster than we respond to restrain them. In this context of the growing use of the "Contraction and Convergence" [C&C] concept and language is welcome. However, the ambiguity and misuse of the concept-language, raises a cost to the concept. On the one-hand intelligent peer-reviewed reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] observe that, "C&C takes the rights-based-approach to its logical conclusion". The secretariat to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC] has underlined the logic saying that, "stabilization [the objective of the UNFCCC] inevitably requires 'contraction and convergence'." The Archbishop of Canterbury recently underscored the reflexive nature of the logic of C&C saying that, "This kind of thinking appears utopian only if we refuse to contemplate the alternatives honestly." He pressed the Government to give global leadership with C&C at the forthcoming G-8. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has pressed this C&C leadership point since 2000. These and similar statements reflect the value of the 'honest-language' capital invested in C&C.

They reflect the causal intent coherently structured in the principles of the global C&C framework and methodology.

At the same time, debasing the language capital of C&C, we have advisors to the British government simultaneously pressing views of C&C which not only contradict the model, they also contradict each other. In one set of arguments C&C is merely the 'outcome', rather than the cause, of what we will all be doing in further quasi-random Kyoto-style negotiations. In another, C&C faces the problem of being described by British civil servants as, "a mathematical inevitability if we to avoid dangerous climate change" whilst also being a "theory" the "calculations [of which] we just didn't understand." Even more disturbing on the diplomatic front is where C&C is described by British civil servants as both "lacking support in Developing Countries" and "supported, but for the wrong reasons".

The intent with C&C, from the outset, has been to integrate, simplify and, crucially, quantify the key issues relating energy and environmental limits to political structure built on rational principle. This is intended to enable practice and process as a whole to be guided before and during the act and by agreement to stability, as is required by the UN Climate Convention. In other words, C&C is as much input as outcome; it is 'cause' before it is 'effect'. C&C is not intended to compromise economic prosperity but it is intended to subordinate further economic growth to global environmental security.

This is the core message that we wish to establish in the preliminary C&C hearing with EAC members today. We will relate C&C in more detail to the so-called Kyoto process in GCI's formal memo to EAC next week.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/EAC_Intro.pdf

Lib-Dem Leader gets behind C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 17, 2004 02:23 PST

In a hard hitting keynote speech yesterday Charles Kennedy, the leader of the UK Liberal Democrat Party, threw down the gauntlet of climate change to the Prime Minister Tony Blair saying, get behind C&C at the G-8.

Full speech at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Kennedy_C&C_Speech.pdf

"In moving beyond Kyoto, we believe the way forward is the adoption of contraction and convergence.

Contraction: reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Convergence: sharing out equally emissions across the planet on a head, not a wealth count.

Without such an arrangement developing countries in particular will simply not sign up.

If Tony Blair is really serious in making his mark in these areas, the greatest single achievement for the UK's G8 presidency in combating climate change would be securing agreement among G8 nations, including the United States, that the way forward will be based on this principle of contraction and convergence."

http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Kennedy_C&C_Speech.pdf

C&C - Challenge to Academia Aubrey Meyer

Nov 22, 2004 02:18 PST

The "Climate Crisis Forum" [CCF], based the University of Southampton, held a day long workshop there on the 12th of November.

"Climate Change and Humanity: Elite Perceptions, Sustainable Solutions."

Output included two letters - to Times Higher Education and Nature - released today by CCF.

These ask individuals in academia to take appropriate actions, give voice to the seriousness of the situation and support for Contraction and Convergence.

[Excerpt].

"We, participants in that workshop, wish to affirm that there is something we can do to soften and ultimately deflect this Nemesis. There is a logical, sound and sane way forward in the form of the Contraction and Convergence programme devised and developed by the Global Commons Institute (<http://www.gci.org.uk>), The programme works on the basis of an agreed equity in terms of carbon emissions for every human being on the planet, in order to ensure our long-term sustainability and survival on it. We also recognise that this demands of humanity a global consciousness and maturity never before realised in our existence.

Who, then, are going to be the torch-bearers? At present, little more than empty words are emerging from the combined political, economic and media elites. For them, the realities of a very finite planet simply do not equate with their conventional wisdoms of infinite growth. Certainly, universities can at least claim to be at the forefront of research and analysis of climate change. Yet what evidence is there that they are applying this knowledge to their working environments and educational missions?

We propose that the academic community now has a unique opportunity to set up models and act as exemplars of the kind of living that will draw the planet back from the brink of self-destruction.

The way forward lies both in developing cross-disciplinary curricula on human and social as well as scientific aspects of climate change, and in focusing the spectrum of academic expertise, imagination and insight on the creation and nurturing of a radically carbon reduced, energy conserved and renewable day to day working environment on every university site. We urge all university staff in the UK and elsewhere, vice-chancellors included, not to look away but to grasp the nettle before it is too late."

Both letters are still open for signature.

The letter intended for Times Higher Education Supplement is at: -

http://www.crisis-forum.org.uk/workshop1_letters_THES.htm

The letter intended for Nature Magazine is at: -

http://www.crisis-forum.org.uk/workshop1_letter_Nature.htm

The CCF website and contact details are at: -

http://www.crisis-forum.org.uk/who_we_are.htm

A new C&C editorial by the Rt Rev James Jones, the bishop of Liverpool [bishop-@liverpool.angli-

can.org] is in the Guardian today at: -

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1356484,00.html>

"Much thinking has already been done about our use of carbon and how we might reduce the amount of emissions.

"Contraction and convergence" has been proposed to ensure a fairer use of carbon across the developed and developing worlds. The aim is to redistribute all nations' carbon credits so as to exert a more disciplined, moral and responsible use of carbon."

UK 'Respect' Party adopts C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 23, 2004 22:17 PST

Contraction and Convergence strategy

"While the consensus among the scientific community is that global CO2 emissions should be reduced to 60% of 1990 levels by 2050, they are projected to increase by around 75%. At the same time, although the UK has only 1% of the world's population it produces 2.3% of the world's CO2 and that the USA, with only 4% of the world's population, produces 25%.

Therefore, we must immediately adopt the 'Contraction and Convergence' model for CO2 reductions, which aims to move towards an allocation of equal per capita emissions for all countries, both developing and developed. This will mean that high-polluting countries will inevitably make much greater reductions than the lower-polluting countries, in the interests of global equity.

90% reductions in CO2 emissions by 2050

We must set targets nationally, and campaign globally, within the Contraction and Convergence framework, to limit the global mean temperature rise to 2 degrees C by the end of this century. For the UK, this means aiming for 40% CO2 reductions by 2020 at the latest, and 90% by 2050 at the latest."

<http://www.respectcoalition.org/pdf/finalconferenceres.pdf>

City of London, Climate Prize Appeal Aubrey Meyer

Nov 25, 2004 10:50 PST

Dear GCN

Yesterday a friend who works for the Corporation of London [CoL - at The Guildhall] who is also a member of the GCN list, asked me to 'use my extensive contacts' to pre-publicize an award CoL have initiated.

This request was with a view to seeking nominations for individuals worthy of the award.

Its dead simple; its a vote. It appears below. Please will you consider it. The deadline for responding is the first of December.

Regards

Aubrey

Dear Colleague

The Corporation of London and Future Forests are seeking your opinion on who you believe to be the individual who has made the greatest contribution to the understanding or combating of climate change.

Your votes will be used to determine who will win the individual's section of the climate change category of the liveable city awards.

Your nomination can be for any person from the worlds of business, academia, politics or activism. Your reasons for nominating them can be broad: they may have developed a new technology or service that has cut climate change emissions, they may have triggered behavioural changes or they may led strategic debate or policy formation. We invite you to make the nomination and to

give us the reasons for doing so.

Everyone voting will be put into a prize draw, with a chance to win a £50 book token and two tickets to the Awards Ceremony at Mansion House on 16th February.

To vote, simply e-mail Liz Lindsey (Liz.Li-@futureforests.com) with your nomination (e.g. Dr David King) and a short sentence on why you believe they should be a winner.

To find out more about the Liveable City Awards, visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lca

Regards

Simon Mills

Environmental Co-ordinator

Town Clerk's Department

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www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

C&C Dawns on Gods at Twilight; ? Aubrey Meyer

Nov 29, 2004 02:40 PST

More C&C evidence to Parliamentary Committee Wednesday.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/EAC_document_3.pdf

Preface: An Excerpt: - "Changing the Maths We Live By"

"Changing the Maths We Live By"

Contraction & Convergence; "The Ultimate Sustainability Initiative."

[1] A briefing on 'Contraction & Convergence' [C&C] is published this December in the journal "Engineering Sustainability". It is closely based on the briefing that follows.

[2] The journal is published by the prestigious Institute of Chemical Engineers [ICE] in London. They suggest that C&C, "could prove to be the ultimate sustainability initiative."

[3] Seeing the maths of C&C as, "an antidote to the expanding, diverging and climate-changing nature of global economic development," they describe C&C as, "an ambitious yet widely supported plan to harmonise global greenhouse gas emissions to a safe and sustainable level per person within the next few decades."

[4] Making an unexpected inter-disciplinary link, ICE also note that in July 2004 C&C, "received divine backing from the Church of England." This was helpful to the mission of the incumbent UK Prime Minister, a religious man who recognizes changing climate's threat to civilization. Mr Blair has correctly said that the cost of preventing climate change is less than the cost of failing to prevent it.

[5] At the time the ICE journal went to press, I was interviewed by the internationally read industry news-service Argus Emissions. Inter alia they asked me, "what would your advice to President Bush be on climate change issues?"

[6] Thinking about the inter-disciplinary link, I remembered the story told by the Archbishop of the Church of England, Rowan Williams, about the religious right in the US. It is said they were behind the recent re-election of George Bush.

[7] They noted Rowan's speech in support of C&C "Changing the Myths We Live By" and told him, "Archbishop, you lack faith in God: if God wants to change the climate, he will change it."

[8] This challenge to 'Divine Support' exercised me more than the support itself, so I replied to Argus, "Mr. Bush is a self-declared man of God. He does nothing to hinder climate change, and has been effectively positioned as its agent. So I advise candour in his relationship with God about the

prospect of more people dying as a result of unfettered climate change than in the entire history of human conflict."

[9] It seems that a 'Twilight of the Gods' looms at the G-8 in 2005. The two top chairs – Mr Blair's and Mr. Bush's – appear for the moment to be the seats of Divine Support for clearly opposite views of climate change. Mr. Bush's view is that it is God's will to change the climate; this is the 'let go and let god' position that says whatever the costs, there are greater benefits. The other is the 'God helps those who help themselves' position. This says it is not against God's will to avoid that cost whatever the effort required, as unless we make this effort, the climate changes we force will force unbearable changes on us and our children.

[10] Such is the tension that UK avoidance is already being mooted. A relevant government web-site now refers to a preparatory meeting for the G-8 in March 2005 at which, "Discussion . . . will not centre on targets for limiting carbon emissions, but on the business case for the adoption of lower carbon technology in countries with the biggest energy needs."

[11] This memo is intended to help focus the light shed by the Environmental Audit Committee on the dilemma that grips Mr Blair, Mr Bush, their G-8 colleagues and indeed all of us.

[12] Pursuing the impossible dream of infinite growth is expansion and divergence and death by damages. 'Changing the Myths We Live By', means 'Changing the Maths' to renewables and a low carbon economy in a C&C framework, the ultimate sustainability initiative.

EAC Climate Inquiry *Open to Public* Aubrey Meyer

Nov 30, 2004 05:43 PST

EAC Inquiry *Open to Public*

The International Challenge of Climate Change:

UK Leadership in the G8 & EU

Global Commons Institute (GCI) will be giving evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee on Wednesday 1 December at 3.20 pm in

Committee Room 20 of the Palace of Westminster.

It is open to the public. You don't need permission to attend if you so wish. The Committee will sit in private at 3.00 pm and will then go public at 3.20 pm.

A plain format version of GCI's evidence is at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/EAC_Plain_Format.pdf

A version formatted for printing is at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/EAC_document_3.pdf

Some formatted and bound versions will be available there.

Welcome to many new GCN subscribers.

Yesterday's post was a 'typo' incidentally.

GC&C Dawnsods at Twilight; ? [Trigger-happy return-key-finger].

It raised mirth and some eyebrows. With G-8 in mind, it should have read: - "C&C dawns on Gods at Twilight" ?

C&C at COP 10 Aubrey Meyer

Dec 09, 2004 14:17 PST

SIDE EVENT AT UNFCCC, COP 10, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Friday, 10 December 2004

18:00 - 20:00

Cedro

ORGANISATIONS:

Global Commons Institute
Climate Network Africa
Action Committee for a Global Climate Community
FEASTA

TITLE:

Contraction & Convergence (C&C)
Foundations for a post-Kyoto Protocol

DESCRIPTION:

GCI presents the mechanism of C&C.

The panel will discuss the practicalities, economics and politics of delivering C&C as a logical basis for a post-Kyoto Framework.

Panel includes speakers from GCI, Climate Network Africa, Action for a Global Climate Community, FEASTA.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTATION:

[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo\(pc\).exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo(pc).exe)
http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C_Bubbles.pdf
<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>
http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/EAC_document_3.pdf

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To receive bulletins from the Global Commons Network (GCN), send an email to: GCN-sub-@igc.topica.com

C&C in DC . . . Aubrey Meyer

Dec 13, 2004 03:47 PST

"Negotiators and environmental activists in Buenos Aires will be focusing on a proposal called "contraction and convergence" (C&C)."

[Let it not be said that C&C has no support in Washington DC].

Global Warming Negotiations Heat Up.

By Ronald Bailey: Published 12/13/2004

<http://www.techcentralstation.com/121304C.html>

The Kyoto Protocol climate treaty comes into effect on February 16, 2005. Russia finally approved the treaty in October which needed to be ratified by developed nations that account for at least 55% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to become legally binding on the world's 39 richest countries. Last week, 5,400 delegates from 189 countries convened in Buenos Aires for further climate change treaty negotiations at the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change's Tenth Conference of the Parties (COP10). Environment ministers from 90 countries are expected to attend the final three days of negotiations beginning on Wednesday. The COP10 of negotiations will conclude on Friday, December 17.

Under the Kyoto Protocol developed countries agree to cut back their average emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide to 5.2 percent lower than their emissions in 1990 by 2012. The main greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide which is accumulating in the atmosphere as a result of the burning of fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide levels have increased from 280 parts per million in 1750 to 372 ppm today. Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases trap heat as it is being radiated out into space and re-radiate back toward the surface. The chief greenhouse gas is water vapor. Without water vapor, the Earth's average surface temperature would be well below freezing. Computer climate models predict that extra greenhouse gases will heat the atmosphere and create a positive feedback loop increasing the amount of water vapor, thus boosting global temperatures even more.

President George W. Bush withdrew the Kyoto Protocol from consideration in 2001. Had the United States ratified the treaty, the country would have been committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions 7% below its 1990 level. According to Dr. Harlan Watson, who is the U.S. Senior Climate Negotiator in Buenos Aires, the United States will emit about 16% more greenhouse gases in 2010 than it did in 1990. So in order to meet the Kyoto targets, the United States would have to cut its projected emissions by 23% over the next 6 to 8 years. The only way to achieve such reductions would require steep cuts in energy use. There are a number of estimates of the costs of implementing the Kyoto Protocol. Yale University economist William Nordhaus has calculated that it would cost \$716 billion, and that the United States would bear two-thirds of the global costs. In any case, even if Kyoto Protocol reductions are achieved, those cuts in greenhouse gases would reduce the projected amount of warming by no more than 0.2 degrees Celsius in 2050.

In Buenos Aires, the climate negotiators are now looking at what comes after the Kyoto Protocol. Sir David King, British Prime Minister Tony Blair's chief science adviser, has declared that future agreements should seek to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60% by 2050. However, realizing such steep reductions will not be easy. In 2002, top scientists, reviewing the world's options for steep reductions in greenhouse gases in *Science*, concluded that such deep reductions are impossible to achieve using current technologies. In 2000, the environmental think tank, Resources for the Future, issued a cost-benefit analysis of ambitious near-term greenhouse gas emissions restrictions. "A striking finding of many I(ntegrated) A(ssessment) models is the apparent desirability of imposing only limited GHG controls over the next 20 or 30 years," reported the RFF researchers. "According to the estimates in most IA models, the costs of sharply reducing GHG concentrations today are too high relative to the modest benefits the reductions are projected to bring."

Negotiators and environmental activists in Buenos Aires will be focusing on a proposal called "contraction and convergence" (C&C). The core of the idea is to set an appropriate level to which greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere will be allowed to rise and then allocate globally the right to emit carbon on a per capita basis. The UNFCCC commits signatories, including the United States, to the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." "Dangerous" has never been defined, but the proponents of contraction and convergence suggest that levels of greenhouse gases be stabilized at 450 parts per million (ppm) to 550 ppm. In order stop at those levels it is estimated that global carbon emissions will have to be cut by 60 percent -- the contraction part of the scheme. Under a C&C regime, each country would initially be allocated a portion of an overall declining carbon budget based on its share of the global distribution of income. Over time, to achieve convergence, each year's ration of the global carbon emissions budget for each country progressively converges to the same allocation per person until they become equal by an agreed upon date. This will allow poor countries relatively greater freedom to use carbon energy sources to fuel their further economic development.

The other main goal of the Buenos Aires conference will be an effort to rope the United States into signing the Kyoto Protocol or a subsequent climate change treaty. "The best thing for all the international community now would be to discover and design a formula that will bring the U.S. back to the fold," declared Raul Estrada, Argentina's ambassador for environmental matters. At the moment that does not seem a likely prospect. "It's very premature to enter into negotiations on a

post-2012 regime,” said Harlan Watson, the U.S. Climate negotiator.

I will be posting daily reports from Buenos Aires covering the scientific presentations, the negotiations and the lobbying efforts of environmental organizations for the next week.

Ronald Bailey is Reason magazine’s science correspondent. His email is rbai-@reason.com. His book, Liberation Biology: The Moral and Scientific Defense of the Biotech Revolution, will be published in early 2005 by Prometheus Books.

C&C and the SWP [Germany]. Aubrey Meyer

Dec 14, 2004 02:49 PST

Climate Change and the G-8

German Institute for International and Security Affairs

[Stiftung, Wissenschaft und Politik - SWP].

December 2004

The Blair Initiative

http://www.swp-berlin.org/common/get_document.php?id=1117

“Together with Britain and if possible all EU countries, Germany should now think beyond the Kyoto commitment period 2012. This includes first that, in addition to ambitious emissions reductions, research and the development of forward-thinking technologies—renewables alone do not suffice according to multiple calculations should be emphasized. Second, there is a need for more intelligent regulatory guidelines for the inclusion of the newly industrialized and developing countries in emissions limits. This means, in particular, that the regulations which govern the global energy sector—according to the IEA investments in the amount of US\$16 trillion should be expected by 2030—should be designed in such a competition neutral way that the climate objective is attainable.

The “contraction and convergence” principle would offer a good starting point. However, the mandate of the annual party negotiations is not adequate for this purpose. The heads of government, following Blair’s example, must give top priority to such a paradigm shift.

The G-8 initiative would be a good opportunity.”

A vision of C&C and the sea Aubrey Meyer
Jan 07, 2005 04:23 PST

Trenchant Tsunami/C&C Commentary

From: - JNVG of the Solar Hydrogen Energy Group

To: Aubrey Meyer - GCI London

please post on GCN

Dear Aubrey,

It seems to me the dynamics of C&C could take a quantum leap forward by connecting Tsunami aid for reconstruction of devastated Tsunami coastlines and low lying islands like the Maldives, 3 meters above sea level at best, "with inevitable rising sea water levels, (greenhouse gas emission driven)," about which warnings have been made by numerous qualified individuals and institutions to little serious avail so far.

This futile irresponsible criminal deception, under the guise of humanitarian reconstruction aid, pretending to grief stricken Tsunami victims that massive reconstruction aid to build up their devastated coastal communities and making operational a Tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean, will protect them from future grief, without telling them about the "man made mother of all Tsunami's, the permanent inundation of their low lying coastal ancestral lands and low lying islands, is nothing more than a "moral bridge too far."

A powerful C&C push now, at the height of (Tsunami reconstruction development being organised formally by international political activity) through the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Meacher and as many other responsible caring concerned individuals and organisations, pointing out clearly and truthfully, reconstruction of Tsunami devastation is a vital short term necessity today, with must be coupled globally to C&C greenhouse gas reduction methodology agreements including in this global agreement all devastated Tsunami nations as signatories, implemented positively, short medium and long term, in a desperate attempt to reverse or slow down considerably the increasing high risk and catastrophic consequences of runaway climate change.

If this is not done, Tsunami reconstruction aid today running into the billions of US\$ will be nothing more than a cynical deceptive short term fix, condoned by the G8 under the Presidency of Prime Minister Tony Blair and condoned de-facto by the United Nations.

Regards

J N von Glahn

C&C - the Ultimate Sustainability Initiative Aubrey Meyer

Jan 11, 2005 10:21 PST

Institute of Civil Engineering

"Engineering Sustainability" - 2004 No 4

"Contraction and Convergence is an ambitious yet widely supported plan to harmonise global greenhouse gas emissions to a safe and sustainable level per person within the next few decades. It was conceived in the mid-1990s by the Global Commons Institute (GCI) in London as an antidote to the expanding, diverging and climate-changing nature of global economic development. The plan is now at the core of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, has been approved by the European Parliament and many other governments and in July 2004 even received divine backing from the Church of England.

GCI director Aubrey Meyer explains the background and defining characteristics of what could prove to be the ultimate sustainability initiative."

<http://www.ttjournals.com/JournalContentPage.asp?JournalTitle=Proceedings+of+ICE%2C+Engineering+Sustainability&JournalID=3&JournalMenu=true&OriginalTitle=Engineering+Sustainability&>

homepage=True

C&C Debate at LEEDS University Aubrey Meyer
Jan 14, 2005 08:32 PST

Further to Southampton University Crisis Centre Meeting last November .

. .

LEEDS Universith PRAXIS Centre host: -

Public C&C Presentation, with Discussion and Debate.

“Climate Crisis - AVOIDING THE DAY AFTER”

28th January 2005, 2.00 - 4.30 pm

Lecture Theatre A

Headingley Campus

Leeds Metropolitan University

PROGRAMME

2.00-3.00 “Contraction & Convergence”

Aubrey Meyer, Global Commons Institute

3.00-3.30 Tea-Break

3.30-4.30 Discussion

Please RSVP Eddie Halpin Director

Praxis Centre

Leeds Metropolitan University

Priestley Building

Beckett Park

Leeds LS6

“The ‘contraction’ of fossil fuel consumption can avert this crisis. But international agreement to achieve this will need to correct the skewed distribution between the rich and poor.

The ‘usual’ moral dilemma becomes a practical imperative. Because everyone - regardless of status - is now increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the rich have little choice but to share the burden of contraction fairly. In 1990, GCI proposed this as “Equity for Survival”.

They then devised “Contraction & Convergence” [C&C] where total emissions contract while future entitlements to emit converge to equal per capita shares globally. C&C is the core of the UN Climate Treaty.

The European Parliament and many other institutions support it. In July 2004 it even got divine backing from the Church of England.”

Advertising Poster at: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/LEEDS\[print\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/LEEDS[print].pdf)

[higher resolution good for printing]

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/LEEDS\[screen\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/LEEDS[screen].pdf)

[lower resolution - good for web]

“Universities of the World Unite!”

C&C: - first-time Byers, beware . . . Aubrey Meyer

Jan 27, 2005 06:37 PST

Yesterday, a climate report was published: - "Meeting the Climate Challenge".

The Rt Hon Stephen Byers is Co-Chair of group responsible

The first main point in the report is ~/~ correctly stated: -

- CO2 concentration in the atmosphere has presently risen to 380 parts per million per volume of atmosphere [ppmv], and this is 37% above the pre-industrial value in 1800, when it was 280 ppmv. They say 379 ppmv and 40% but it is near enough.

The point arising is stated incorrectly: -

- "CO2 concentrations are likely to rise above 400 ppmv in the coming decades and could rise far higher under a business as usual scenario".

This point, correctly stated, is; -

- "CO2 concentration will definitely rise above 400 ppmv in the next decade [ten years] under a business as usual scenario, and under a business as usual scenario will rise far higher, especially as more feedback becomes sign positive".

Then, strangely taking odds on this - the contraction point - the report cites references stating that there is an 80% chance of limiting global temperature rise to no more than 2 degrees Celsius [the limit advocated], if CO2 concentration is held at or below 400 ppmv.

Whichever way you take it, this is an emergency! [And the very notion of taking odds on success/failure is a little baffling . . .].

And there's no point in fluffing C&C. 'Stabilisation inevitably requires contraction and convergence' [UNFCCC]

A full-term contraction event is absolutely required for this target, and latest carbon cycle understanding suggests emissions need to be near zero within about 60 years globally. This is a future emissions integral between now and then, roughly not greater than the past. In other words we're just about at peak of emissions if we want to run these odds. This isn't stated or even estimated.

Then playing dumb with convergence, the report says that, carbon-emissions rights are equal to everybody on the planet, but only in a long-term transition.

In other words, "equal per capita rights" is meaningless, as together this means that equal shares of nothing are projected for and at the South, and they're not buying as recent Chinese/Indian commentary makes clear.

GCI may publish a more detailed critique of this situation in due course.

In the meantime [to restate the main point of C&C] - "Contraction and

Convergence" [C&C] is a rational negotiating framework governed by the objective and principles of the UNFCCC, which specifically enables convergence to equal permits per head to be accelerated relative to the required rate of contraction globally, in order to create room on board for everyone to play without sinking the boat.

A clear exposition of this is currently published by the Institute of Civil Engineers at: - <http://www.extenza-eps.com/extenza/loadHTML?objectIDValue=56900&type=abstract>

Associated material is published at: -

<http://www.postmag.co.uk/>

[In the current issue of the Insurers Journal, Post Magazine]

and at: -

<http://www.greenfutures.org.uk/Default.asp>

[In the new issue of Green Futures Magazine].

[GCI has recently received an assessment of C&C from a source in Florida USA that says that C&C is indirectly supported by George Bush [the son/the president] as C&C is a perfect fit with the US Resolution [Byrd Hagel of '97].

[There's a thought].

UK Parl. All-Party C&C Motion Aubrey Meyer

Jan 27, 2005 12:52 PST

Please ask your UK MP to support EDM 538

CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE 18.01.05

Baker/Norman

"That this House recognises the serious threat posed to all life on this planet by climate change as a result of increasing greenhouse gas emissions;

* notes with grave concern the continued failure of the United States federal administration in particular to join international efforts to cut these emissions levels;

* further notes the extreme differences in emissions levels per head between nations;

* recognises that the objections of non-signatories to the Kyoto Treaty that it does not include rapidly developing nations such as India and China requires the need for a new global policy to tackle climate change beyond Kyoto;

* therefore advocates a policy of contraction and convergence, in which all nations seek to reduce their levels of greenhouse gas emissions, and converge emissions levels towards a point where all citizens of the world are entitled to emit equal amounts of pollutants

* recalls the Prime Minister's promise to make tackling climate change a priority for the United Kingdom's presidencies of the EU and G8 this year;

* urges the Government to adopt this policy and use this opportunity to urge other national governments to do likewise."

Conservative Party

Bottomley/Peter

Labour Party

Barnes/Harry

Caton/Martin

Cousins/Jim

Cryer/Ann

Dismore/Andrew

Drew/David

Edwards/Huw

Griffiths/Jane

Jones/Lynne

Kidney/David

Lazarowicz/Mark

McDonnell/John

Reed/Andy

Robertson/John

Simpson/Alan

Taylor/David

Vis/Rudi

Wareing/Robert N

Williams/Betty

Liberal Democrats

Baker/Norman
Brake/Tom
Breed/Colin
Brooke/Annette
Cable/Vincent
Doughty/Sue
George/Andrew
Hancock/Mike
Heath/David
Holmes/Paul
Jones/Nigel
Rendel/David
Russell/Bob
Sanders/Adrian
Stunell/Andrew
Tyler/Paul
Younger-Ross/Richard

Plaid Cymru
Llwyd/Elwyn
Price/Adam
Thomas/Simon
Williams/Hywel

Scottish National Party
Weir/Michael

Ulster Unionist Party
Smyth/Martin

C&C - "A New Paradigm" Aubrey Meyer

Feb 06, 2005 03:26 PST

Mayer Hillman profiles DTQs C&C

6th February 2005, [today] 12.30 pm BBC One The Politics Show

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcone/listings/index.shtml?service_id=4223

This programme can be viewed after broadcast. Check at: -

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/politics_show/default.stm

Faith Communities and Sustainable Development A report for the UK National Sustainable Development Strategy Review Prepared for the Government Office for London by Community Environment Associates

July 2004

Climate change and energy

"As a major contributor to global warming, transport must be included within the climate change theme. Leadership from Government is required both in international negotiations and locally on

mobilising change. There must be endorsement of the 'contraction and convergence' principle. Strategies need to focus on avoidance and mitigation, but at this stage avoidance should be a priority."

Full text at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/faith/CEA_CandC_07_2004.pdf

The Environment debate;

Briefing to the Church Synod from the Mission and Public Affairs Council

February 2005

"16. Synod is recommended to support a qualitatively different approach to global warming suggested originally by the Global Commons Institute - that of 'contraction and convergence'. This proposal is a call to the whole human family to realise its common home is our planet and to work together to achieve the necessary target of reducing CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions by something of the order of 60% by 2050. It does so by proposing a sharing out of the 'right' to emit such gases between nations in relation to the size of their population rather than the size of their economies (convergence), such that the sum of all nations' greenhouse gas emissions is within the amount that the planet can sustain (which will need to be contracted to 60% less than current emissions) by 2050. In the industrialised world, the amount of carbon emission is already way above what would be permitted within this framework; in other, less industrially developed countries, emissions fall far short of what they might emit. Industrially developed countries would be permitted to 'purchase' unused carbon and gas quota from less developed countries, thus both aiding their environmentally friendly development and introducing an incentive to the more industrialised countries to reduce their emissions over time.

17. The contraction and convergence model is a new paradigm, which challenges current paradigms of economic growth and development. It requires an international acceptance of the limitations of human consumption - not a restriction on any kind of growth, but only on that which goes beyond what is necessary for human flourishing. Economies can grow until they are strong; then they should be sustained within reasonable limits. As nature works within limits, so too should the human family. Recent studies of the causes of human happiness have found that people were happiest in societies where the highest paid individuals received no more than five times the lowest paid.

'Contraction and convergence' offers a framework of thinking that decouples economic growth from growth in the use of resources. Traditional economic indicators of progress such as GDP can be replaced by broader indicators including those that measure wellbeing of people and planet."

Full text at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/faith/CoE_Synod_CandC_16_02_2005.pdf

C&C Climate Justice event

Saturday 19th February, - 10.30 am to 1.30 pm

Crawley, Christian Education Centre [DABCEC]

4 Southgate Drive RH10 6RP

Climate Change. It is time for blue sky thinking. Come on board Operation NOAH; Understand the Global Commons Institute Principle of Contraction and Convergence and help create a climate of justice for the poor and future generations.

Aubrey Meyer

Director, Global Commons Institute

Ruth Jarman

Christian Ecology Link's Operation NOAH Campaign

This day is organised by: -
Chichester Diocese Social Responsibility Department;
Diocese of Arundel and Brighton,

Justice and Peace Commission;
justice-a-@dabnet.org

Christian Ecology Link;
in-@christian-ecology.org.uk

See : www.christian-ecology.org.uk/noah and www.gci.org.uk
http://www.gci.org.uk/events/NOAH_19_02_05.pdf

Current Insurance article
http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Post_Magazine.pdf

Current Interview
http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Green_Futures_CandC.pdf

Archive Interview
<http://www.weltwoche.ch/artikel/default.asp?AssetID=197&CategoryID=60>

Archive Article
http://prospectmagazine.co.uk/article_details.php?id=6582&AuthKey=2ab17d5402095e614beb71388b7f0e5e&issue=496

Fred Singer on C&C
<http://www.thenewatlantis.com/archive/4/singer.htm>

C&C "is in place" [CIIR]. Aubrey Meyer

Feb 07, 2005 03:10 PST

Weather Warning

Catholic Institute for International Relations [2005]

C&C – "a framework for responding to climate change is in place. All that remains is finding the will to implement it."

Four widely accepted principles underlie the international agreements needed to meet the threat of climate change. These are:

1. the precautionary principle (the need to take prudent action in the face of potentially serious risk);
 2. the principle of sustainable development (development which meets today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs);
 3. the 'polluter pays' principle (the country, organisation or person that causes pollution should pay to put right the damage that it causes);
 4. the principle of equity - both intergenerational and international (each person in the world has the same right to use an equal amount of global environmental space or of the earth's resources).
- The Global Commons Institute - an independent group concerned with the protection of the com-

mon heritage of all humanity - has proposed a system known as 'contraction and convergence' which succeeds in addressing requirements from all four principles. It allocates emissions to nations on an equal per capita basis while also allowing for emissions trading (for example, so long as global targets are met, a country whose emissions are below its quota can 'sell' the balance to a country whose emissions exceed its quota.

http://www.ciir.org/shared_asp_files/uploadedfiles/5F3ACAB1-5BB4-4BF3-AC76-E942193DE853_climatechangeleaflet.pdf

Sharing God's Planet [2005]

"The vision of contraction and convergence as a response to climate change, which is described in this volume, is one that I support."

Rowan Cantuar [Archbishop of Canterbury].

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/agendas/gs1558.pdf>

MP support for the Contraction and convergence EDM [538] is rising: -

<http://edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=538>

Please ask your MP to support it.

Locate your MP: -

<http://www.locata.co.uk/commons/>

or by constituency

<http://www.parliament.uk/directories/hciolists/alcm.cfm>

or by name

<http://www.parliament.uk/directories/hciolists/alms.cfm>

MP with lotta bottle and C&C Message in it . . . Aubrey Meyer

Feb 09, 2005 02:02 PST

Yesterday's agitated debate in Parliament

Climate Change and the Environment

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmhansrd/cm050208/debtext/50208-07.htm#50208-07_head0

Colin Challen [The author of the DTQ Bill]

"I welcome the international climate change task force report, which was co-chaired by my right hon. Friend the Member for Tyneside, North (Mr. Byers).

A recommendation in the report is to build on the global climate change framework of both the United Nations framework convention on climate change and Kyoto. It refers to a new basis of equity and common, but differentiated, responsibilities.

As someone who supports contraction and convergence, that is the meaning that I want to read into it, but I understand why its authors would not want to say that explicitly.

We need environmental equity as well as carbon emissions trading and so on. We need a cap and trade programme, and contraction and convergence is the name that we must give to it. We must link that battle with the battle against poverty.

I hope to hear about that link more often in the speeches of my right hon. Friend the Chancellor, because we are making the poor poorer with policies that do not tackle carbon emissions. Marginal agricultural land will become unusable and drought, the failure of the Indian monsoon and so on will make the task of tackling poverty much more difficult. We must make that link."

Elliott Morley [The Minister]

"My hon. Friend the Member for Morley and Rothwell (Mr. Challen) talked about contraction and convergence. Such concepts have a considerable following, so we must examine them carefully, even though, like all such matters, they have pros and cons."

[If anyone would like to write and ask him what these are, here are a sample letter and his con-

tact details].

Elliot Morley MP

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

phone 020 7219 3000

emorl-@aol.com

<http://www.elliottmorley.co.uk/>

Dear Mr Morley

Thank you for your comments in yesterday's debate about climate change in Parliament. In them, you responded to the comments of Colin Challen MP on contraction and convergence thus: -

"My hon. Friend the Member for Morley and Rothwell (Mr. Challen) talked about contraction and convergence. Such concepts have a considerable following, so we must examine them carefully, even though, like all such matters, they have pros and cons."

Would you please write back to me spelling out what these pros and cons are. More perhaps than a 'following', C&C does have a lot of support worldwide and your views in this are clearly important.

With thanks and kind regards

Aubrey Meyer

For your interest, here is a link to the C&C definition statement published recently by the Institute of Civil Engineers: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

Also for your interest, here is a link to a brief comment on GCN to the Byer's report to which Mr Challen referred: -

<http://lists.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read/message.html?mid=1718283655&sort=d&start=419>

[GCN, or Global Commons Network, is a list with news about progress with C&C. With your permission I would like to publish your reply to this question on that list].

Aubrey Meyer

Director

Global Commons Institute [GCI]

37 Ravenswood Road

LONDON E17 9LY

UK

Phone 00 44 (0)208 520 4742

email aub-@gci.org.uk

web <http://www.gci.org.uk>

To receive C&C development circulars

send an email to: GCN-sub-@igc.topica.com

Lotta-Bottle MP gets award Aubrey Meyer

Feb 09, 2005 08:02 PST

PRASEG Sustainable Energy Awards 2005

Colin Challen - the "DTQ" MP for Morley & Rothwell

<http://www.colinchallen.org/>

Winner of The PRASEG House of Commons Award

Well done.

Making the award, Lord Whitty, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, said:

"As the prime minister has said ... climate change is the biggest challenge facing us all, and the role of sustainable energy, whether in the energy efficiency context, in the tackling fuel poverty context, or in the seeking of alternative energy context, is probably the most significant contributor to a positive, creative and market-oriented solution to us adapting to the challenge of climate change. The people that we are awarding recognition to are real contributors [to the sustainable energy field]."

Full Press Release at: -

<http://www.praseg.org.uk/index.php>

Lack of C&C "absolutely terrifying" [?] FCO Aubrey Meyer

Feb 14, 2005 20:48 PST

Mr Bill Rammell, a Member of the House, Parliament Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office [Ministerial] recently gave evidence to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee on Climate Change and Contraction and Convergence.

On the key point - meaningful international consensus - the Committee's Mr Flynn regarded Mr. Rammell's arguments as the alternative, "where half the planet is uninhabitable for our children."

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmenvaud/uc105-vi/uc10502.htm>

A read of the COP-3 Kyoto transcript shows that Mr Rammell's points about reactions to C&C by the US China and the G-77 are simply inaccurate.

http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3_Transcript.pdf

True or not, Mr Rammell says, "the situation is absolutely terrifying", that he, "doesn't know what the alternative is" and appears to leave the committee to writing the epitaph.

"Q554 Mr Savidge: Do you personally believe that any long-term equitable solution to global warming must be based on the concept of equal per capita emission rights, as advocated in the Global Commons Institute's Contraction and Convergence model?

Mr Rammell: It is one of the options that we are looking at and on the face of it there are some attractions to it. There are arguments that actually it might disadvantage some developing countries, China as an example. I think the other more substantive difficulty is that to actually get a target and a cap regime itself agreed internationally, we know from our experience from Kyoto, is extraordinarily difficult. To set our stall out for that at this stage when not only has the United States set its face against it, not only has Australia done that but the G77 as well has done that, in those circumstances to emphatically say that is the way forward at this stage I do not think would help us achieve the kind of consensus that we need.

Q555 Chairman: Does that not go to the heart of the issue, that there are so many disparate interests and agendas, international relations and attitudes towards the problem that you could go on discussing potential solution forever whilst the problem gets worse and worse and worse?

That is the danger, is it not, that a consensus is not actually achievable?

Mr Rammell: Yes, except I am not sure what the alternative is to trying to establish that. I accept the point that we are dealing with a very difficult, very dangerous situation. When you sit down in the cold light of day and you look at some of the projections it is absolutely terrifying and one of the difficulties we all have is communicating that to the general public in order to get the sustained political pressure that we need for change, but I am not sure what the alternative is.

Q556 Paul Flynn: The alternative surely is that half the planet will not be habitable for our children or grandchildren."

Please write and help Mr Rammell pointing out that: -

[1] The Africa Group position on climate change is C&C: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/nairobi/AFRICA_GROUP.pdf

[2] Chinese policy Climate Change is the "per capita standard": -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/cop3/songjian.html>

[2] G-77 [Non Aligned Heads of Government] position is "equitable allocations to all countries agreed by all countries": -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/refs/nam.html>

[4] The US Byrd Hagel Resolution is C&C by definition: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/C&C&ByrdHagel.pdf>

Mr Rammell's details are here: -

<http://www.billrammell.labour.co.uk/>

His email address is: -

ramm-@parliament.uk

City of London Honours Aubrey Meyer of GCI Aubrey Meyer

Feb 16, 2005 06:24 PST

Message to GCN from: -

Lynda McDonald

Executive Secretary

The Global Commons Trust

London

This evening at the Mansion House in the centre of the City of London, the Corporation of London makes a unique first-time award for what is described as a life-time's achievement.

The award is to Aubrey Meyer who the Corporation believes, "has made the greatest contribution to the understanding and combating of climate change. Nominations were sought for persons from the worlds of business,

academia, politics and activism. Reasons for nomination were broad and included, having developed a new technology or service that has cut climate change emissions, or having triggered behavioural changes or having led strategic debate or policy formation."

The citation reads, "in recognition of an outstanding personal contribution to combating climate change at an international level through his efforts to enhance the understanding and adoption of the principle of Contraction and Convergence."

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/City_of_London_Award_Sheet_03.pdf

In acknowledging this, Mr Meyer said, "I made the effort to establish Contraction and Convergence - or C&C as it is now known - because a fully constitutional and international agreement to avert climate change is urgently needed. It is encouraging that C&C now gathers increasing international support."

"To discover there are people who also feel this effort deserves acknowledgement, is reward in itself. However, the City of London's award is a very welcome surprise as many eminent people were in this competition. I am grateful to them and the City of London for all their efforts, and ask that we all advocate C&C together."

"Players in the City's markets control more assets than most governments of the countries of the world. With much to gain, these players also have much to lose if climate change continues unabated. Protection lies in formally establishing C&C-compliance as the basis of the UN Climate Treaty. Collective corporate advocacy of this is needed now."

Having established the C&C signal so clearly in the noisy international policy debate, is a remarkable achievement. Having done this with scant material support and at conspicuous personal cost, makes it all the more so. Aubrey is also surprised as he supported the nomination of the UK Government's Chief Scientist, Sir David King.

There is no money attached to this prize, but GCT is a registered charity [Charity Number 1060056].

Should any person or party wish to support materially the continuation of his effort, please contact me at the address below.

Lynda McDonald

Executive Secretary

The Global Commons Trust

e-mail: - lynda.a.-@btinternet.com

C&C Adopted by C of E Aubrey Meyer

Feb 22, 2005 12:01 PST

Church of England Synod

Feb 2005-02-22

Democra-C&C in action.

" . . . commend to

(i) the consumers of material and energy, the approach of 'contraction and convergence'; and to
(ii) the producers of material and energy systems, safe, secure and sustainable products and processes based on near-zero-carbon-emitting sources."

was carried.

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/agendas/bdfeb05thursdaypm.rtf>

'That this Synod: -

(a) commend Sharing God's Planet as a contribution to Christian thinking and action on environmental issues;

(b) challenge itself and all members of the Church of England to make care for creation, and repentance for its exploitation, fundamental to their faith, practice, and mission;

(c) lead by example by promoting study on the scale and nature of lifestyle change necessary to achieve sustainability, and initiatives encouraging immediate action towards attaining it;

(d) encourage parishes, diocesan and national Church organizations to carry out environmental audits and adopt specific and targeted measures to reduce consumption of non-renewable resources and ask the Mission and Public Affairs Council to report on outcomes achieved to the July 2008 group of sessions;

(e) welcome Her Majesty's Government's prioritising of climate change in its chairing of the G8 and its forthcoming presidency of the European Union;

(f) urge Her Majesty's Government to provide sustained and adequate funding for research into, and development of, environmentally friendly sources of energy; and

(g) in order to promote responsible use of God's created resources and to reduce and stabilise global warming, commend to

(i) the consumers of material and energy, the approach of 'contraction and convergence'; and to

(ii) the producers of material and energy systems, safe, secure and sustainable products and processes based on near-zero-carbon-emitting sources.'

was carried.

"The Earth is Finished" . . . [?] Aubrey Meyer

Feb 22, 2005 23:13 PST

This article appeared in the February edition of Catholic Journal "The Tablet".

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Tablet.pdf>

It was written by Mike McCarthy Environment Editor of the Independent Newspaper. It ends with a conversation with Paul Brown of the Guardian, after they attended the UK Government's climate conference in Exeter.

"By the time we reached London we knew what the conclusion was.

I said: "The earth is finished."

Paul said: "It is, yes."

We both shook our heads and gave that half-laugh that is sparked by incredulity. So many environmental scare stories, over the years; I never dreamed of such a one as this.

And what will our children make of our generation, who let this planet, so lovingly created, go to waste?"

This is an extremely depressing reaction; who knows, they may be right. However, it still seems worth trying to avert the worst.

If you would like to write to the Tablet's Editor in this vein, her details [with a sample letter from Dr Mayer Hillman] are: -

Ms Catherine Pepinster

The Editor - The Tablet

1 King Street Cloisters

Clifton Walk

London W6 0QZ

Dear Catherine Pepinster,

I experienced feelings of both satisfaction and extreme disquiet on reading Michael McCarthy's article 'Slouching towards disaster' in the 12 February issue of The Tablet. My satisfaction stemmed from the fact that the attention of your readership was drawn to the absolutely critical nature of climate change and that the planet is already exhibiting the characteristics of a runaway effect from rising temperatures and the accelerating concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This satisfaction was more than compensated for by its contents in spelling out the gravity of the situation, following Mr. McCarthy's attendance at the Exeter climate conference three weeks ago.

However, what is of particular concern is that the appropriately bleak nature of the article concluded with no indication of 'where we go from here'. As you may know, this has been the subject of emails I have sent you in the last few months (the first of them on 22 October). These referred to the Global Commons Institute's framework proposal on Contraction and Convergence. This proposal has been endorsed by an impressive list of institutions and individuals, including the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, the Catholic Institute for International Relations and the Archbishop of Canterbury, to name but three. Last week, the Corporation of the City of London, made a unique first-time award to Aubrey Meyer, GCI's founder and director, for what was described as a life-time's achievement in making '... the greatest contribution to the understanding and combating (my italics) of climate change'.

Indeed, the GCI framework proposal was the focus of my book How we can save the planet (Penguin Books, 2004) referred to in my earlier emails. In this, the logical outcome of Contraction and Convergence was developed in the form of per capita carbon rationing, including a simple method of calculating annual personal carbon dioxide emissions and relating these to the planet's capacity to absorb them on an equitable basis without serious damage to the planet's ecological integrity.

Would you agree that a logical follow-up to Michael McCarthy's article should be one that gives some hope for the future by setting out the only route out of the impasse that our instinctive desire 'to look the other way' has led us? The justification for adopting this lies in its practicality, its political logic, its significance as an unchallenged solution with an assured prospect of delivering on agreed future targets of reductions in greenhouse gas emission reductions - and, not least, its morality.

Dr. Mayer Hillman
Senior Fellow Emeritus
Policy Studies Institute
cc Sir John Houghton
Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams
Michael McCarthy, the Independent
Aubrey Meyer, Global Commons Institute

IPPR to G8 - C&C for Africa! Aubrey Meyer

Mar 01, 2005 07:33 PST

"Putting our House in Order: Recasting G8 policy Towards Africa."

David Mepham and James Lorge

ISBN: 1860302661

£9.95

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/publications/index.php?book=470>

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE - CHAPTER 5

"While a contraction in global emissions is clearly necessary, there also needs to be a convergence between countries in respect of their future entitlements to emit CO2. That means recognising that a country's share of global emissions should eventually reflect its share of the world's population.

An immediate per capita allocation of all international emissions would be difficult to implement, but it could be achieved over time, with the help of emissions trading mechanisms provided for under the Kyoto Protocol.

Applying such a framework internationally would require industrialised countries to cut their emissions significantly, while many developing countries could increase theirs, at least in the short to medium term. There would need to be a period of adjustment – probably lasting several decades – in which nations' quotas converge on the same per capita level.

Many African and other poor countries would be allocated larger emissions entitlements than they currently need. Under a global emissions trading system they could then sell these emissions rights, generating resources that could be used to tackle poverty and promote sustainable development."

"The ippr, in conjunction with the Center for American Progress in Washington DC and the Australia Institute in Canberra, established a high-level International Taskforce on Climate Change in 2004.

"The climate change chapter of the "Putting Our House in Order" report draws on research conducted for the Taskforce, whose interim conclusions were published in January 2005."

Eminent Praise for this report: -

"This valuable report makes bold recommendations to help Africa move forward," K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

"With excellent timing this report spotlights the complicity of the rich countries in the impoverishment of Africa and recommends ways of helping rather than damaging the continent's chances of development." Richard Dowden, Director of the Royal African Society

"A valuable insight on why G8 policies on aid, trade, debt and arms exports are detrimental to Africa's development and why they must be changed." Anna Tibaijuka, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT

"A compelling case for a step change in the rich world's relations with Africa, packed with practical policy proposals. It deserves to be read by Parliamentarians in every G8 country." Hugh Bayley MP, Chair, Africa All Party Parliamentary Group

Putting Our House in Order is the most rigorous analysis yet of G8 policy failings towards Africa.

Texas-based "Axis of Logic" on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Mar 02, 2005 00:40 PST

Media-Lens' sharp and timely briefing focused on C&C and the 'deafening silence' of the media, is published today by the Texas and Massachusetts based "Axis of Logic".

http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/article_15998.shtml

MEDIA ALERT: IS THE EARTH REALLY FINISHED?

Countering Despair with the Momentum of Hope

By David Edwards

Mar 1, 2005, 22:25

March 1, 2005 -- "What goes against the grain of conditioning is experienced as not credible, or as a hostile act." (John McMurtry, philosopher)

Bizarre Conversations

Climate crisis is not a future risk. It is today's reality. As Myles Allen, a climate scientist at Oxford University, warned recently: "The danger zone is not something we are going to reach in the middle of this century. We are in it now." (Roger Highfield, 'Screen saver weather trial predicts 10 deg rise in British temperatures', Daily Telegraph, 31 January, 2005)

Human-induced climate change has been killing people for decades. Climatologists estimate that global warming has led to the deaths of 150,000 people since 1970. (Meteorological Office, 'Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change', 1-3 February 2005, Table 2a. 'Impacts on human systems due to temperature rise, precipitation change and increases in extreme events', page 1; www.stabilisation2005.com/impacts/impacts_human.pdf)

By 2050, as temperatures rise, scientists warn that three billion people will be under "water stress", with tens of millions likely dying as a result.

At such a desperate moment in the planet's history, we could simply throw up our hands in despair, or we could try to reduce the likelihood of the worst predictions coming true. The corporate media has yet to examine its own role in setting up huge obstacles to the latter option of hope.

Consider, for example, Michael McCarthy, environment editor of the Independent. McCarthy described how he "was taken aback" at dramatic scientific warnings of "major new threats" at a recent climate conference in Exeter. One frightening prospect is the collapse of the West Antarctic ice sheet, previously considered stable, which would lead to a 5-metre rise in global sea level. As McCarthy notes dramatically: "Goodbye London; goodbye Bangladesh".

On the way back from Exeter on the train, he mulls over the conference findings with Paul Brown, environment correspondent of the Guardian:

"By the time we reached London we knew what the conclusion was. I said: 'The earth is finished.' Paul said: 'It is, yes.' We both shook our heads and gave that half-laugh that is sparked by incredulity. So many environmental scare stories, over the years; I never dreamed of such a one as this.

"And what will our children make of our generation, who let this planet, so lovingly created, go to waste?" (McCarthy, 'Slouching towards disaster', The Tablet, 12 February, 2005; available at <http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Tablet.pdf>)

This is a remarkably bleak conclusion. McCarthy glibly notes the "inevitability of what [is] going to happen", namely: "The earth is finished." We applaud the journalist for presenting the reality of human-caused climate change. But the resignation, and the apparent lack of any resolve to avert catastrophe, is irresponsible. As Noam Chomsky has put it in a different, though related, context:

"We are faced with a kind of Pascal's wager: assume the worst and it will surely arrive: commit oneself to the struggle for freedom and justice, and its cause may be advanced." (Chomsky, 'Detering Democracy', Vintage, London, 1992, p. 64)

Following McCarthy's anguished return to the Independent's comfortable offices in London, one searches in vain for his penetrating news reports on how corporate greed and government complicity have dragged humanity into this abyss. One searches in vain, too, for anything similar by Paul Brown in The Guardian.

The notion of government and big business perpetrating climate crimes against humanity is simply off the news agenda. A collective madness of suffocating silence pervades the media, afflicting even those editors and journalists that we are supposed to regard as the best.

Contraction and Convergence: Climate Logic for Survival

In 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was agreed. The objective of the convention is to "stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will avoid dangerous rates of climate change." The Kyoto protocol, which came into force in February, requires developed nations to cut emissions by just 5 per cent, compared to 1990 levels. This is a tiny first step, and is far less than the cuts required, which are around 80 per cent.

One of the major gaps in the climate 'debate' is the deafening silence surrounding contraction and convergence (C&C). This proposal by the London-based Global Commons Institute would cut greenhouse gas emissions in a fair and timely manner, averting the worst climatic impacts. Unlike Kyoto, it is a global framework involving all countries, both 'developed' and 'developing'.

C&C requires that annual emissions of greenhouse gases contract over time to a sustainable level. The aim would be to limit the equivalent concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to a safe level. The pre-industrial level, in 1800, was 280 parts per million by volume (ppmv). The current level is around 380 ppmv, and it will exceed 400 ppmv within ten years under a business as usual scenario. Even if we stopped burning fossil fuels today, the planet would continue to heat up for more than a hundred years. In other words, humanity has already committed life on the planet to considerable climate-related damages in the years to come.

Setting a 'safe' limit of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration actually means estimating a limit beyond which damage to the planet is unacceptable. This may be 450 ppmv; or it may be that the international community agrees on a target lower than the present atmospheric level, say 350 ppmv. Once the target is agreed, it is a simple matter to allocate an equitable 'carbon budget' of annual emissions amongst the world's population on a per capita basis. This is worked out for each country or world region (e.g. the European Union).

The Global Commons Institute's eye-catching computer graphics illustrate past emissions and future allocation of emissions by country (or region), achieving per capita equality by 2030, for example. This is the convergence part of C&C. After 2030, emissions drop off to reach safe levels by 2100. This is the contraction. (Further information on C&C, with illustrations, can be found at <http://www.gci.org.uk>).

Recall that the objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is to "stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will avoid dangerous rates of climate change." Its basic principles are precaution and equity. C&C is a simple and powerful proposal that directly embodies both the convention's objective and principles.

Last year, the secretariat to the UNFCCC negotiations declared that achieving the treaty's objective "inevitably requires Contraction and Convergence". C&C is supported by an impressive array of authorities in climate science, including physicist Sir John Houghton, the former chair of the science assessment working group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (1988-2002). Indeed, the IPCC, comprising the world's recognised climate experts, has announced that: "C&C takes the rights-based approach to its logical conclusion."

The prestigious Institute of Civil Engineers in London recently described C&C as "an antidote to the expanding, diverging and climate-changing nature of global economic development". The ICE added that C&C "could prove to be the ultimate sustainability initiative." (Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, paper 13982, December 2004)

In February 2005, Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute was given a lifetime's achievement award by the Corporation of London. Nominations had been sought for "the person from

the worlds of business, academia, politics and activism seeking the individual who had made the greatest contribution to the understanding and combating of climate change, leading strategic debate and policy formation.”

Although Meyer is at times understandably somewhat despondent at the enormity of the task ahead, he sees fruitful signs in the global grassroots push for sustainable development, something which “is impossible without personal and human development. These are things we have to work for so hope has momentum as well as motive.” (‘GCI’s Meyer looks ahead’, interview with Energy Argus, December 2004, p. 15; reprinted in http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/EAC_document_3.pdf, p. 27)

And that momentum of hope is building. C&C has attracted statements of support from leading politicians and grassroots groups in a majority of the world’s countries, including the Africa Group, the Non-Aligned Movement, China and India. C&C may well be the only approach to greenhouse emissions that developing countries are willing to accept. That, in turn, should grab the attention of even the US; the Bush administration rejected the Kyoto protocol ostensibly, at least, because the agreement requires no commitments from developing nations. Kyoto involves only trivial cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, as we noted above, and the agreement will expire in 2012. A replacement agreement is needed fast.

On a sane planet, politicians and the media would now be clamouring to introduce C&C as a truly global, logical and equitable framework for stabilising the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide. Rational and balanced coverage of climate change would be devoting considerable resources to discussion of this groundbreaking proposal. It would be central to news reports of international climate meetings as a way out of the deadlock of negotiations; Jon Snow of Channel 4 news would be hosting hour-long live debates; the BBC’s Jeremy Paxman would demand of government ministers why they had not yet signed up to C&C; ITN’s Trevor Macdonald would present special documentaries from a multimillion pound ITN television studio; newspaper editorials would analyse the implications of C&C for sensible energy policies and tax regimes; Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace would be endlessly promoting C&C to their supporters. Instead, a horrible silence prevails.

Leaders as Moral Metaphors of a Corrupt System

We conducted a Lexis-Nexis newspaper database search to gauge the relative importance given to different topics in climate news reports by a number of major environment reporters. The following figures relate to the five year period leading up to, and including, 25 February 2005. We investigated to what extent equity, and contraction and convergence, entered into mainstream news reports on climate, in the best British press.

Michael McCarthy (Independent) Number of news reports

“climate” 232

“climate” + “industry” 80

“climate” + “Blair” 53

“climate” + “equity” 0

“climate” + “contraction and convergence” 0

Geoffrey Lean (Independent on Sunday)

“climate” 105

“climate” + “industry” 40

“climate” + “Blair” 38

“climate” + “equity” 0

“climate” + “contraction and convergence” 1

Charles Clover (Telegraph)

"climate" 136

"climate" + "industry" 47

"climate" + "Blair" 38

"climate" + "equity" 0

"climate" + "contraction and convergence" 0

Paul Brown (Guardian)

"climate" 287

"climate" + "industry" 137

"climate" + "Blair" 48

"climate" + "equity" 1

"climate" + "contraction and convergence" 1

John Vidal (Guardian)

"climate" 193

"climate" + "industry" 98

"climate" + "Blair" 31

"climate" + "equity" 1

"climate" + "contraction and convergence" 0

This is not a rigorous scientific analysis, of course, but the numbers +are+ highly indicative of hugely skewed priorities. Out of a grand total of 953 articles across the Independent, Independent on Sunday, Guardian and Telegraph, C&C was mentioned only twice, as was equity. On the other hand, industry was addressed in 402 articles, and Blair was mentioned 208 times, both almost entirely from an uncritical perspective.

One might counter that pronouncements on climate by Tony Blair, as prime minister, should be deemed automatically 'newsworthy'. But we must also bear in mind what Blair actually represents, even if the media conceals it well. Canadian philosopher John McMurtry explains:

"Tony Blair exemplifies the character structure of the global market order. Packaged in the corporate culture of youthful image, he is constructed as sincere, energetic and moral. Like other ruling-party leaders, he has worked hard to be selected by the financial and media axes of power as 'the man to do the job'. He is a moral metaphor of the system." (McMurtry, 'Value Wars', Pluto, London, 2002, p. 22)

Although public trust in Blair has collapsed after his many deceptions over Iraq, the media continue to present him as a fundamentally well-intentioned leader pursuing the interests of the nation. Thus, whenever Blair, Bush and other corporate-backed political leaders are given prominent news coverage, the media is in effect promoting its own business goals of profit and power. This is inimical to any reasonable prospect of averting climate catastrophe.

Contraction and convergence is the only serious global framework on the table for plotting a route out of the climate crisis. That C&C, and the concept of equity, can be so systematically ignored by the corporate media, is yet another damning indictment of the media's systemic failings. It is incumbent upon us all to push these issues onto the news agenda.

SUGGESTED ACTION

The goal of Media Lens is to promote rationality, compassion and respect for others. When writing emails to journalists, we strongly urge readers to maintain a polite, non-aggressive and non-abusive tone. You could ask questions along the following lines: In your reports on climate change, why do you never address equity, or contraction and convergence?

Write to Michael McCarthy, environment editor of the Independent:

Email: m.mcc-@independent.co.uk

Write to Geoffrey Lean, environment editor of the Independent on Sunday:

Email: g.l-@independent.co.uk

Write to Charles Clover, environment editor of the Daily Telegraph:

Charles-@telegraph.co.uk

Write to Paul Brown, environment correspondent of the Guardian:

Email: paul.-@guardian.co.uk

Write to John Vidal, environment editor of the Guardian:

Email: john.-@guardian.co.uk

Please also send all emails to us at Media Lens:

Email: edi-@medialens.org

<http://www.medialens.org>

C&C is 'Africa's Unity of Purpose' Aubrey Meyer

Mar 02, 2005 04:10 PST

Environment Minister Musyoka of Kenya

23 02 2005

"Post-Kyoto Negotiations and Equity - Way Forward for Africa

1 Beyond Kyoto Protocol, Africa must insist on emissions entitlements based on per capita basis.

2. Due to the unprecedented climate change, Africa should insist on an agreed date for "Contraction" (reduction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere) and "Convergence" (equal sharing of environmental space per person).

3. Under the Kyoto Protocol trading mechanisms were set for North-North trading. Beyond Kyoto, trading mechanisms must be expanded on an equitable basis covering all regions.

4. In view of the impacts of climate change, African Union should engage as a matter of urgency in Post-Kyoto negotiations. This should include involvement of African sub-regional groupings.

5. Unity of purpose should be our driving force

Africa already has a honourable and equitable proposal for greenhouse emissions reductions way back in 1997 when she proposed that emissions entitlements should be based on a per capita basis as every human being has an equal right to environmental space. Equity is a central issue to Africa. It is therefore desirable that we position ourselves appropriately to be able to participate proactively in the Post-Kyoto debate."

http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Musyoka_Kenya_Minister_2005.pdf

[See also African Briefing]: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/African_Priorities_2005.pdf

While DFID Minister Hilary Benn clearly sees this: -

" . . . if sustainable development is to work, then its most fundamental principle must be fairness and equitability. I mentioned earlier that advocates of development are trying to get a bigger share of the cake for the poor. Environmental advocates emphasise rightly that we need to shrink the cake back to within sustainable limits – and use the cake much more efficiently. Sustainable development is where those two requirements meet: and the synthesis of the two is fairness. This principle – equal rights for all to the global environmental commons, or "shrink and share" as

WWF's Living Planet Report refers to it – has to become the basis of the new global consensus. If interdependence is the theory, this is the practice.”

http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Hilary_Benn.pdf

DEFRA lingers in the argument that poor people are too poor to count: - “Contraction and convergence has achieved prominence amongst the suggested frameworks because it is a level based on the principle of equity and because of its global coverage.

One problem that has been put forward with this framework of entitlements per-capita is that many of the poorest people in developing countries do not have access to electricity, are not consumers in any significant way and are often outside the national economy. Per-capita emissions rights could end up maintaining the status-quo of inefficient energy production and consumption in these countries. It could augment the difference between rich and poor in certain countries by acting as a subsidy for inefficient electricity production which would only benefit the middle-classes who have access to energy.”

See recent letter at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/DEFRA_Begum.pdf

This is the blocking argument also used by the distinguished US contrarian Fred Singer; “C&C will transfer money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.”

An acid critic of this at COP-10 tellingly observed that, “you only count if you pollute.”

However, is this really what's in the institutional critics minds with C&C, let them: -

1. identify the group to which they feel they belong and then
2. reveal their strategy for dealing with this [other than reverting to the disorganised and wishful thinking rehearsed in the rest of their letter] for example by adopting the DTQ proposals.

DTQs are a clear political winner. And they are also a well-structured and effective antidote for this ‘contrarian-problem’.

Monbiot on C&C in Socialist Review Aubrey Meyer

Mar 03, 2005 06:54 PST

Environment: Trading in Destruction

Feature Article by Ian Rappel, March 2005

The solutions put forward at a recent conference on climate change in Exeter are inadequate, writes Ian Rappel. Our interview of the month is with environment activist George Monbiot.

Excerpt . . .

“The emissions trading system is an important part of Kyoto. Can it ever be equitable or just to buy the right to pollute?”

“Under the current system absolutely not. The problem we have is that the quotas have been awarded to corporations, and the corporations—which have caused the biggest emissions in the past—have been granted the biggest quotas. So those who are most responsible for the crime benefit most from that crime. This seems to be profoundly contrary to natural justice.

I think a quota system would be fair if it was done on a global per capita basis. In other words, if everybody all around the world had an equal carbon quota, so that those who used less than their quota could be financially rewarded for using less, there would be some justice in it. Then, in my way, it could be a viable part of the contraction and convergence model. But to hand these quotas out to corporations, so that they can treat them as any other commodity, and make money twice from climate change - first from causing the problem, and then from trading the problem - is profoundly wrong.”

[full interview and graphic - screen version]

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Monbiot_CandC_N_Soc.pdf

[full interview and graphic - print version]

[http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Monbiot_CandC\[scr\]_N_Soc.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Monbiot_CandC[scr]_N_Soc.pdf)

Socialist Review website: -

<http://www.socialistreview.org.uk/>

article at: -

<http://www.socialistreview.org.uk/article.php?articlenumber=9283>

CTBI embrace C&C Aubrey Meyer

Mar 11, 2005 00:50 PST

"Prosperity with a Purpose"

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

in-@ctbi.org.uk

ISBN Paperback 0851693091

Incisive set of Essays examining the paradox of prosperity plus several policy recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The British Government should embrace the concept of contraction and convergence as currently the most effective and fair global solution to addressing the problem of climate change and with other policies for a low carbon economy being set within this wider framework.

"One of the problems with the Kyoto Protocol has been its perceived unfairness, locking into place for decades to come, the advantages of the haves and the disadvantages of the have-nots. The Global Commons Institute has developed a scheme to deal with climate change on a global basis. It claims to be both comprehensive and fair. This global framework is referred to as 'contraction and convergence'.

Briefly, this states that climate change is a global problem driven by "over-consumption and which results in the burden of its consequences being unequally borne. It is proposed that there should be a global contraction of carbon emissions.

The fairest way to work towards this is to allocate the right to emissions on the basis of equal per capita shares. Participating states would fix a long-term target for global greenhouse gas emission and the necessary cuts in emissions required to meet it (contraction). They would then adopt the principle of according every person in the world an equal entitlement to emit greenhouse gases by a certain date - perhaps between 2030-2050 so that a country's emission limits would, by then, be determined by its population. In the transitional period a global market in emissions would transfer resources to poor countries that have surplus emissions and force rich countries to drive down their emissions by applying the technologies developed for a post-carbon age. Clearly, the reduction in emissions caused by the heaviest polluters will have to be very dramatic indeed. But this is precisely the kind of challenge that a prosperous society is equipped to meet: its capacity to innovate in the market-place

is its greatest strength. Again, the somewhat sceptical Bjorn Lomborg has calculated that the costs of addressing the problem of global warming are not great - it is essentially imagination and political will that is lacking.

The scheme 'contract and converge- is bold and far reaching and above all equitable. It does not polarize the world between rich and poor, North and South in the way that the Kyoto negotiations have done. Embraced fully and managed creatively this scheme could help towards new technology for a low carbon emission world. Some such global approach to the problem, more radical and effective than Kyoto, must be embraced. In the meantime, piecemeal approaches must suffice."

ABC urges C&C on Policy Makers Aubrey Meyer

Mar 11, 2005 02:58 PST

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, urged grassroots support for environmental issues to be seen as major political and electoral issues.

In a sermon delivered on the 8th of March he said: -

"Election campaigns seldom give much space to environmental matters; but the perceived significance of these concerns is weightier now than it has ever been."

Speaking to the need for new regulatory frameworks to protect the environment from economic depredation, he urged policy makers to embrace "contraction and convergence" regimes in order to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/sermons_speeches/050308.htm

Lambeth Palace press office:

Tel: 0207 898 1280/1200

Fax: 0207 261 1765

www.archbishopofcanterbury.org

A New Parliamentary EDM is being prepared in support of the Archbishop's message. This will be published shortly.

UK Conservatives adopt C&C . . . ? Aubrey Meyer

Mar 14, 2005 09:46 PST

Tim Yeo [UK Conservative]

Shadow Environment Secretary

Today - in the run up to the UK election - the Conservative Party has publicly taken a position in favour of Contraction and Convergence.

"To be fair to the Prime Minister, he sees the opportunity. But where is the beef? So far all he has offered is some classic spin around a Blair brand called Kyoto Lite which has been rightly greeted with derision.

We want the EU to shape and sell a post Kyoto framework to stabilise the climate based on the 'contract and converge principle'. Such an agreement must include the developing nations and recognise their pressure to grow."

http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Yeo_14_03_2005.pdf

Support New C&C EDM in UK Parliament. Aubrey Meyer

Mar 17, 2005 12:29 PST

C&C Early Day Motion [EDM]

UK Parliament

General Election

This is a guest letter to GCN from Dr Mayer Hillman, Policy Studies Institute and Author of Penguin Classic "How to Save the Planet" [Shortly going into its US Edition – details at the bottom].

Dear Colleagues in the C&C list of the Global Commons Network

With this letter I am appealing to you to write to UK MPs urging them to support the new Contraction and Convergence [C&C] EDM [see below].

The pro-C&C EDM will be launched at the eminent persons press conference at the beginning of next week.

It is a cross-party initiative in favour of C&C that already has 120 MPs signatures before the campaign for its support has even begun.

Its sponsors will be: -

Colin Challen Labour

Peter Ainsworth Conservative

Norman Baker Liberal Democrat

All of them and all of us are on the record as determined to raise this issue above the rivalries of

party politics. Supporters so far will be published on the parliamentary website on Tuesday. Time is short now. We have effectively two working weeks before parliament rises for the UK election, so prompt action for this persuasion is vital if we are to affect the election.

It prepares GCI's imminent campaign to ask all prospective parliamentary candidates of all parties in all UK constituencies to consider a "C&C"- Pledge [with campaign details published shortly] as part of their 'election promises'.

The urgent need for a credible response to dangerous climate change is on the agenda. As this powerfully worded EDM and support for it shows, C&C is increasingly seen as the global core and inclusive basis of that response.

Sitting MPs and contact details are here. You don't have to live in a particular constituency or even in the UK to write to them a nice letter urging them to support this position. Simply quote the text below and write to as many MPs as you feel moved to.

<http://www.parliament.uk/directories/directories.cfm>

Even just doubling the existing support will raise C&C position through the UK election into the next parliament and onto the agenda of the G-8. Given the special UK-US relationship, trebling support will finally change the mood of international politics on this most pressing issue of human destiny from here on out.

Thank you for reading this. Below the EDM text, I have quoted liberally from the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent speech as a further encouragement to your support and prompt action, for which I hope and for which I sincerely thank you.

Yours sincerely

Mayer Hillman

EDM TEXT

The G8 and Contraction and Convergence

That this House welcomes the recent decision of the Synod of the Church of England to support Contraction and Convergence as the overarching framework to tackle climate change* further welcomes the comments of The Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya, given at a meeting for African Environment Ministers in Nairobi in February 2005, supporting Contraction and Convergence** congratulates Aubrey Meyer, founder of the Global Commons Institute, which formulated the concept of Contraction and Convergence on his receiving the Climate Change Champion Award made by the Corporation of London for his work in attracting the support of many governments and international agencies for Contraction and Convergence***

and calls upon the Government to seek, during its presidency of the G8, to advance the international effort to avert the dangers of climate change by promoting the constitutional framework of Contraction and Convergence which embodies the principle of equal rights to the global commons. The EDM is being tabled next Monday and probably launched that day or the next-day - Tuesday with a press-conference.

1. The Mayor of London has been approached by his own people to attend this event. The GLA is pro C&C - see the Mayor's Energy Strategy

http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/energy/docs/energy_strategy04.pdf

2. The Lord Mayor (of the City of London) has been approached by his own people to attend this event.

The City is interested in C&C. Three weeks ago, the Corporation gave GCI's Director, Aubrey Meyer its lifetime's achievement award for establishing C&C.

3. The Archbishop of Canterbury has been approached by his own people to attend this event.

Both he and the CoE are now very pro C&C - see Synod vote and links below - and he is encouraging PPCs to consider the C&C pledge in the election.

Church of England <http://lists.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read/message.html?mid=>

Archbishop's Speech

. . . calls for action on environment to head off social crisis:

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has warned that "without a radical rethink of the relationship between environmental and economic challenges the world could face the spectre of "social collapse."

In a keynote lecture at the University of Kent in Canterbury, Dr Williams said that the separation, or even the opposition, of economic and environmental concerns had "come to look like a massive mistake."

"Economy and ecology," he warned, "cannot be separated."

"To seek to have economy without ecology is to try and manage an environment with no knowledge or concern about how it works in itself - to try and formulate human laws in abstraction from or ignorance of the laws of nature."

Dr Williams foresaw dire consequences for such an approach: "When we speak about environmental crisis, we are not to think only of spiralling poverty and mortality, but about brutal and uncontrollable conflict. An economics that ignores environmental degradation invites social degradation - in plain terms, violence."

Dr Williams rejected the idea that technology itself would solve the ecological crisis: "To appeal to a technical future is to say our most fundamental right as humans is unrestricted consumer choice."

Instead there needed to be big changes to public attitudes, habits and expectations, and Dr Williams urged grassroots support for environmental issues to be seen as major political and electoral issues: "Election campaigns seldom give much space to environmental matters; but the perceived significance of these concerns is weightier now than it has ever been."

Dr Williams also encouraged policy makers to embrace "contraction and convergence" regimes in order to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

The archbishop went on to envisage new regulatory frameworks to protect the environment from economic depredation. He spoke of the "urgency of some intensified international regime to monitor and discipline economic activity."

He also envisaged a charter of environmental rights, adding: "we should be able to live in a world that still had wilderness spaces, that still nurtured a balanced variety of species, that allowed us access to unpoisoned natural foodstuffs."

Dr Williams highlighted the significance of faith traditions in promoting a new approach: "All the great religious traditions, in their several ways, insist that personal wealth is not to be seen in terms of reducing the world to what the individual can control and manipulate for whatever exclusively human purposes may be most pressing."

He added: "The loss of a sustainable environment protected from unlimited exploitation is the loss of a sustainable humanity in every sense - not only the loss of a spiritual depth but ultimately the loss of simple material stability as well. It is up to us as consumers and voters to do better justice to the 'house' we have been invited to keep, the world where we are guests."

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org>

Support from the main political parties is also spreading rapidly, indicating to a remarkable degree how 'above politics' this crucial issue has become.

1. The Conservatives now support C&C: -

http://www.conservatives.com/tile.do?def=news.story.page&obj_id=120541&speeches=1

Tim Yeo, Conservative Shadow Minister of the Environment this Monday.

2. The Lib Dems and their leader support C&C: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Kennedy_C&C_Speech.pdf

3. Half the Labour Party does: 4. The Green Party does: -

<http://www.greenparty.org.uk/files/reports/2004/2climate%20challenge.htm>

5. Respect does: -

<http://www.respectcoalition.org/pdf/finalconferenceres.pdf>

Even the smaller parties like Plaid and the SNP are saying similar things.

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution is pro-C&C as is the All-Party Environmental Audit Committee Report to be published just before Easter.

Even the US Evangelicals are now calling for action: -

http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/10/national/10evangelical.html?incamp=article_popular_1

My book "How we can save the planet" Penguin 2004

" . . . sets out the justification for taking the issue far more seriously, the inadequacy of government policy and of industry's actions, and not least and not surprisingly, the public's lack of preparedness to face the facts."

http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/0141016922/ref=pd_bxgy_img_2_cp/026-3008669-2074010

C&C Early Day Motion [EDM] "961" launched in the UK Parliament yesterday with 125 endorsements already. [Press release & EDM text below].

Here is the link with the text and the supporters list: -

<http://edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=961>

Please will you write to your MP asap and ask that, if the haven't already signed it, they consider doing this.

More support will give more weight to the bill's primary sponsor Colin Challen MP. He is now in a good position to carry this C&C message to the Prime Minister in Downing Street and he is determined to do this, stressing the UK cross-party consensus for C&C* and the relevance of this to Mr Blair's G-8 agenda - Climate and Africa.

* See links in previous email: -

<http://lists.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read/message.html?mid=1718559458&sort=d&start=433#>

Press release

MPs flock to a new way of tackling climate change

Over 120 MPs from across the party divide today backed a parliamentary motion which supports a new way of tackling climate change called Contraction and Convergence [C&C].

The C&C idea is gaining momentum in the year in which Tony Blair has put climate change at the top of the G8 and EU agenda. Not only individual MPs, but mainstream political parties, the Church of England, the Corporation of London and many government spokespeople around the world have endorsed the idea.

The motion calls upon the government to place C&C at the heart of its approach to international climate change discussions, recognising the need to reduce carbon emissions to a sustainable level on a globally equitable basis.

Colin Challen MP, who launched the EDM, said:

"Every measure that we take must comply with some objective benchmark, since we need to measure how successful different measures can be in reducing carbon emissions. Some people think that emissions trading schemes, such as the one we have just introduced in the EU, simply do not go far enough. Others feel that some measures so far, represent a piecemeal approach, which could lead to confusion because of the lack of an overarching goal. We must adopt a full scale model for tackling climate change which is both simple and disciplined. C&C is such an approach, and gives us a way of making real progress on climate change."

Aubrey Meyer, Director of the Global Commons Institute said:

"UK MPs of all parties and their leaders are rallying to endorse C&C. This is the beginning of political will and consensus and after fifteen years this is a break-through and really encouraging.

The consequences of continuing just with the Kyoto-style piece-meal approach to climate change will make fears of a future climate disaster into a self-fulfilling prophecy.

C&C on the other hand, is science-based. It is inclusive as demanded by the US and constitutional as demanded by developing countries. It reconciles future efforts to global prosperity with the environmental limits that create equity and security for all.

As the Archbishop of Canterbury observed when the Anglican Church started campaigning for C&C last year, "anyone who thinks this is utopian, hasn't looked honestly at the alternatives."

The Prime Minister can bank the consensus around this as political capital underwriting his discussions on climate-change and Africa at the forthcoming G-8.

C&C has been Africa's proposition on climate change since 1997. He can field this by saying to the US that C&C uniquely answers the US Senate's demand in 1997 for all countries to be included in emissions control, thus ending the grounds for their climate-veto."

Definition of C&C

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

Text of EDM:

The G8 and Contraction and Convergence

"That this House welcomes the recent decision of the Synod of the Church of England to support Contraction and Convergence as the overarching framework to tackle climate change; further welcomes the comments of The Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya, given at a meeting for African Environment Ministers in Nairobi in February 2005, supporting Contraction and Convergence; congratulates Aubrey Meyer, founder of the Global Commons Institute, which formulated the concept of Contraction and Convergence on his receiving the Climate Change Champion Award made by the Corporation of London for his work in attracting the support of many governments and international agencies for Contraction and Convergence; and calls upon the Government to seek, during its presidency of the G8 to advance the international effort to avert the dangers of climate change by promoting the constitutional framework of Contraction and Convergence which embodies the principle of equal rights to the global commons."

Challen/Colin

Ainsworth/Peter

Baker/Norman

Walley/Joan

Horam/John

Thomas/Simon

Short/Clare

Stunell/Andrew

McNamara/Kevin

Prentice/Gordon

Cryer/Ann

Cruddas/Jon

Ellman/Louise

Cryer/John

Brennan/Kevin

Austin/John

White/Brian

Shaw/Jonathan

Lazarowicz/Mark

Williams/Betty
Clark/Helen
Flynn/Paul
Jones/Lynne
Caton/Martin
Dalyell/Tam
Edwards/Huw
Jenkins/Brian
Olnier/Bill
George/Andrew
Turner/Dennis
Simpson/Alan
Griffiths/Jane
Bottomley/Peter
Lucas/Ian
Ruddock/Joan
Battle/John
Taylor/David
Pugh/John
Doughty/Sue
Meale/Alan
Campbell/Menzies
Howarth/Alan
Dobbin/Jim
Lewis/Terry
Wareing/Robert N
Fisher/Mark
Donohoe/Brian H
Williams/Hywel
Sarwar/Mohammad
Taylor/Teddy
Pound/Stephen
McKechin/Ann
Drown/Julia
Walter/Robert
Wyatt/Derek
Taylor/Matthew
McDonnell/John
Llwyd/Elfyn
Kidney/David
Smyth/Martin
Cook/Frank
Bryant/Chris
Savidge/Malcolm
Best/Harold

Mahon/Alice
Cohen/Harry
Strang/Gavin
Trickett/Jon
Ross/Ernie
Burgon/Colin
Soley/Clive
Hinchliffe/David
Heyes/David
Salter/Martin
Gibson/Ian
Doran/Frank
Rooney/Terry
Bradley/Keith
Allen/Graham
Rapson/Syd
Grogan/John
Whitehead/Alan
Pike/Peter L
Jones/Jon Owen
Pickthall/Colin
Jackson/Helen
Lyons/John
Sheridan/Jim
Naysmith/Doug
McWilliam/John
Dowd/Jim
Connarty/Michael
Drew/David
Mountford/Kali
Francis/Hywel
Opik/Lembit
Dobson/Frank
Chaytor/David
Sheerman/Barry
Purchase/Ken
MacDougall/John
Owen/Albert
Hoyle/Lindsay
Simon/Sion
Winnick/David
Griffiths/Win
Sawford/Phil
Lloyd/Tony
Corbyn/Jeremy

Foulkes/George
Jones/Kevan
Turner/Desmond
McWalter/Tony
Farrelly/Paul
Gerrard/Neil
Clapham/Michael
Vis/Rudi
Mitchell/Austin
Pollard/Kerry
Russell/Bob
Gapes/Mike
Evans/Nigel
O'Brien/William
Bottomley/Virginia
Bayley/Hugh

C&C - April Events Diary Aubrey Meyer
Mar 24, 2005 02:32 PST
C&C April Events Diary
GP, Medesin, CTBI, BP
"What Can We Do About Climate Change?"
GCI leads public meeting
Hosted by Green Party
Aberystwyth Town Hall
31st March
<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Aberystwyth.pdf>
[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo\(pc\).exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo(pc).exe)
<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

"Taking Gaia's pulse"
GCI Contraction & Convergence keynote to
Medical Student Annual General Conference
Plymouth
3rd April
<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Medesin.pdf>
http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Medesin_Info.pdf

"What Can We Do About Climate Change?"
GCI hosted by Green Party at pre Election Event.
Magic Cafe,
Magdalen Road,
Oxford
9th April 7:30pm at the
<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Oxford.pdf>

<http://www.bestfootforward.com/>

"Prosperity with Prosperity with a Purpose:

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland [CTBI]

Exploring the Ethics of Affluence"

GCI "The Environmental Challenge - Contract & Converge:

Simple but not Easy"

A Day Conference at Methodist Church House

London

14th April

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/CTBI.pdf>

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/CTBI_Policy.pdf

<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/>

BP Sustainable Mobility Conference on Climate Change

Executive Conference Key-note after dinner speech

"Contraction & Convergence" with Q&A

Crowne Plaza,

Marlow-on-Thames

UK

April 21st and 22nd, 2005

By invitation

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/bp.pdf>

<http://www.bp.com/home.do?categoryId=1>

C&C recommended by UK Parliament Report Aubrey Meyer

Mar 27, 2005 00:37 PST

Published today [Easter Sunday 27th March 2005] UK House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee

Supported by approaching 200 MPs

<http://edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=961>

<http://edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=538>

We would urge the Government not to see its role during 2005 as being simply to broker international discussion. It should rather provide leadership by promoting specific objectives and targets. In that light we would make the following recommendations:

- The UK Government should commit itself to Contraction and Convergence as the framework within which future international agreements to tackle climate change are negotiated; and it should actively seek to engage support for this position during 2005 in advance of the next Conference of the Parties.
- Within the UNFCCC negotiating framework, the UK should press for a review of the adequacy of the commitments in the Convention, and focus its efforts on the need to agree more challenging absolute emission reduction targets within a post-2012 agreement.
- The UK should also actively pursue these objectives within the context of Commonwealth institutions where it could aim to promote a consensus with key nations such as India and Australia.
- In the context of the G8, the UK could pursue a broader range of complementary policies, in-

cluding the need for greater coordinated effort low carbon research, the scope for developing forms of international taxation, and in particular the need to embed environmental objectives more firmly within a range of international organisations.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Environmental_Audit_Committee_Climate_Report

Contraction and Convergence

83. Such calculations provide an interesting and important perspective on the context in which negotiations on a post-2012 framework should take place. The Global Commons Institute (GCI) has been promoting the concept of equal per capita emission allocations since its foundation in 1990, and it has coined the term “Contraction and Convergence” (C&C) to describe its approach. C&C involves two distinct stages—firstly defining the level to which global emissions need to be reduced to avoid dangerous climate change, and secondly allocating this level of emissions to countries on an equal per capita basis.

84. The C&C model put forward by the GCI does not in itself define the mechanisms by which emission reductions are to be achieved—whether through emissions trading, international taxes, or regulatory approaches. Nor does it stipulate the actual level at which emissions should be stabilised, or indeed the timescales over which the targets should be set. It does, however, graphically illustrate the consequences of varying these parameters, and provides a useful framework within which to set targets and frame policy responses. The real strength of the model, however, arises from the manner in which the concept of equity underpins it.

85. Given the scale of the reductions which are needed, there is now a growing awareness of the need for a ‘full-term’ framework such as the one C&C provides. Indeed, it is difficult to argue with the fundamental principle of equal per capita allocations, and various witnesses—including the Under-Secretary of State of the Foreign Office and the Director-General of the CBI—acknowledged the viability of the model.⁶⁸ This is also reflected in the joint memorandum submitted by DEFRA and the FCO,⁶⁹ and in the recent report from the International Climate Change Taskforce which explicitly accepted that equal per capita emissions allowances should form the basis for a long-term solution.⁷⁰ While, in their memorandum to us, Barclays Capital set out a vision of an all-embracing international ETS involving 60 year targets determined by a C&C approach.⁷¹

86. Any framework which involves radical emission reductions would in practice resemble the Contraction and Convergence approach advocated by the Global Commons Institute. Indeed, in terms of domestic policy aims, the UK Government has already implicitly accepted this approach in adopting the 60% carbon reduction target for 2050; and it is therefore inconsistent not to adopt such an approach internationally. We do not see any credible alternative and none was suggested in evidence to our inquiry. We therefore recommend that the UK Government should formally adopt and promote Contraction and Convergence as the basis for future international agreements to reduce emissions.

101. We would urge the Government not to see its role during 2005 as being simply to broker international discussion. It should rather provide leadership by promoting specific objectives and targets.

In that light we would make the following recommendations:

- The UK Government should commit itself to Contraction and Convergence as the framework within which future international agreements to tackle climate change are negotiated; and it should actively seek to engage support for this position during 2005 in advance of the next Conference of the Parties.
- Within the UNFCCC negotiating framework, the UK should press for a review of the adequacy of the commitments in the Convention, and focus its efforts on the need to agree more challenging absolute emission reduction targets within a post-2012 agreement.
- The UK should also actively pursue these objectives within the context of Commonwealth institutions where it could aim to promote a consensus with key nations such as India and Australia.
- In the context of the G8, the UK could pursue a broader range of complementary policies, including the need for greater coordinated effort low carbon research, the scope for developing

forms of international taxation, and in particular the need to embed environmental objectives more firmly within a range of international organisations.

102. We take issue with the Prime Minister's view, expressed in his recent speech at Davos, that science and technology provide the means to tackle climate change. Whilst we understand the desire to adopt such an approach in an effort to bring the US Government on board, it is simply not credible to suggest that the scale of the reductions which are required can possibly be achieved without significant behavioural change. In focussing on science and technology, the Government is creating the appearance of activity around the problem of Climate Change whilst evading the harder national and international political decisions which must be made if there is to be any solution.

103. In our view the challenge of climate change is now so serious that it demands a degree of political commitment which is virtually unprecedented. Whether the political leaders of the world are up to the task remains to be seen. Leadership on this issue calls for something more than pragmatism or posturing. It requires qualities of courage, determination and inspiration which are rare in peacetime. In according priority to climate change, the Prime Minister has set himself and his Government a mighty challenge and we must hope they rise to it.

Full Report with all Written Evidence available Tuesday: -

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/environmental_audit_committee.cfm

With the honourable exception of Geoffrey Lean in the Sunday Independent

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/environment/story.jsp?story=624055>

. . . . UK media coverage so far ritually excludes report's main finding

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4385547.stm>

<http://business.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=323762005>

"C&C Pledge" in UK Election Aubrey Meyer

Mar 29, 2005 08:18 PST

"Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) is something we can organise to avert dangerous climate change.

BELOW IS A C&C ELECTION PLEDGE: - PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES [PPCs] & ASK THEY TAKE IT.

[CONTACT LINKS BELOW]

Dear GCN subscriber

Please will you send the short "pledge-letter" below to your Prospective Parliamentary Candidates [PPCs] and ask them to support the text of the pledge on climate change for PPCs and take it for UK General Election.

I am going to send it to each PPC of each Party in each Constituency over the next couple of weeks asking them to make it their shared position on avoiding dangerous global climate change. With this letter to you I am asking you to: -

1. send the pledge letter below to your PPCs as well

2. get PPC signed consent to the pledge and copy this to me

LINKS to all their names and contact details by constituency and party are at the end of this message.

Replies to me please aub-@gci.org.uk and I will make these public on-line on the gci website.

With thanks

Yours sincerely

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

[You do not have to live in the UK to write to PPCs. This is a global issue].

PLEDGE-LETTER

Dear [candidate]

Please will you support this pledge on climate change and confirm this in writing with a copy to aub-@gci.org.uk .

With thanks and best wishes,

[sender].

"I agree with the House of Commons All-Party Environmental Audit Committee [EAC] who have strongly urged the Government to provide leadership on climate change this year by committing itself to Contraction and Convergence [C&C] * as the framework within which future international agreements to tackle climate change are negotiated. **

I [the PPC] will advocate this C&C position during and beyond the forthcoming general election and urge the next government to seek support for this position during 2005 in advance of the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN-FCCC)."

* http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Short_C&C.pdf

[Short C&C definition]

** http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/EAC_Final_C&C.pdf [Full EAC Report]

Names and contacts for the PPCs for all parties/constituencies are at these links: -

England -

<http://www.politics.co.uk/candidatefindpage.aspx?code=430006374&menuindex=430014379>

Scotland

<http://www.politics.co.uk/candidatefindpage.aspx?code=430006375&menuindex=430014379>

Wales

<http://www.politics.co.uk/candidatefindpage.aspx?code=430006376&menuindex=430014379>

Northern Ireland

<http://www.politics.co.uk/candidatefindpage.aspx?code=430006377&menuindex=430014379>

PPCs who do this, also confirm their agreement with the MPs and MSPs who have already taken this position in parliament and committed themselves to future cross-party unity on this beyond the election.

<http://edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=961>

<http://edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=538>

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-03-23f.htm>

C&C through the Eye of a Needle? Aubrey Meyer

Apr 15, 2005 09:47 PDT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

15 APRIL 2005

Notice to NEWS DESKS

Pre-election conference votes for social justice

Eighty people from the British Churches discussed what they insist are the key election issues at a day conference in London. Economics experts, social commentators and church leaders were

brought together to respond to the Prosperity with a Purpose project, initiated by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. They urged that the wealth of the competitive market should serve the purposes of justice.

Politics are often about people's pursuit of their own interests.

Christians should conduct their politics as if others mattered.

Child poverty should be an electoral issue, argued Helen Dent. She is Chief Executive of the Family Welfare Association. 'Poverty is the inability to buy essentials', she said. She was adamant that the present government housing policy was 'a disgrace'. Voters should ask electoral candidates what they would do for vulnerable people.

Climate change is the most serious threat now facing the world. Government should act urgently on the need for a radical reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Christians should take the lead in changing their own lives accordingly.

'Rather than make poverty history, climate change will make us all history,' said Aubrey Meyer, 'unless we establish an international framework of "Contraction and Convergence" of future greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.' [see below **]

Aubrey co-founded the Global Commons Institute in 1990 and has spent 15 years at the United Nations climate negotiations advocating this framework with increasing success.

Deputy editor of The Economist, Clive Crook reasoned that the West needs to abolish its unjust trade practices. It does not require the same response for poor countries. 'Poor countries make themselves even poorer by restricting trade among themselves,' he said.

Many present echoed issues raised by the Prosperity with a Purpose project. Britain is a rich country which can afford to end poverty. No person in Britain should fall below a minimum level of income and the government should establish a Minimum Income Agency. The trade practices of the European Union inflict huge suffering on the poor world. Agricultural subsidies and tariffs should be progressively abolished.

The issues are discussed in detail in the CTBI publication Prosperity with a Purpose: Exploring the Ethics of Affluence, and there is an online discussion forum at www.ctbi.org.uk

-Ends -

For further information:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is the umbrella body for all the major Christian Churches in Britain and Ireland. It liaises with ecumenical bodies in Britain and Ireland as well as ecumenical organizations at European and world levels. Its work includes Church Life, Church and Society, Mission, Inter Faith Relations, International Affairs and Racial Justice. It provides a forum for joint decision-making and enables the Churches to take action together.

See www.ctbi.org.uk

2. There are two documents: Prosperity with a Purpose – Christians and the Ethics of Affluence (CTBI A33.99) and Prosperity with a Purpose - Exploring the Ethics of Affluence (CTBI A311.99). Both available from CTBI Publications, phone 01733 325 002.

3. Prosperity with a Purpose involved a wide process of ecumenical consultation. The Report was produced by a working group of CTBI

'CONTRACTION & CONVERGENCE' for avoiding Dangerous Climate Change and securing Posterity for Prosperity 14th April

Print version: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Brochure\(CTBI\)_A3.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Brochure(CTBI)_A3.pdf)

Screen version: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Brochure_\(CTBI\)_A3_\[screen\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Brochure_(CTBI)_A3_[screen].pdf)

"The future is Life" [if there is one]. Aubrey Meyer

Apr 17, 2005 06:51 PDT

"The future is Life" [but needs C&C to Change the Maths we live by].

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/environment/story.jsp?story=630185>

"Environmentalism is dead" - an autopsy performed by Adam Werbach, former president of the Sierra Club in the US, [8/12/2004] on where the environmental movement should go now.

<http://www.grist.org/news/maindish/2005/01/13/werbach-reprint/>

"I am here to perform an autopsy. Autopsies begin with these words. *Hic locus est ubi mors gaudet succurrere vitae.* Translated from Latin, this means: *This is the place where death rejoices to teach those who live.*"

I tremble at them, because this is not an easy speech for me to give. I know in my mind that to forego the examination of death is to fail to honour the dead. But all I can think about right now is my love for what environmentalism was."

Adam also co-founded the Apollo Alliance, a plan to energy independence: strategic investments in fuel-efficient technologies to create jobs, reduce consumption, decrease oil imports, and reorient U.S. foreign policy.

"Changing the Myths We Live By"

An op-ed in today's Sunday Independent from Dr Rowan Williams

"A manageable first step relating particularly to carbon emissions, supported by a wide coalition of concerned parties, is of course the "contraction and convergence" proposals initially developed by the Global Commons Institute in London."

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/environment/story.jsp?story=630185>

A week before GCI is supposed to address BP, their CEO took a pay-rise to over £15,000 a day with the words, "the best is yet to come." GCI says, "that is subject to C&C at rates the limit the worst of what lies ahead."

BP are in the market, but can they afford him? [Can they afford GCI?].

Here [page 30] the Society of Environmental Journalists based in Washington DC assess Ross Gelbspan's assessment of Apollo, C&C, and pay differentials etc

[http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/sej_fa04\[1\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/sej_fa04[1].pdf)

C&C and Greening the UK Election? Aubrey Meyer

Apr 18, 2005 10:24 PDT

Independent on Monday [18th April 2005]

"Green idea whose time has come"

Sir: I thank Johann Hari (UK Independent Newspaper, Opinion - 13 April - see below) for highlighting the commitment of the Green Party to avoiding dangerous climate change with "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C). The Greens understand better than most that C&C is simple to understand and necessary, but not easy to do.

However, the name of "Contraction and Convergence" that Mr Hari seems to dislike, is not the fault of the Greens. The fault - if it is one - is mine. And while after 58 years I do not belong to any political party, I do prefer (perhaps like the Greens) that what is in the tin is also written on the label.

Candid or boring, the Liberal Democrats, Scottish Nationalists, Plaid Cymru, Respect and the Conservatives now also support C&C, along with around 180 MPs mostly from the Labour Party. The Church of England and numerous other institutions do including the Corporation of London and the Greater London Authority. The list goes on. It is also Africa's proposal to the climate negotiations.

The empty chair, strangely, is Mr Blair's. But his chair at the G8 will undoubtedly be filled by the C&C idea (with or without him). Climate change and Africa are his agenda and parliamentary candidates from all parties in this UK election are now pledging on-line to advocate the Government's adoption of C&C after the election and before the G8.

AUBREY MEYER

DIRECTOR, GLOBAL COMMONS INSTITUTE, LONDON E17

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/letters/story.jsp?story=630490>

Johann Hari's Opinion Piece 13th April

Pay at the INDI site: -

http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists_a_l/johann_hari/story.jsp?story=628838

or read free at: -

<http://johannhari.com/archive/article.php?id=600>

A slap in the face for our political stupidity.

It's very easy for environmentalists to despair, but the Greens remind us there are solutions to this crisis

When the history books are written in a far warmer world, this general election campaign will seem like a holiday from reality.

While it's comforting (and essential) to rant about George Bush's refusal to sign the Kyoto Treaty, we need to face our own responsibility too. In the middle of a global crisis, Britain is still one of the world's worst polluters. For all of Tony Blair's apparent concern on this issue, this country's carbon emissions - yours and mine - increased last year, and they are still higher than they were in 1997. One of the Government's most senior scientists - John Lawton - says simply: "The world is heading towards massive climatic change. I have become extremely worried about it. In fact, I am terrified."

So what are our leaders sound-biting about? Immigration, dirty hospitals, gypsies. All worth discussing - but they are the tiniest dribble of sweat compared to global sweltering.

The launch of the Green Party's manifesto yesterday was an essential slap in the face for our political stupidity. We must listen to them because, right now, we are trapped in the world of "autistic economics". Like Dustin Hoffman in Rainman, our economists are intelligent, narrowly focused and cut off from whole dimensions of life. When they look at the economy, they can see a narrow range of figures - inflation, GDP, growth - but their tidy spreadsheets do not include the massive environmental destruction that lies behind economic indicators.

It doesn't have to be like this. Environmentally sane people need to fight for a shift to "true-cost economics", where environmental damage is as important a factor in guiding our decisions as signals from the marketplace.

It's very easy for environmentalists to despair, but the Greens remind us there is a solution to this crisis (even if they do give it the excruciatingly boring name of "Contraction and Convergence"). The world's climate scientists have now determined a safe level of carbon emissions for humanity, roughly 60 per cent lower than present levels. This should be declared to be mankind's "budget", beyond which we risk disaster. Each country can then be allocated a fair share of the global carbon budget, according to the size of its population and its need for artificial heating.

At the moment, there are gross inequalities in the way we draw on the budget - Britain takes far more than its fair share, for one. That's why there would have to be a transition period - say, 40 years - when rich countries would contract their emissions, poorer countries would increase theirs, and eventually we converge on safe levels.

Yes, this would require huge upheavals in the way we live - but even more huge (and deadly) upheavals will come if we do not deal with climate change. Our governments will not spontaneously do the right thing - it's up to us to force them. So how can we send a signal in this election that we - some of the worst polluters - want to choose environmental sanity over disaster? In the vast majority of constituencies, I think protest voting against Labour is - thanks to our lousy electoral

system - pretty self-indulgent, because it risks splitting the left vote and letting in Conservatives who will be worse on every issue, including climate change.

But there are two parliamentary seats in the looming election where a vote for the Greens might be more than a protest: Brighton Pavillion and Brighton Kemptown. The Greens already hold the overall balance of power on the local council, and they represent the area in the European Parliament after they pushed Labour into third place at last year's

European elections.

The election of Britain's first Green Party MP would make a tangible difference: on 6 May, every Labour MP would begin nervously to swot up on climate change. In 1989, the Green Party had a surprising win in the European elections and it forced even the Conservatives to treat the Rio Earth Summit much more seriously.

In Germany, there are more Green parliamentarians than anywhere else in the world - and they have the highest level of renewable energy of any nation. One of the best arguments for proportional representation is that it would guarantee a constant Green presence in British politics and might lever us in the right direction before it's too late.

In three weeks, most decent people have an obligation to vote Labour through gritted teeth for fear of something much worse. The lucky people of Brighton are blessed with the option of turning green in the polling booth. Unless all the parties become more green soon, it's going to become pretty hot in here.

BP and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Apr 24, 2005 04:30 PDT

Two day event Climate Change Conference under Chatham House rules [means no personal names mentioned outside the event - [fair enough]].

C&C key-note speech Be Prepared: -

"Is BP for Bit-Part of Big-Picture?"

Corporate response at conclusion: - "C&C has given us a vision."

This is serious: BP is now in danger of having more sense than money.

See: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/BP.pdf>

Taster see: - [http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/BP_\[playing_dice\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/BP_[playing_dice].pdf)

Playing Dice - Simple but not easy

Emissions of greenhouse gases [GHGs] to the atmosphere are accumulating in there. Average global temperature is rising in response.

In the words of the US delegation chief at the Second World Climate Conference in Geneva in November 1990, "That is is simple sophomore physics."

Continuing to raise the GHG concentration this way will raise temperature and damages further.

The solution is simple: - stop the emissions.

Doing this is not easy. However, the reasons for this are easy to understand.

The emissions come from the energy consumption that has under-written the growth of wealth and well-being for the last two hundred years. People are not readily going to give this up.

That growth has been persistently asymmetric and conflict-ridden as a result. Most people say, "when's it my turn?" and have real cause to.

The global nature of the problem requires a global solution to be effective. The Wisdom of Solomon - a C&C framework - is not in play right now.

This is partly because the relationship between emissions and concentrations is not well understood. Rising concentrations are a result of emissions accumulating in the atmosphere.

So to stabilise the rising concentrations requires deep cuts in emissions: - to stop the bath from overflowing, the tap must be turned right off and quickly enough to prevent over-spill. In sum,

success requires we solve the problem faster than we create it.

Enlightened self-interest is understanding precisely that, so as to avoid the worst of what lies ahead. Notions such as 'the best is yet to come' are not enlightened until affirmed as governed by that understanding.

Enlightened understanding is internally consistent and leads to a measured framework for shared action, the way sound leads to life and to music.

Contraction and Convergence is a simple 'musical' framework. It needs to be. While playing music is not that easy, it is impossible without the framework.

God does play dice, and it does sometimes get noisy.

But the thing is God also designed them.

He had to otherwise he couldn't play them.

Dear Paul Wolfowitz . . . Aubrey Meyer

Apr 28, 2005 10:07 PDT

Open Democracy are running a climate change series. They commissioned a C&C piece as the third contribution. The brief to GCI was, "please write a C&C piece in a 'Dear Paul Wolfowitz' tone of voice."

I did and here it is: -

http://www.opendemocracy.net/globalization-climate_change_debate/article_2462.jsp

The United States has it right on climate change - in theory

Aubrey Meyer

A solution to climate change requires a truly global framework. The Kyoto Protocol does not provide this, and the United States shouldn't be regarded as an obstacle to it, argues Aubrey Meyer. 27 - 04 - 2005

Don't miss other articles in openDemocracy's debate on the politics of climate change

To avoid conferring chaos on our descendants we must solve the problem of climate change faster than we create it. The analogy of the atmosphere as a bathtub that we have to stop from overflowing used in a previous article in this debate ("Why wait-and-see won't do") captures the situation perfectly. Our descendants are the ones on the floor below, to be flooded if we carry on as we are. They have a message for us: turn off the tap, fast. Climate change is a global problem and requires a global solution. From the outset – and certainly since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992 – the United States government has acknowledged this.

It is misleading to suggest that the US or any other sensible party is opposed to a sound policy to prevent global warming. It is my consistent impression throughout fifteen years of direct involvement in this process, that the US has only opposed – and rightly opposed – ineffectual policies.

Contraction and convergence

In 1990, my London-based organisation, the Global Commons Institute (GCI), proposed what is now widely known and supported as "contraction and convergence".

C&C, as it is often referred to, is a science and rights-based proposal: carbon democracy subject to the laws of physics. It is a global calculus that enables us all to create a global emissions agreement that can solve the problem faster than we create it, and to be seen to do so in a way that is equitable.

Emissions have to come down and new technology will definitely help that but we need C&C by definition. In the metaphor, C&C shows how we can cooperate to ensure that the tap is turned off in time, rather than traded in for a gold one.

Contraction & Convergence

The graph shows contraction and convergence in practice. This shows a global rate of emissions

contraction that limits atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases by a given amount by a given date – in this case to 70% above the pre-industrial level by 2030 – with a rate of global convergence that delivers equal per capita emissions in that time frame. Rates of change may be variable and negotiable, but the framework is constant and constitutional.

This briefing also highlights the structural context of the climate policy debate and contains links to information about the genesis of and the growing support for C&C. An annotated, animated graphic C&C demonstration can be found [here](#).

In the same boat

The first assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), presented at the second World Climate Conference in 1990, showed that the increased concentration – or accumulation – of greenhouse gases in the global atmosphere was the result of burning fossil fuels over the previous two centuries.

The report also explained how this is the mechanism raising the global temperature. It observed that cuts of 60-80% in emissions would be required immediately, if concentrations were to be stabilised at the then current values of 25% above pre-industrial levels.

The United States always accepted the science. John Knaess, the leader of the American delegation, used the US press conference to affirm that increased global warming as the result of raised levels of atmospheric greenhouse was “simple sophomore physics”; the only questions were “how much warming and how soon?”

Since then, US policy statements have consistently and correctly made this point: if dangerous climate change is to be averted, a global response – involving all nations is required to limit and reduce future emissions from all human and other sources that will accelerate the warming already occurring.

To this end, the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed in June 1992 to stabilise the rising concentration of greenhouse gases in the global atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous rates of climate change. George Bush senior signed the convention for the United States, and the US government’s stated position has never contradicted this objective.

The US, including George W Bush, has upheld this objective and affirmed the unavoidable truth that no one can be exempted from limits on greenhouse gas emissions if uncontrollable rates of global warming are to be avoided.

In 1990, a rational formulation for emissions control was suggested at the climate conference: that all countries would agree to reduce their emissions by 1-2% per year. Thus began an argument that by June 1992 had led to the clause in the UNFCCC calling for “common but differentiated responsibilities”. The clause meant all countries would control their emissions but at different rates and starting at different points in time, and not at a globally uniform rate in a globally uniform timeframe.

This was an inevitable and necessary reformulation. After two centuries, emissions remain a close proxy for income. Common but differentiated responsibilities recognised that, just as the accumulated amounts of emissions in the atmosphere from each country since 1800 were very different in amount, so too were the associated levels of wealth and power.

As a “developed” country, the US alone had emitted 33% of total emissions with wealth levels to match. “Developing” countries with insignificant equivalent emissions and oceans of poverty to overcome, understandably said, “when is it our turn?” and won the point in the clause.

As can be seen from the year 2000 in the graphic shown here, US per capita emissions were around ten times greater than in the developing regions like India and Africa, reflecting the difference in the accumulated totals shown. Assuming global contraction happens, convergence towards similar per capita emissions will happen by definition.

The Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC was first negotiated between April 1995 and December 1997. US legislators objected – rightly in my view – to the partial and guesswork nature of the limits

envisaged under the protocol. Having already introduced and advocated the benefits of the international tradability of the "permits" created in any programme of emissions control, they tabled a "global solution" known as the Byrd-Hagel Resolution. This received unanimous backing of the US Senate.

The Byrd-Hagel Resolution points the way forward. It accepts the need for "differentiated responsibilities" for all countries in the UNFCCC. It proposes that whilst retaining the same timeframes, the developed countries would accept emissions reduction commitments alongside the developing countries who would accept merely emissions limitation commitments.

This means that, with permit "tradability", there would be negative growth in the entitlements of developed countries alongside the controlled positive growth in the entitlements of developing countries. The structural result: the rich would be financing the clean development of the poor to save the planet.

GCI clearly pointed out that this, by definition, was "contraction and convergence", as there was simply no other conceivable way to organise this global scale solution. Led by the Africa group of nations at Kyoto in December 1997 and supported by India and China, this trade-equity swap in C&C was accepted by the US. In the heat of the negotiations for a global solution, the US accepted that the equitable pre-distribution of emissions permits created by C&C framework was the necessary reward demanded by the developing countries for global emissions trading.

The Kyoto Protocol, by contrast, is widely – and rightly – regarded as inadequate. It omits the US and rewards the problem (by delaying contraction) more than it rewards the solution (which is to accelerate convergence). It will confer conceptual chaos and its consequences on our children. If like this, we continue to argue over how to fumble the tap to our warm bath, they will be flooded and scalded. They won't thank us. They will curse us.

It also includes details of the C&C election pledge at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/climate-pledge/>

Well. we'll see what happens out-there. Back here in the UK you can already see. In a nutshell the growing and favourable response to the C&C pledge has all-but-overwhelmed the capacity of GCI and friends to absorb it - but we are coping and delighted to.

Please do *wherever you are* feel free to join in the advocacy.

Alongside the pledge, candidates names and addresses are there for all to see. The pledge simply asks candidates of all parties in this UK election to agree with the UK Parliament Environmental Audit Committee that the next Government must get whole-heartedly behind C&C, even before the G-8 meet in Scotland in July. [See below].

Please ask them to endorse this too.

"I agree with the recent House of Commons All-Party Environmental Audit Committee [EAC] report which recently urged the UK Government to provide leadership on climate change this year by committing itself to Contraction and Convergence [C&C] 2 3 as the framework within which future international agreements to tackle climate change are negotiated. 4

I will advocate C&C during the current general election campaign and, if elected, urge the next government to seek international support for C&C in advance of the G-8 summit in July and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in Canada in December."

Yes - you too Paul.

REP for C&C? Aubrey Meyer

Apr 29, 2005 15:23 PDT

US "Republicans for Environmental Protection" [REP].

Jim DiPeso of REP asks, "What's in contraction and convergence (C&C) for the United States? Two things."

"Open Democracy" is pushing the envelope . . . open . . .

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/debates/article-6-129-2468.jsp>

and finds . . .

" . . . there are early signs of a changing political dynamic that could result in passage of "McCain-Lieberman", or something like it, if not during the current presidential administration, then in the next.

That, in turn, could serve as the keystone for a global grand bargain where all nations – including the US, China and India – accept a glide path of steadily falling per-capita greenhouse gas limits, but on an asymmetric schedule that puts the early onus for reductions on industrialised nations. This is envisioned by the "contraction and convergence" proposal mooted by the Global Commons Institute (GCI) in the United Kingdom, which the GCI's director Aubrey Meyer outlines in his open-Democracy article.

But what's in contraction and convergence (C&C) for the United States?

Two things.

First, US companies will be unleashed to find business opportunities in international cap-and-trade markets.

Second, by accepting emissions limits, the US would instantly recover a large measure of international political goodwill, which would give the country important leverage in negotiations over climate and a host of other global issues. With all nations covered by greenhouse gas emissions limits, the US will have scored an important political point, namely that solving a global problem requires global participation.

What's in contraction and convergence for developing nations? They would score their own political point, namely that the down payment on global emissions cuts should be charged to industrialised nations, which have enjoyed the fruits of a fossil fuel energy economy.

C&C would give developing nations a new product to sell the industrialised nations, namely unneeded per-capita emissions allocations, at least in the early years of the deal. Sale of those allocations could be dedicated to economic development, including deployment of energy technologies that will clean up urban air pollution and the associated health costs that developing nations can ill afford."

We've passed the 300 C&C-UK-election-pledge mark tonight.

"Slowly, slowly . . .

Up Mt Fuji . . .

O Snail."

Simple steps that could save planet Aubrey Meyer

May 01, 2005 18:20 PDT

Simple steps that could save planet

Aubrey Meyer

Monday May 2, 2005

The Guardian

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,3604,1474683,00.html>

Time is running out to save the planet from irreversible damage from greenhouse gases but a remedy is at hand.

Tony Blair must do what numerous MPs and most of the other political parties have already done - affirm the governance of global climate policy by the principle of contraction and convergence.

As the all-party House of Commons environment committee put it: "The government must provide leadership on climate change this year, at the G8 and during the EU presidency, by committing itself to C&C as the framework within which future agreements to tackle climate change are negotiated."

Ministers now openly talk of climate trends as being absolutely terrifying. We don't have to go there. We simply have to organise C&C now. The secretariat to the UN climate change convention says it is "inevitably required" to achieve the convention's aim - safe and stable greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere.

C&C has four simple steps:

- Imposing a safe upper limit on the concentrations;
- A future shrinking budget in fossil fuel consumption is agreed to meet that limit;
- The international sharing of this budget is agreed, converging to equal shares per head of population;
- The international entitlements arising from these limits are tradable between high and low emitters per capita.*

Almost all political parties are committed to cross-party action after the election, establishing C&C as the basis for action as soon as possible.

The Global Commons Institute is hosting a simple election pledge online.** It asks all prospective parliamentary candidates to support the findings of the Commons environment committee.

C&C is in the manifestoes of the Greens and the Liberal Democrats and is the stated party position of Conservative environment spokesman Tim Yeo; supported by about 200 Labour MPs, Plaid Cymru, Scottish Nationalists and Respect; by the Church of England, the Corporation of London, the Environment Agency, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and numerous other organisations.

C&C has been the position of the Africa Group of Nations to the UN climate negotiations since 1997; 178 MPs, most of whom were Labour, signed early day motions in the previous parliament endorsing C&C.

Blair has been more vocal on the dangers of climate change than just about any serving politician. Yet he and his government have not endorsed C&C so far. They are also trying to weaken the already feeble Kyoto protocol. Worse are comments from his chief climate civil servant who is breaking traditional civil service purdah by speaking in the middle of an election.

Apparently preparing to further appease the still reluctant George Bush for the G8, this man says: "We must accept the future may not be like the past and repeat a target and trading approach." If Bush gets his way, forget about "making poverty history"; the G8 is fruitless because climate change can make history of us all within a generation or so.

We don't have to accept all that. We can affirm the C&C rationale instead. Write and encourage all your prospective parliamentary candidates to do that by taking the C&C pledge.

Tony, this time God is on your side. The Archbishop of Canterbury has said that "anyone who thinks C&C is utopian, simply hasn't looked honestly at the alternatives." Taking the C&C route will make a credible leader of our prime minister and protect our children's future.

* Briefing at: www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf

** Pledge at: www.gci.org.uk/climate-pledge/

ENDS means C&C Aubrey Meyer

May 03, 2005 10:43 PDT

<http://www.endsreport.com/index.cfm?action=report.article&articleID=13853>

ENDS Report 363, April 2005, pp 37-38

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MPs call for 'unprecedented' global effort on climate change

The Government's objectives for taking forward international action on climate change are "dis-
mally unambitious", the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee has warned.¹ Mean-
while, the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee is calling for a Minister for climate
change to ensure that the issue is "put at the very heart of Government".²

The Environmental Audit Committee's inquiry focused on the UK's self-appointed role as an international leader on climate change. Prime Minister Tony Blair has made climate change and Africa the two key priorities for this year's G8 Presidency (ENDS Report 356, pp 4-5).

The MPs argue that the threat of climate change is so severe that "Governments must act as a matter of urgency and on an unprecedented scale: a Marshall plan for climate change is now required." Meeting the challenge "demands a degree of political commitment which is virtually unprecedented" - and, in a dig at Mr Blair, the Committee warns that "leadership on this issue calls for something more than pragmatism or posturing."

The International Energy Agency predicts that global emissions of greenhouse gases will increase by over 60% between 2002 and 2030 - and by 33% even under a scenario in which governments impose tougher environmental policies.

The Committee points to a "yawning chasm" between these figures and scientists' warnings that global emissions need to peak within 20-30 years to avoid "catastrophic climate change impacts" (ENDS Report 361, pp 17-21).

Set against the scale of this challenge, the MPs conclude that the Government's G8 objectives are "dismally unambitious". Indeed, they claim that the Government's focus on climate change science and the development of low carbon technologies "is creating the appearance of activity...whilst evading the harder national and international political decisions which must be made if there is to be any solution."

The Committee urges the Government not to see its role "as being simply to broker international discussion", but to provide leadership by "promoting specific objectives and targets". It should press for agreement on more challenging absolute emission reduction targets to succeed the existing Kyoto Protocol goals, and endorse the approach towards future commitment periods proposed by the International Climate Change Task Force (ENDS Report 361, p 20).

Most significantly, the Committee urges the Government to commit itself to "contraction and convergence" as the framework for the negotiation of future international agreements, and to actively seek support for this position in advance of the next UN climate summit at the end of this year.

Contraction and convergence, which has been promoted by the Global Commons Institute since 1990, defines the level to which global emissions need to be reduced and then allocates them to countries on an equal per capita basis. The Committee sees no "credible alternative", and notes that the Government implicitly accepted the approach when adopting the goal of a 60% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.

The Committee also raises important points on specific policy instruments:

EU emissions trading scheme: The MPs say that across the EU, allocation for the scheme's first phase has seen a "race to the bottom". In the UK, the Confederation of British Industry is singled out for its "competitive and protectionist attitude" (ENDS Report 360, pp 30-31).

The Committee says the Government's scrap with the European Commission over the UK's allocation plan has put it "in danger of wantonly squandering its reputation for leadership on climate change." It argues that the cost of the disputed allocation "pales into insignificance beside the £500 million a year in windfall profits [the power generators] are likely to earn from the scheme."

"Far tougher targets" will need to be set in the scheme's second phase for 2008-12, and should be based on agreeing an overall cap for the EU. The MPs say that the Government should promote auctioning of allowances for the power sector, or else ensure that windfall profits are reinvested in renewable and low carbon technologies.

The Committee urges the Government to use its EU Presidency to ensure greater harmonisation between Member States on issues such as allocation methodologies and treatment of new entrants (see pp 43-44).

The MPs are "sceptical" of the desirability of including other sectors or greenhouse gases in the second phase. They fear that "a relatively small number of high-value projects could increase investment uncertainty and detract from efforts to move to a truly low carbon economy" - and argue that gases other than CO₂ should be "addressed through regulation rather than trading".

Kyoto trading: The Government is confident that the UK will exceed its target under the Kyoto Protocol by a significant margin - although emissions data for 2004 suggest it is not home and dry (see pp 3-4).

In its consultation on the review of the climate change programme, the Government asked whether it should sell any surplus on the international carbon market (ENDS Report 359, pp 48-49). The Committee says it "would be entirely inappropriate" to sell the surplus - which is likely to be worth billions of pounds, especially if the UK gets anywhere near its domestic goal to cut CO2 emissions by 20% from 1990 levels.

Aviation: One of the Government's few clear environmental goals for its EU Presidency is to push for the inclusion of intra-EU flights in the EU emissions trading scheme from 2008.

The Committee sees "no possibility" that this goal could be achieved, and calls for a mixture of other policies, including taxation and emissions charging, to be pursued. It also points to "significant problems" in deciding how to allocate allowances to aviation - and warns that the future profile of allocation to the sector should decrease in absolute terms rather than incorporating assumptions based on continued growth.

The MPs' robust conclusions follow last year's bitter fight with the Department for Transport over the environmental impacts of forecast aviation growth (ENDS Report 353, pp 28-30).

Environment Committee report: The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee also reported on the Government's climate change policies. It offers a fairly pedestrian tour of well-worn ground, with few pointed or novel recommendations.

The most significant recommendation is that the Government should appoint a Minister for climate change, or else a Cabinet Committee, to focus and co-ordinate efforts across all Departments and to ensure that all parts of Whitehall are engaged with the seriousness of the issue.

Further information

1 4th Report, Session 2004/05, The international challenge of climate change: UK leadership in the G8 and EU.

(<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmenvaud/105/105.pdf>)

2 9th Report, Climate change: looking forward.

(<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmenvfru/130/130i.pdf>)

ENDS Report 363, April 2005, pp 37-38

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Climate flops in UK Election? Aubrey Meyer

May 04, 2005 05:26 PDT

C&C is a clear position focused on rising to the international climate challenge. Rising to this challenge means we must solve the problem faster than we create it.

Safe and stable GHG concentrations in the atmosphere are the result of C&C. AS the UNFCCC correctly says, without C&C we cannot achieve this.

The Liberal Democrats take the C&C position. The 'no-position' to this lingers in varying degrees in the Conservative Party, which appears now to be dithering again, and the Labour Party which is still drifting.

Dither and Drift is D&D. D&D is still the mind-set where creating the problem faster than we are solving it remains the unchallenged norm. It is the mind-set of Expansion and Divergence and its double-jeopardy of asymmetric growth at 3% with damages at twice the rate of growth.

This is what the Irish economist Richard Douthwaite correctly calls, "sleepwalking to disaster."

This comparison of the political parties' mind-sets is based on comments published by each party in the last 24hrs by OpenDemocracy.

OD asked representatives of Britain's leading political parties to explain why climate change had been a nearly invisible issue in the 2005 general election campaign.

These are the replies OpenDemocracy received: -

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/debates/article-6-129-2473.jsp>

Norman Baker (Liberal Democrats):

"It's very sad that climate change hasn't been featured in the election as it should have. It's not for lack of trying on our part. I'm afraid it's largely the fault of the media.

"If the Lib Dems were to win the election, there would be radical changes to transport and energy efficiency. We would follow the Contraction and Convergence model. It's the only way forward. We would also redouble efforts to ensure success with the Kyoto treaty. The most important thing is to bring on board the United States, China and India."

Tim Yeo (Conservatives):

"The Conservative Party thinks that climate change is one of the most serious challenges facing the planet and that the UK should be a leader in addressing the issue. I am disappointed that it has not been a larger issue in this election, but several things we have said have not been reported – we have published a major statement on action on the environment, and I myself have made several speeches. I've seen opinion polls suggesting that the electorate do not put climate change high on their list of importance, but I think that this is partly a question of information. I think it is true to say that it's not a vote-changer.

"After the election of a Conservative government, our twin aims would be to concentrate on increasing energy efficiency and to focus on the rising emissions from both industry and private dwellings. If people know more about the issue and the impact of their behaviour they will make good choices, and of course some of the new energy sources can be very good for business.

"There is a lot to discuss in the Contraction and Convergence (C&C) proposal. It is a challenging concept aimed at fair allocation of responsibility for emissions. But a Conservative government would first seek to pressure our ally the United States, in whatever way it could, to sign up to the Kyoto Protocol. After that we would be interested in talking about C&C."

Margaret Beckett (Labour):

"The Labour party sees climate change as a priority, both domestically and internationally. We set out in our manifesto our goals and plans for the next few years, and have made the issue a top priority for the United Kingdom's 2005 presidencies of the G8 and European Union. Our rural manifesto, which I launched with the prime minister on 23 April, also set out our plans to address the impact of climate change.

Labour is not committed to the Contraction and Convergence (C&C) or to any other proposal for the design and structure of a global agreement on climate change to build on the Kyoto Protocol. Our particular priority is to create and secure international political agreement on the level of cuts in emissions needed. It could actually impede that process to commit prematurely to one option which, though presently fashionable, has not been discussed by the international community and could well be controversial. It may well be that some such proposal or elements like it will in the end form the basis of a new approach. But we are not at that stage of negotiations."

Whoever gets in, the future is written in the stars on the pledge-web-site: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/climate-pledge/>

US Still Demand Byrd Hagel [C&C] Aubrey Meyer

May 16, 2005 05:24 PDT

GCI has long argued that the US Byrd Hagel Resolution [BHR] in practice is C&C. There's no other effective way to organize BHR.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/C&C&ByrdHagel.pdf>

The US chief climate-change negotiator, Harlan Watson, was interviewed on air last implicitly on this point Friday by Radio 4 journalist Roger Harrabin.

Pressed about US demands, Mr Watson said: -

“ . . . let me get to the reality of American politics. The United States Senate was on record in 1997 and that position simply hasn't changed. By 95-0 the United States should not enter into an agreement that would one harm our economy or two did not include commitments from developing countries. Kyoto provides for neither of those.”

[Full transcript here].

http://www.gci.org.uk/press/Harlan_Harrabin.pdf

In today's Guardian newspaper, Larry Elliott, gives the BHR and Mr Watson the C&C answer.

“Interestingly, the Americans have not rejected action on climate change out of hand. The Byrd-Hagel resolution, adopted in 1997, says the US will only limit or reduce emissions if poor countries are involved in the deal. This is a key point, because it means the US accepts the logic of action on climate change provided the right framework can be found.

Fair shares

There is such a framework. It is called contraction and convergence, and it provides by far the best chance the global community has of dealing with climate change. C&C sets a cap - or a band-width - on total greenhouse emissions consistent with protecting the planet and puts in place a timetable for reducing them. The principle is that every person should have an equal right to emit greenhouse gases, but the rich nations that pollute more than their fair share would have the right to buy permissions to pollute from poorer countries.

That's the good news. The bad news is that up until now it has not formed part of Blair's negotiating stance for the G8.

The reason for this is hard to fathom. One possibility is that Blair has simply run into Whitehall inertia; the Sir Humphrey tendency to dismiss any genuinely ground-breaking idea. Another is that the prime minister is simply being pusillanimous; he is aware of the merits of C&C but doesn't want his summit to be tainted by failure when Bush digs in his heels. Neither seems entirely convincing. Blair has been quite prepared in the past to ride roughshod over the civil service when he has been grabbed by an idea, and the way things are going Gleneagles is going to be a failure when it comes to climate change in any event.

The prime minister's message to the president should be as follows. Firstly, C&C enshrines a similar principle to the Declaration of Independence - that all of us are born equal and should have an equal right to pollute.

Secondly, it is a mechanism that goes with the grain of the market. In essence, it would be quite similar in practice to the voucher system normally so beloved of economic liberals. An individual or a company would have a pollution allowance, but could buy the right to pollute more on the open market. It would be both redistributive (the rich tend to pollute more than the poor) but at the same time encourage energy efficiency.

Thirdly, a Gleneagles declaration in support of C&C in principle would put the Chinese firmly on the spot. Beijing is relying on American qualms to justify its own reluctance to act. Fourthly, the US has the technological expertise to make an absolute mint out of the environmental industries which would boom as a result of the introduction of C&C. Partly as a result of the tough regulations imposed in some states, such as California, the US would be a world leader in clean technologies, enjoying the high profit margins that are no longer on offer from the traditional sectors of manufacturing.

Last but not least, as the US has spread the gospel of globalisation, so it has taken its litigious political culture with it. Insurance companies are already raising premiums on their policies to take account of the losses suffered as a result of climate change, and it won't be too long before global warming hits the courts. As Simms suggests, it would be interesting to see what would happen at the World Trade Organisation should the EU (say) slap tariffs on US goods on the grounds that America's failure to join global attempts to combat climate change amounts to an illegal subsidy.

So, yes, the prime minister should say there is time to turn the tap off. [See cartoon] ”

Full article and cartoon at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Elliott_Bath.pdf

All this reflects the constructive exchange between GCI and REP [Republicans for Environmental Protection] on Open Democracy last week.

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/debates/article-6-129-2462.jsp> [GCI]

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/debates/article-6-129-2468.jsp> [REP]

C&C Clarity has Henry all at Sea Aubrey Meyer

May 17, 2005 07:59 PDT

17th April, 2005

C&C clarity from Nuclear puts UK's Captain Henry all-at-sea.

In a speech today in Beijing, WNA exec Ritch stated thus: -

"Construct a Comprehensive Global Regime. First, they must move beyond Kyoto to a comprehensive treaty on climate. It must include all major nations and yield a steady, long-term contraction in global emissions. The key is an emissions-trading mechanism that yields incentives and efficiency in clean-energy investment. The operative concept must be "contraction and convergence".

"Contraction" means a global reduction in greenhouse emissions of some 60%. "Convergence" means using the principle of equal per-capita emission rights.

The principle of equal emission rights is not idealistic. Politically, it is the only feasible principle. Economically, the gap between rights and actual usage will provide the basis for a dynamic international trading mechanism that produces a net flow of clean-energy investment from North to South. This economic assistance will be the most cost-effective in history if it prevents the globally destructive growth in greenhouse emissions that will otherwise occur in the developing world."

<http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Ritch-Beijing.pdf>

At the same time D&D-Derwent [Captain Henry] seeks ice-berg in Bonn.

"We must accept the future may not be like the past, an alternative to the "target and trading approach" [read Kyoto Protocol] might be necessary. Mr Blair's man [DEFRA's Henry Derwent] made these remarks in his role as chair of an EU climate meeting on the 19th of April.

Today in the UN Climate Conference in Bonn, Mr Derwent expressed surprise those remarks got people excited. Putting a kind word in for him, people there describe them as a sign of the UK being prepared to think about a US-friendly UNFCCC approach, and hence as an 'olive branch' to President Bush pre-Gleneagles.

The fact remains it was a senior civil servant breaking 'purdah' [silence] during the recent UK with a statement that contradicted the C&C positions of just about every political party in the UK, not to mention all-party parliamentary committees. It is this presumption that raises eye-brows.

Moreover, coming at the end of a fifteen year international negotiating process, the meagre results of which are - astonishing - 'condemned' by these remarks, it is a disheartening response to the extended efforts of elected politicians, not-to-mention unelected bureaucrats, and it is worrying evidence of the politicization of the civil service on climate change issue.

This is an acutely sensitive moment of coming to global agreement for post-Kyoto arrangements to prevent us all from becoming the victims of a global climate tragedy.

While the Swiss Government in Bonn named C&C as a feature of the 'post-Kyoto' climate regime: -

http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/seminar/application/vnd.ms-powerpoint/sem_pre_switzerland2.ppt#1

the UK Government was increasingly at sea en route for an ice-berg. Emotively showing a picture of the Titanic, the UK's Mr David Warrilow made a presentation listing the encroaching risks [including inevitably ice-melt etc] offering no solutions at all: -

http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/seminar/application/vnd.ms-powerpoint/sem_pre_uk.ppt#2

This shows the Government doesn't have a position. It simply has opposition to a, or any position. Captain Henry is all at sea.

Is it any wonder that the responses to the Queen's speech about "Respect" opening parliament today were so cynical.

Nick Clarke Radio 4 lunch-time news noted that there was only one line in it "on the use of Britain's Presidency of the G8 to tackle Poverty in Africa and Climate Change."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/news/wato/>

Interviewed on-air moments afterwards Alan Simpson MP asked, where was the respect for the planet? "Before the election, the press and the Party were saying, where's the big issue? Where are the big themes of the next government? {Mr Blair} said then they were going to be climate change and Africa.

If the Government is going to re-introduce nuclear power, they'll run into C&C from the 'pro' as much as the 'anti' nuclear. It's a bit like the sun, it shines day and night.

Post Kyoto talks start in tough climate

10:50 17 May 2005

NewScientist.com news service <http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn7385>

Fred Pearce, Bonn

United Nations framework convention on climate change Climate change, New Scientist special report

Talks started on Monday to draw up a treaty to cut greenhouse gas emissions after 2012, when the existing Kyoto Protocol to fight climate change runs out. Experts nominated by more than 100 governments met in Bonn, Germany, on the first lap of negotiations likely to last two years or more.

But the first day revealed a fault line between governments. Some want a second phase of the Kyoto Protocol, with a similar recipe of national emissions targets and trading in pollution permits. But others want to tear up the Kyoto blueprint and start again, with a different system of targets - or perhaps no legally binding targets at all.

The two-day experts' meeting is aiming to set the agenda before negotiations begin in earnest when ministers meet in Montreal, Canada, in December 2005.

Opening the meeting, the German environment minister Jurgen Trittin said the Kyoto target-and-trade system "has proved successful". He called for its continuation, with tougher emissions cuts of 15% to 30% - up to six times existing targets - to be met by industrialised nations by 2020.

But others said it would be easier to persuade Kyoto opt-outs like the US and Australia, and developing countries like China, India and Brazil, to accept targets if they were based on something other than crude cuts in national emissions.

Technology and economy

Ideas raised at the meeting included targets based on technology. Countries might make commitments to introduce renewable energy technologies, for example. Targets based on economics were also mooted, with the US climate negotiator Harlan Watson having proposed "carbon intensity targets", in which countries agree to reduce the amount of carbon emitted for every dollar of Gross Domestic Product.

The Bush administration has set itself a target of an 18% improvement on this measure by 2012. But critics say none of these alternatives guarantee cuts in emissions.

A third approach, suggested by Swiss ambassador Beat Nobs, would peg national emissions to population - the so-called "contraction and convergence" approach.

Most EU governments back the Kyoto template. But the UK is apparently not so sure. During a conference on climate change in Brussels in April, Downing Street official Henry Derwent said: "We must accept the future may not be like the past", adding that an alternative to the "target and trading approach" might be necessary.

Some observers in Bonn said this remark suggested that Derwent's boss, prime minister Tony Blair, was prepared to offer an olive branch to George Bush on climate change when the G8 group

of industrialised nations meet to discuss climate change under Blair's chairmanship in Scotland in July.

Climate won't waitMeanwhile, though the US's Watson talked of action "over many generations", David Warrilow from the UK's department of the environment said time was tight to stave off dangerous and irreversible climate change. Climate systems would not wait for political processes.

To stand a good chance of preventing mass extinctions, droughts, runaway melting of icecaps and the Gulf Stream turning off, we have to keep temperature rise below 2°C from pre-industrial times, he said.

To do that probably requires limiting total cumulative manmade emissions of carbon dioxide between the years 1900 and 2100 to 900 billion tonnes. The world has so far emitted around 300 billion tonnes, he said. But on current trends, 700 billion tonnes will be emitted by 2030 and 2400 billion tonnes by 2100.

C&C Study from Finland Futures Research Centre Aubrey Meyer

May 20, 2005 09:12 PDT

CONVERGING CO2 EMISSION TO EQUAL PER CAPITA LEVELS

Mission Possible?

http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/ffrc-publications_2005-2.pdf

Finnish Study of C&C: - "Contrary to common assumptions, the results indicate that the per capita target could be a Mission Possible."

Contraction and Convergence is one approach that has been proposed to allocate commitments regarding future green-house gas emission mitigation.

In this study the historical rates of CO2 emission intensity for different countries have been analysed and compared with the future intensity rates that are required to achieve the Contraction and Convergence target of 1.8 tons of CO2 per capita.

Additionally, the amount of CO2 emissions per country was decomposed into different explanatory effects, which are also analysed in this paper. For that it was assumed that the CO2 intensity of a country depends on energy and production technology, the fuel shares of the primary energy supply and the economic production structure.

The results show that trends in most industrialised countries, after the oil crises, could lead to the Contraction and Convergence target. However, the trends in the 1990's have usually not been sufficient due to weaker energy policy measures.

Contrary to common assumptions, the results indicate that the per capita target could be a Mission Possible.

http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/ffrc-publications_2005-2.pdf

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Some current C&C activity . . . Aubrey Meyer

May 21, 2005 02:52 PDT

Looking Beyond Kyoto

The Environmental Assessment Institute (EAI)

EAI is an independent institution under the Danish Ministry of the Environment. The objective of the EAI is, on the basis of "research at a high, international level, to contribute to reaching environmental objectives in the most economically effective way".

Contraction and Convergence

"The contraction and convergence scheme, which is based on per capita indicators, addresses the equity principle of equal entitlements (Meyer 2000). One obvious option is to allocate commitments based on emissions per capita. Convergence would imply moving towards equal per capita emissions and contraction would imply a total reduction of emissions towards a given stabilisation level. The per capita entitlements of the developed countries would thus decrease, while most developing countries would be allowed to increase emissions. The contraction and convergence scheme is a compromise between Grand-fathering and Per Capita entitlements, where the latter is mixed into the former over the convergence period."

http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/ffrc-publications_2005-2.pdf

Climate Policy Making at a Turning Point

[JI Quarterly March 2005].

Since the conclusion of the COP-10 in Buenos Aires (6-17 December of last year), several informative reports and observations have been published by a number of sources.

"A regime could establish a global system with quantified emission caps (per capita) for all countries and allow for emissions trading on a global scale. The Contraction and Convergence proposal by the Global Commons Institute is a clear example of such a regime."

[http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/ejiq305\[1\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/ejiq305[1].pdf)

"Act now to Save the Planet"

[UK Tribune Magazine - May 5th 2005].

"The new Prime Minister must do what numerous MPs have already done – support the control of global climate policy by the principle of "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C).

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Tribune.pdf>

"Contraction and convergence– the ultimate solution to carbon-dioxide emissions?"

DAVE HAMPTON believes the ultimate solution needs to be both radical and simple, and that 'contraction and convergence'* is exactly that!

"The thought of all that carbon dioxide being pumped into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels is a source of growing concern — for a growing number of people.

We know that humankind cannot go on as it is now — unleashing billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide, year after year, as ancient stores of precious fossil fuels are burned up. We are unlocking, seemingly as fast as we can, all the Earth's treasure of amazing hydrocarbons from their multi-million-year store safely underground."

http://www.modbs.co.uk/news/fullstory.php/aid/583/Contraction_and_convergence%96_the_ultimate_solution_to_carbon-dioxide_emissions_.html

"Living in a low carbon world:

the policy implications of carbon rationing".

One-day workshop in London on Thursday 30th June.

The key purpose of this day, sponsored by the Policy Studies Institute and the UK Energy Research Centre's Meeting Place, is to raise the profile of carbon rationing and to explore what its

introduction would mean for key sectors of society and the economy. It is hoped that it will provide a starting point for continuing dialogue and action and contribute to building a community of interest around the concept of carbon rations.

"Personal carbon rationing as a UK solution emerges from the Global Commons Institute's key global framework proposal - "Contraction and Convergence" (Meyer 2000). This is aimed at delivering global carbon savings fairly and with certainty. It will do this by first agreeing a contraction of global carbon emissions to ensure that a 'safe' concentration of emissions in the atmosphere is not exceeded, and second, converging to equal per capita emissions allowances, by an agreed year. Carbon rationing is designed as a policy which will enable the UK to make national savings as its contribution within a global agreement on limiting greenhouse gas emissions based on the same principles of C&C."

Sarah Keay-Bright

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www.ukerc.ac.uk

www.eci.ox.ac.uk

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Living_in_a_low_carbon_world_programme.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Introduction_to_carbon_rationing.pdf

C&C Africa - UNFCCC Bonn Aubrey Meyer

May 22, 2005 03:52 PDT

AFRICA POST-KYOTO POSITION at UNFCCC BONN

As presented by: -

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http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Kenya_Gov.pdf

Africa has previously proposed equity in 1997 during Kyoto Protocol negotiations which comprised the following:

1. Global emissions allocations based on per capita basis.
2. A globally agreed date for contraction (reduction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere) and convergence (equal sharing of environmental space per person) of emissions.
3. Trading of emissions based on entitlements.

Why Equity in Post-Kyoto?

Every human being is born equal and therefore must have equal environmental space; a global common resource.

Africa will suffer the most from the negative impacts of climate change (IPCC Second and Third Assessment Reports) despite being the least emitter of greenhouse gases, due to her underdevel-

oped status.

Damages associated with climate change are rising

Deeper cuts in GHG emissions than as presently contained in the Kyoto Protocol urgently required in order to forestall further damages.

Consequences of Inequitable Arrangements.

Africa's development aspirations compromised.

Millennium Development Goals unmet.

NEPAD objectives compromised.

Why Trading?

Trading is better than begging.

Aid is dehumanising and humiliating.

Independence in choice of urgent development priorities.

Way Forward

Urgently involve the African Union in climate change negotiations since related disasters are beyond individual African governments.

Sub-regional Economic Groupings to also engage as a matter of priority.

Take cognizance of the fact that Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol and/or Post-Kyoto negotiations are not only environmental but mainly economic and political issues with serious implications and ramifications for Africa.

Conclusion.

Africa to take the lead and be proactive with her noble position which apparently contains four major equity principles in the Climate Change Convention, namely:

Equity principle

Precautionary principle

Polluter pays principle

Differentiated responsibilities

This is the only way to ensure Africa's survival in view of the increase in extreme climate events.

International 'post-Kyoto' C&C Continuity . . . Aubrey Meyer

May 24, 2005 14:35 PDT

C&C ENGAGED IN LISBON

In a speech to the Lisbon Conference on Oil Depletion last Saturday 21 May 2005, former UK Environment Secretary Michael Meacher, linked the issue of Oil Depletion to climate change and the urgent need for international "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) procedures to be established to mitigate the worst of the changes in climate that are now forecast.

[Speech retrievable on request].

Believing the Iraq war was fought to control supplies, he also used the platform to accuse Prime Minister Tony Blair and US President George Bush for starting a war, for this purpose. Asked about this connection between the war in Iraq and oil he said: "The connection is 100%. It is absolutely overwhelming."

Aljazeera news story at: -

english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/AC9B68BD-9853-494D-AB7D-A5EF74C46694.htm

C&C AVOIDED IN WHITEHALL

The Prime Minister and President Bush meet again at the G-8 in Gleneagles in July to discuss Climate Change and Africa. The spirit is weak. After DEFRA's iconic use of images of the "Titanic" at the climate negotiations in Bonn, today's UK Guardian newspaper has a front-page news story entitled "Blair's dash to shore up Africa Plan" that states: -

'Labour politicians are [already] privately blaming Whitehall for failing to come up with a coherent strategy to win over the US on climate change, partly because of policy divisions in Whitehall.

"Mr Blair has been away at the election and came back to find very little progress made in the interim," an MP close to Downing Street said.

On climate change, Mr Blair is seeking agreement from Mr Bush on the credibility of the science on climate change, progress on investment for green technology, and a commitment from the US to join India, China and Brazil to agree an emissions cap outside the framework of the UN's Kyoto protocol prior to a new post-Kyoto deal after 2012. India, China and Brazil, the green house gas emitters of the future, will attend the talks on the first day.'

Meanwhile an Eminent Persons group is forming to re-iterate the C&C advice of the Environmental Audit Committee to the Prime Minister. News in due course . . . and on Sunday 5 June 2005, C&C advocate, Mayor Ken Livingstone, will be holding the GLA's first London Green Lifestyle Show at Greenwich Park, to coincide with World Environment Day and mark the start of London Sustainability Weeks 2005.

Michael Meacher and I will share a platform at this GLA event with other C&C advocates, to reiterate the Commons Environmental Audit Committee's advice to Government to use C&C as the basis of reconciliation at the G8.

C&C ADVANCED IN BONN . . .

Meantime at the climate negotiations in Bonn, government and non-government experts at a succession of side-events, have made the case for C&C to be the basis of the so-called 'post-Kyoto' strategy.

Joshua Wairoto, Kenya Meteorological Department, highlighted Africa's vulnerability to climate change. Noting that Africa contributes the least to climate change but will suffer the most, he stressed the need for adaptation. He identified climate impacts already experienced, including: threatened food security; increases in vector-borne diseases; economic loss from drought-induced difficulties with hydro-power; declining water levels in lakes, rivers and streams; melting mountain glaciers; floods; and landslides. He reminded participants that climate change is not only an environmental problem, but also an important economic and political concern. He indicated that without equity,

Africa's development aspirations and the Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved. Wairoto explained Africa's proposal on climate equity based on per capita emissions, and "contraction and convergence" during the Kyoto negotiations. He highlighted the need for emissions trading that allows Africa to participate equally and independently, and identified the need to involve the African Union and the sub-regional economic groupings in climate negotiations. He concluded that for Africa to survive, the future climate regime must be based on equity, the precautionary and polluter pays principles, and on common but differentiated responsibilities.

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/20may.html>

The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC: An ethical argument

Highlighting the necessity of value judgements, Konrad Ott, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University, said cost-benefit analysis should not be a decisive criterion for climate policy. He highlighted that most ethical theories support low or very low carbon stabilization levels and suggested 450 parts per million (ppm) as an ethically justified target. He noted that most theories of distributive justice favor equality and that ethical argumentation supports the "contraction and convergence" approach to emission allowances.

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/21may.html>

A global climate community: Heads in the sand or willing to lead?

Presented by Action for a Global Climate Community

Peter Luff, Action for a Global Climate Community (AGCC), and David Grace, AGCC, chaired a roundtable discussion on AGCC's campaign for a new initiative to unite developed and developing countries in reducing carbon emissions "farther and faster" than existing Kyoto obligations. Luff

said the AGCC proposes this commitment be based on the principle of “contraction and convergence” – the contraction of greenhouse gas emissions to a safe internationally agreed scientific level and convergence to equal emission rights for all.

Discussion: Participants considered the meaning of equity, and “contraction and convergence.” They discussed ways to harness momentum for future action on climate change, including through education and civil society support. Several participants noted that government action will be fostered if governments understand that failure to take action will cost more than mitigating climate change.

On providing incentives for industry, one participant noted that incentives are not only financial but that rule-based certainty may also act as an incentive. Another participant emphasized the potential for Africa to utilize hydrogen and solar energy, while others outlined current barriers to the use of such resources in Africa.

Most participants considered an institutional framework to be key to any future commitment on climate change. Luff and Grace raised the idea of a “bubble” of willing countries negotiating inside the existing UNFCCC. One participant suggested the AGCC should: invite discussion on the requirements of equity and “contraction and convergence”; encourage civil society to view climate change as an equity issue; and invite critique of post-Kyoto proposals that are not based on equity principles.

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/23may.html>

Greetings to the many new GCN subscribers.

C&C resources can be found here: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

[a printed copy of this briefing was given today to each government negotiator in Bonn].

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C_Bubbles.pdf

[beautiful laminated colour poster prints will be distributed at the GLA event]

[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo\(pc\).exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo(pc).exe)

[this self-executing, interactive flash-animated C&C demo is fully annotated and down-loadable from this address]

C&C Support from Monaco . . . Aubrey Meyer

May 26, 2005 08:00 PDT

. . . . according to this story in today's New Scientist

Tear up Kyoto or make it tougher?

FRED PEARCE

. . . . it does.

“RADICAL alternatives to the current programme for limiting greenhouse gas emissions are on the table as negotiations begin on what should follow the Kyoto protocol when it expires in 2012. At the top of the agenda for the talks, the first round of which took place last week in Bonn, Germany, is whether the protocol should be extended with tougher targets and more countries signing up to them, or whether it would be better to tear it up and start afresh.

With the US still refusing to ratify Kyoto, the second option is looking the more attractive to some. Meanwhile, the political landscape is changing. Major developing countries such as Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and China no longer regard climate change as a problem only for the rich world.

“Climate change is a new barrier to our economic development,” says Argentinian climate negotiator Vicente Barros. His country has already suffered a 30 per cent decline in electricity production because changing rainfall patterns and melting glaciers are reducing flows in rivers they rely on for hydropower.

Countries like Argentina are starting to accept that they may have to accept emissions targets

themselves. "They are stepping up to the plate, arguing that climate change is a real and growing threat to their development," says Jennifer Morgan, climate campaigner at environment group WWF. "We have not heard that before."

Many developing countries already have local climate initiatives. Argentina has the world's largest fleet of cars powered by natural gas, which produces less carbon per unit of energy than petrol. China is improving its energy efficiency so fast that even its breakneck industrialisation has brought only minimal increases in greenhouse gas emissions in the past decade,

But other countries want to tear up Kyoto and start again. This is partly to lure the US back on board, and partly because they believe other formulas could work better.

This will not be enough, however. To prevent dangerous climate change, the world will probably have to limit total CO₂ emissions to the atmosphere from human activity to less than 600 billion tonnes for the whole of the 21st century, says British climate negotiator David Warrilow. If current trends continue, we will have emitted 400 billion tonnes by 2030, so room for future emissions is rapidly running out.

So what to do when the Kyoto protocol expires? The obvious option is a "son of Kyoto".

This could draw on the protocol's complex and painfully negotiated rule book while setting tough new targets for industrialised nations and first-time targets for some richer developing nations.

The European Union has proposed cuts of 15 to 30 per cent for industrialised countries by 2020, goals that are up to six times tougher than current targets.

Of the main alternatives being discussed in the Bonn corridors, one would allocate carbon-emission rights strictly according to population (see "Equal rights for all") while another would set targets for countries to reduce the emissions per dollar of GDP (see "To those that have...").

A third option calls for countries to adopt specific carbon-reduction technologies in exchange for similar pledges from other nations. Measures might include generating more electricity from renewables or maintaining natural carbon sinks such as rainforests. Such an approach might encourage innovation, but would not necessarily lead to real reductions in emissions. The world might simply end up heading for the abyss more efficiently."

"Equal rights for all The formula; Each person on Earth would have an equal right to emit carbon, so countries would be allocated emissions targets strictly according to population. To exceed these targets, they would have to buy spare entitlements from poor nations and those that had invested in low-carbon technologies.

Advantages:

Fairness, and no need for complex negotiations. Every country would have a target. Fixed emissions targets can be tied to scientific criteria for protecting the climate.

Disadvantages;

Possible incentive for countries to increase their populations.

Winners;

Poor nations like India, whose per-capita emissions are currently just 6 per cent of those of the US. And countries that adopt clean technologies and low-carbon lifestyles.

Losers;

Rich nations and wasteful emitters, including the US, Australia, Canada and industrialised "developing countries" such as Singapore, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Proponents in Bonn:

Switzerland, Kenya, Mexico and Monaco."

"To those that have..."

The formula:

Targets based on the ratio of national carbon emissions to GDP. Countries might be asked to reduce the "carbon intensity" of their economies by some percentage. In 2002, the Bush administration set a target for the US of improving its "carbon intensity" by 18 per cent in the coming dec-

ade. This sounds impressive, except that most of the industrialised world, including the US, has been on a similar trajectory of declining carbon intensity for decades.

Advantages: A clear incentive for moving to clean technologies while not penalising countries that are efficient at using carbon emissions to create wealth.

Disadvantages: Total carbon emissions may continue to rise.

Winners: Technologically advanced nations with room to reduce their carbon intensity, such as US and Australia.

Losers: Countries in the early stages of industrialisation, such as India. They typically reach a peak of carbon intensity before declining as environmental concerns grow and cleaner technologies are adopted.

Proponents in Bonn: US."

www.newscientist.com

BONN SBSTA - C&C PERSPECTIVES ON FUTURE STEPS Aubrey Meyer

May 29, 2005 10:43 PDT

Inter-sessional climate-change meeting just concluded in Bonn. C&C now the most often cited model of emissions management Post-Kyoto.

Official summary – Excerpt.

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/analysis.html#15>

"A number of side events organized by climate think tanks presented the latest research and models for the post-2012 period. The models tended to focus on new ways of grouping both industrialized and developing countries and allocating emissions targets.

Several of the proposals implied quantitative emissions targets, at times building on the idea of "contraction and convergence" of per capita emissions. 15"

15 "Post-Kyoto negotiation: African priorities," Kenya, 20 May 2005,

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/20may.html>

"The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC: An ethical argument," Germany, 21

May 2005, <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/21may.html>

"Beyond Kyoto 2012:

A structural evolution of the Kyoto Protocol by a global emission trading scheme," Germany, 23 May 2005,

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/23may.html>

"A global climate community: Heads in the sand or willing to lead,"

AGCC, 23 May 2005, <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/23may.html>

"LULUCF in future commitment periods," Max-Planck Institute,

24 May 2005,

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/24may.html>

"Exploration of possible approaches in the UNFCCC post-2012 negotiation process," Center for International Climate and Environmental Research,

25 May 2005,

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/25may.html>

In fact, although not cited in the ENB Report, C&C was also fundamentally written into the session, "Beyond Kyoto 2012: A structural evolution of the Kyoto Protocol by a global emission trading scheme,"

Germany, 23 May 2005, <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/23may.html>

For those wanting to look over the leaked G-8 draft climate-change/Africa summary, it is here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/G8_Final_draft.pdf

Note paras 68 and 69.

68. Africa is already vulnerable to climate variability and, like many developing countries, is now starting to experience the impacts of climate change. There is a particular need for Africa to develop the scientific capacity that will allow governments to integrate climate factors into development planning and resilience strategies.

69. The G8 agreed at Evian to strengthen international cooperation on global Earth observations. This is being taken forward through the development of a coordinating framework (GEOSS or Global Earth Observations System of Systems).

GCI Comment . . . on the section: -

“Managing the impact of climate change on Africa”

Helping the continent [Africa] being destroyed fastest by climate change to ‘observe’ this, has negative-value for the people of Africa. It is more like hi-tech witnessing a remote crime-scene: except this is being done to Africa, remotely.

Destruction by climate-change is not being unleashed on Africa by Africans. The momentum to their disaster comes from the long-term ongoing emissions accumulation in the global atmosphere, mostly from the G-8 countries and its satellite countries.

Minus South Africa, the totality of current annual emission from the rest of Africa is about equal to the current annual emissions from the UK. These figures have been freely available for 15 years.

The least the UK as chair of the G-8 countries could do is accept C&C, what Africans have proposed and call their “noble solution”.

But no: - Africa is caught between UK/G-8 bureaucracy and a hard place. DEFRA caringly exhibits images of “helplessness” [the Titanic] in Bonn, saying time is running out . . . while African people, live-stock and agricultures die, and Angels weep.

Brace yourself for COP-Canada in December, Captain Henry.

Finland MEP Urges EU C&C Leadership Aubrey Meyer

May 31, 2005 07:46 PDT

Green Week:

EU leadership with C&C now paramount

Finnish MEP and previous Environment Secretary, Satu Hassi argues that strong EU leadership on climate change is now paramount.

“Do political leaders think they are living in an alternative universe where the laws of nature are not in force?

This question was asked by the British magazine, the New Scientist some weeks ago. Previous to this article a scientific conference had taken place in the UK on ‘dangerous anthropogenic climate change’.

The message of the scientists was clear: we have no time to wait.

Global warming can ‘wake up sleeping giants’, trigger irreversible and dangerous processes, such as the melting of the Greenland ice cover or halting the Gulf stream or turning forests and soils from a carbon sink to a carbon source accelerating the warming ever further.

But the ministers paid very little attention to these warnings.

Indeed, many political and economic leaders speak as if the environment has nothing to do with economics, except that new environmental regulations cause harmful extra cost.

If we lose the ecological basis of our societies, our economies will also cease to exist.

Sometimes I wonder if the global response to climate change would be taken more seriously, if a similar danger was threatening us from outer space, by attacking aliens.

Extremely worrying processes are already under way.

Rising sea levels may contaminate many groundwater reservoirs with salt, among them many

drinking water sources for big coastal cities, such as Buenos Aires, the host of the latest climate negotiations.

The Himalayan glacier has started to melt. In Nepal the ice is retreating by 20 metres a year. Several big rivers in southern Asia start in the Himalaya region.

What will happen to these rivers? What are the consequences for farming fields that feed 2-3 billion people?

The Kyoto Protocol says nothing about the time after 2012. Government experts have recently met in Bonn to start discussions on how to continue post 2012.

Which countries should take commitments? What kind of commitments?

One of the proposals is that countries be grouped in categories. Industrialised countries cut absolute emissions, more advanced developing countries reduce their emissions per unit of GDP and poorer countries would have non-numerical commitments.

Emissions are growing fastest in countries such as China and India. Soon it will not be possible to reduce global emissions only with the effort from rich countries.

The historical burden for starting climate change lies mainly with the richer nations. Our emissions, per capita, are far bigger.

In 2000 the average emissions of one European were five times those of China and ten times those of India.

Developing countries could argue that each human being has the same right to the atmosphere, so emission rights should be proportional to the population.

For industrialised countries this would mean huge emission cuts very rapidly, or an obligation to buy emission rights from poorer countries.

In some decades we will see a version of the 'contraction and convergence' model which means approaching a system of emission rights proportional to the population.

For two reasons it is difficult to find a solution that is universally acceptable.

Firstly, the market is global: we do not want our factories to move to China because of cheaper emission rights.

Secondly, poorer countries want to develop their economies, their people have the right to say that wealth cannot be a privilege reserved only for the world's richer economies.

We need to solve this difficult equation sooner rather than later. To limit global warming by less than two degrees, global emissions need to peak and drop in the next 10-20 years, and be halved by 2050.

The Kyoto Protocol would not exist without EU leadership. Leadership is also needed in the negotiations on global climate policy after 2012.

If the EU is not leading, there will be no one else to do it.

In its January resolution, the European Parliament translated the two degrees objective to emissions targets for industrialised countries.

A few weeks later, practically the same figures were adopted by EU environment ministers and in March adopted at the EU Summit.

Parliamentarians may have an important role in helping climate negotiations. Ministers usually have a narrow mandate from their governments. Parliamentarians have more freedom.

I think it is very important that the UK is organising a climate seminar for parliamentarians from all continents in July, at the beginning of the UK presidency. Several MEPs are going to take part in this seminar.

I really hope that this parliamentary networking can help in creating the mutual understanding needed for the global deal on the next batch of climate commitments.

I do not want my children and grandchildren to have to live on an 'Alternative Planet Earth' where the climate and ecosystems are very different from what they have been for the past 10 000 years after the last Ice Age. EU leadership is needed to prevent this."

Corporates want Climate Framework Aubrey Meyer

Jun 03, 2005 08:55 PDT

Are BP, Shell and other Corporate Leaders asking for C&C?

"At present, we believe that the private sector and governments are caught in a 'Catch 22' situation with regard to tackling climate change. Governments tend to feel limited in their ability to introduce new policies for reducing emissions because they fear business resistance, while companies are unable to take their investments in low carbon solutions to scale because of lack of long-term policies.

In order to help break this impasse, we are proposing to work in partnership with the Government in order to support the development of a world-leading climate change policy framework "

Sir John Bond, Group Chairman & Stephen Green, Group Chief Executive, HSBC Neil Carson, Chief Executive, Johnson Matthey Howard Carter, Chief Executive, F&C Asset Management Mike Clasper, Chief Executive, BAA Iain Conn, Executive Director, BP Jonson Cox, Chief Executive, AWG Mervyn Davies, Chief Executive, Standard Chartered Bank Sir Stuart Hampson, Chairman, John Lewis Partnership Rob Lloyd, President EMEA, Cisco Systems Ian Russell, Chief Executive, Scottish Power Hugh Scott-Barrett, Chief Operating Officer, ABN Amro James Smith, UK Chairman, Shell Trudy Norris-Grey, Managing Director UK & Ireland, Sun Microsystems

Letter and press release at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Corporate_Leaders_pressrelease_letter.pdf

The letter is ambiguous and the CO2 ceiling is a death-wish 550ppmv, but the CEOs are stepping up slowly for the framework . . .

METREX certainly are certainly behind C&C.

"Contraction and Convergence (C&C) is the only approach to the crisis of climate change that appears to offer an equitable (and therefore politically feasible) and effective way forward."

METREX is the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas. It is a network of practitioners, that is, politicians, officials and their advisers, concerned with the spatial planning and development at the metropolitan level.

It is essentially a network through which key European strategic decision makers can share their knowledge, experience and expertise.

Strathclyde House 2

20 India Street

GLASGOW

G2 4PF

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/METREX.pdf>

http://www.eurometrex.org/EN/Meetings/meetings.asp?TitleID=Nürnberg%202005&PicID=nurnberg&Cat=Meetings&SubCat1=Nurnberg_2005

And eleven of 19 institutional witnesses to the C&C Audit by EAC, were too

Institute of Civil Engineers

British Nuclear Fuels

Policy Studies Institute

Action Committee for a Global Climate Community

The Tyndall Centre

The Hadley Centre

Council for the Protection of Rural England

FEASTA

Future Forests

Global Commons Institute

Climate Capital

The others were agnostic with the exception of Royal Society for the Protection of Birds [RSPB] who appeared to argue that it was only acceptable if Developing Countries argued for it.

[Maybe RSPB haven't noticed something . . .].

Join MP G-8 C&C Cycle-Event Aubrey Meyer

Jun 03, 2005 09:38 PDT

Fri 3 Jun 2005 [2:31pm (UK)]

Cycling MP to Demand More Action Against Climate Change

By Amanda Brown, PA Environment Correspondent

<http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=4642356>

A Labour MP will next week take a letter to each of the G8 embassies challenging the countries to do more to tackle climate change.

Colin Challen who represents Morley, Middleton and Rothwell has his letter co-signed by Conservative MP Peter Ainsworth and Liberal Democrat MP Norman Baker.

They urge the G8 summit to adopt Contraction and Convergence – which proposes that by 2050 carbon emissions should contract to a sustainable level, and that this level should be distributed between all peoples – as the model on which a future international agreement should be based.

In the last Parliament, nearly 200 MPs signed Early Day Motions calling for the same thing.

Mr Challen's cycle ride will start at 11am next Tuesday outside the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square and will take in embassies in the following order Canada, Italy, Japan, France, Germany and Russia.

"It is becoming clear that the G8 do not have a plan to deal with climate change," he said. "Kyoto has been only a first, small step and does not have the support of the United States.

"But even if the Protocol did have the support of the US, it would still be nowhere enough to deal with the problem in the timescale available.

"We need to say to our leaders that time is running out to take effective action and we believe that Contraction and Convergence, as proposed by the Global Commons Institute, is the correct method to adopt.

"It is fair, scientific and inclusive of both developed and developing worlds, the latter point being a key requirement that meets previous objections to Kyoto by the US Senate."

Please ask for details if you would like to join the ride.

World Bank Moves Towards C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 07, 2005 23:39 PDT

World Bank Moves Towards C&C

15th February 2005

"Two approaches that are receiving significant attention are Contraction and Convergence and the "Brazilian" Proposal.

Contraction and Convergence is a science-based global framework whereby total global emissions are reduced (i.e., contraction) to meet a specific agreed target, and the per capita emissions of industrialized and the developing countries converge over a suitably long time period, with the rate and magnitude of contraction and convergence being determined through the UNFCCC negotiating process. It applies principles of precaution and equity; principles identified as important in the UNFCCC but not defined.

The proposal by Brazil, which is based on cumulative historical emissions and their impact on the

increase in global mean surface temperature, aims at sharing equally the burden of mitigation among all countries, industrialized and developing.”

[http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/](http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20357008~menuPK:34477~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html)

[0,,contentMDK:20357008~menuPK:34477~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html](http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20357008~menuPK:34477~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html)

C&C Asylum seeking . . . Aubrey Meyer

Jun 08, 2005 08:35 PDT

Letters to London’s G-8 Ambassadors advocating Contraction and Convergence from UK MPs Colin Challen [Lab.], Norman Baker [LibDem] and Peter Ainsworth [Conservative], were delivered to the relevant Embassies on Tuesday 7th of June 2005.

7th June 2005

David T Johnson

Charges d’Affairs

Embassy of the United States of America

24 Grosvenor Square

LONDON

W1A 1AE

Dear Mr Johnson,

The United States and Climate Change

In the run-up to the G8 Summit in Gleneagles in July, it is crucial that the developed world sends out a signal that it regards dealing with climate change as an urgent priority. We in the developed nations still account for the largest share of carbon emissions, and we must explore every avenue that is available to us to deal with this most serious of threats to humanity.

The United States government is in an extraordinarily powerful position to ensure that a lead is taken. We urge you to convey to your government our concern in this year, which Tony Blair has chosen during his presidency of the G8 to make climate change a priority, that it will accept its responsibilities to the international community and work towards a lasting solution.

We are aware that the Senate has sent a clear signal, in the form of the Byrd-Hagel Resolution of 1997, which states that no new commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions should be signed unless they form an agreement which “also mandates new specific scheduled commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Developing Country Parties within the same compliance period.”

This very important element of any agreement which might replace the Kyoto Protocol is something with which we concur, although of course the absence of any international agreement need be no reason for individual countries in the meantime to act unilaterally or multilaterally to reduce greenhouse gases if they see fit. We agree with your chief climate negotiator, Harlan Watson, who told the BBC Today programme that the “United States has taken many, many actions both addressing the near-term issue of reducing our emissions from business-as-usual as well as supporting billions of dollars of technology programmes that really addresses the problem in the long run.”

Technology will have a major role to play, but it must measure up to the task, along with other mechanisms, such as carbon trading and energy efficiency. We believe that the clearest and strongest benchmark against which all these endeavours can be measured is the concept of Contraction and Convergence, which provides for a timescale for contracting emissions to a sustainable level, fairly distributed. Contraction and Convergence provides for flexible differential targets for countries limiting greenhouse gas emissions from different starting points. It is not prescriptive, but nevertheless ensures that there is a cohesive discipline to international efforts to reduce global warming.

Our purpose then is to ask you to pass this plea to your government: ensure that the terms of the

Byrd Hagel resolution are met by embracing Contraction and Convergence as your guiding principle. In doing so, the United States will send a clear message that it wishes to build on the work that Harlan Watson has spoken of, and intends that that work must not be negated by the absence of a meaningful international agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Challen MP

Peter Ainsworth MP

Norman Baker MP

N.B. In the last session of Parliament, nearly 200 MPs from all parties signed Early Day Motions 961 and 538 calling for the implementation of Contraction and Convergence.

Links here to all the letters as specific to each Embassy

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Challen_Ainsworth_Baker_to_US.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Challen_Ainsworth_Baker_to_Canada.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Challen_Ainsworth_Baker_to_Japan.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Challen_Ainsworth_Baker_to_France.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Challen_Ainsworth_Baker_to_Germany.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Challen_Ainsworth_Baker_to_Italy.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Challen_Ainsworth_Baker_to_Russia.pdf

It was generally a straightforward sequence of events on a nice day.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&CUS.JPG>

The only surprise was the discovery that the US Embassy - now ringed with steel - is guarded by officers of the newly privatized United Kingdom Prison Service.

Have we had taken the US Embassy staff as prisoners? Is hostage-taking now part of the special relationship?

Hits to the GCI website now run at 50,000 a month. The largest fraction of these is from the USA and detectable and consistent fraction of these is from the US government and the US military.

With the world heading deeper into the madness of climate changes, is there any asylum? If so, just who is running it?

On a separate note, a useful report from Tyndall Centre is now published. It is output from the Tyndall Project T3.2D: Contraction and Convergence: UK Carbon Emissions and the Implications for UK Air Traffic[GCI provided a little technical support].

www.tyndall.ac.uk/research/theme2/summary_t3_23.shtml

Lead Investigator is Dr Kevin Anderson,

Co-Investigator Dr Paul Upham and

Research Fellow Dr Alice Bows.

The Report itself is based on a version of the C&C model that precedes the current model. The one used [the previous model] was based on carbon-cycle modelling and CO₂ emissions:concentration integrals published the IPCC in 1995.

The current C&C model incorporates the revised biological feedback modelling that has come recently from the Hadley Centre. This demonstrates that emissions integrals against future scenarios of atmospheric carbon-concentration stabilization, must be considerably smaller to offset the reality of feedbacks to the carbon cycle that are increasing the secondary release of CO₂ and accelerating the fraction of atmospheric CO₂ retention. [It is interesting that then Hadley Centre now uses C&C as generic language; vide their evidence to the EAC Report].

While the contraction assumptions in Tyndall's report are clearly for 550 and 450 ppmv based on the old assumptions, the convergence assumptions are a bit less clearly headlined, but appear to be for 2050.

See for yourself; the report is retrievable at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/aviation_tyndall_research_C&C.pdf

Footnote on [Fri] . . . ends of the Earth

Having acquired the right to publish the report, FoE release it to the Press with a comment that still [after ten years] reveals a continuing inability to comprehend the C&C model.

The C&C model makes it possible for all users to select any rates of contraction, combined with any rate of convergence. In the model and especially in the demonstration of the model: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo\(pc\).exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo(pc).exe)

It couldn't be clearer. Typical comments are, "Oh, this is so clear and easy to understand - thank you!" [New GP Press Officer, during the election]. "I am now able to download the play and even play. It is very interesting and makes it easier to understand the C&C concept. In fact I am using the demo to explain the C&C Principle to my Director and other senior officers in my Department, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport, and his Counterpart, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and the two ministers for the two Ministries who are taking the lead in Climate Change, in particular the Minister for Environment who will lead the Delegation to COP 11 in Canada in December this year (2005) where we intend to push for the adoption of the principle by the COP." [Nameless Government delegate to Bonn SBSTA just gone by].

There are many more of these.

GCI keeps its views on what these rates could or should be separate from the basic advocacy of the model.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

In this Report, Tyndall's authors make this clear too, and then make their selections.

However, FoE [generally a veritable bugle call to equal rights] but now effectively damning their own report, says the following: -

"Friends of the Earth believes that Contraction and Convergence under-estimates the cuts needed in developed countries because it fails to take into account responsibilities for historic emissions and it also underestimates the development needs of poor nations."

This is like saying, "We don't like Beethoven's 9th Symphony because the second violins don't play it fast enough." [!]

In this analogy, FoE's problem is with the conductor, not with Beethoven.

The solution to their complaint was simply to order the increase of the rate of convergence relative to the rate of contraction from Tyndall researchers. Something - indeed to cover this very complaint - the model was explicitly created to make possible.

But this is the dilemma. There's only so much to go around and accelerating convergence relative to contraction - or robbing Northern Peter to pay Southern Paul - may get the obvious reaction from Peter.

Anyway FoE's faux pas could have been avoided. All they had to do was instruct the Tyndall Centre researchers to do that very thing - accelerate convergence relative to contraction. But then the difficulty was perhaps that these researchers, probably like most others, are independent and tend to keep logic distinct from the politics.

Do we indeed have to go to the ends of the earth to discover this? There's not much time for this before Gotterdamerung.

On this note, FoE could always have taken a leaf out of Richard Wagner's book.

Richard Wagner married Cosima, daughter of Liszt, having seduced her away from the arms of her husband, the brilliant and forgiving Hans von Bulow. Notwithstanding this development, Hans remained a great devotee of Wagner and his music and continued to champion Richard's operas and to conduct them at Bayreuth.

In performance - it is said - Richard used sit in the front row just behind where von Bulow was

conducting with his head just visible above the pit-rail. Richard used to tap it saying, "faster von Bulow, faster!"

Climate compels Corporate C&C? Aubrey Meyer

Jun 13, 2005 04:31 PDT

9th June 2005-06-13

C&C by any other name: - Corporations on avoiding climate change.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/WEF_Statement.pdf

GCI takes the words of the statement . . . in summary [below].

[Remember they/we have to organize all this in a pattern everyone will accept and at rates fast enough to avoid dangerous climate change. Fifteen years ago we said we had ten years left to do this].

The science of climate change as defined by the IPCC is sound. IPCC has shown that global warming is both already underway and attributable, in significant part, to human activity and that the science is sufficiently compelling to warrant action by both the private and public sector.

Because of the cumulative nature and long residence time of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, action to avert dangerous rates of climate change must be initiated now.

Companies cannot determine the scale of needed investment without a clear definition of the problem's dimensions, including the thresholds - e.g. greenhouse gas concentrations - that must not be crossed in order to minimize adverse consequences.

Governments must take responsibility for defining these boundaries and must establish a global long term, market-based policy framework, utilizing coordinated and consistent national or regional regimes for future consolidation into a single regime with common metrics in trans-national measurement of the overall health and recovery of the planet.

In this to define greenhouse gas emissions rights through a cap-and-trade system or other market-based mechanisms that can be adjusted over time to reflect evolving scientific, technological and/or economic developments.

ABB,

Fred Kindle, CEO

Alcan,

Travis Engen, President and CEO

BP,

John Browne, Group Chief Executive

British Airways,

Martin Broughton, Chairman

BT,

Ben Verwaayen, CEO

Cinergy,

James E. Rogers, Chairman, President & CEO

Cisco,

Robert Lloyd, President, Operations, Europe, Middle East, Africa

Deloitte,

John Connolly, CEO, UK and Global Managing Director, Deloitte, Touche

Tohmatsu

Deutsche Bank,

Tessen von Heydebreck, Member of the Board of Managing Directors

E.ON, Burckhard Bergmann,

Chairman of the Executive Board and Member of the Board
EADS,
François Auque, Head of Space Division
EdF,
Pierre Gadonneix, Chairman and CEO
Eskom,
Reuel J. Khoza, Non-Executive Chairman
Ford,
William Clay Ford, Chairman and CEO
HP,
Mark Hurd, President and CEO
HSBC,
Sir John Bond, Group Chairman
RAO UESR,
Anatoly B. Chubais, CEO
Rio Tinto,
Paul Skinner, Chairman
Siemens,
Klaus Kleinfeld, President and CEO
Swiss Re,
Jacques Aigrain, Deputy CEO
Toyota,
Katsuhiro Nakagawa, Vice Chairman
Vattenfall,
Lars G. Josefsson, President and CEO
Volkswagen,
Bernd Pischetsrieder, Chairman of the Board of Management

UK Environment Agency sees C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 13, 2005 05:40 PDT

EA Report published last week: -

"At present, most industrial nations emit more than 3 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person, while most developing nations emit between 0.3 and 1 tonne. Fast-industrialising countries like China and Brazil are demanding "equal rights" to pollute.

One solution being discussed informally by governments as a "next step" after the Kyoto Protocol would allocate national pollution rights on a per capita basis. It might start at around one tonne per person and reduce as the years pass. Clearly, the richer countries could not meet that to start with, while developing ones would have spare entitlements. So, they could trade. Rich nations would pay poor nations for the right to pollute above their entitlement. This would help poor nations to develop their economies, but would also provide a financial incentive for countries to adopt cleaner technologies."

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yourenv/639312/641102/644077/644112/?version=1&lang=_e

UK MPs sharpen C&C Debate. Aubrey Meyer

Jun 15, 2005 00:51 PDT

Yesterday in UK Parliament

CLIMATE CHANGE [G8]

14 Jun 2005:

Jim Knight: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State DEFRA:

My hon. Friend [Colin Challen - MP Morley and Rothwell - Lab] has been an articulate and passionate champion for the Contraction and Convergence framework. His points are well argued and will be compelling to many listening to the debate.

Certain aspects of Contraction and Convergence are appealing, including the identification of a fixed level for stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations, and comprehensive global participation. It is a long-term framework and has advantages of clear equity—all things that we support. The debate on further action is at an early stage and to support any one framework over any other at the moment would be premature. If we went with this particular framework, given that there is nothing approaching uniform support at the moment, we will be setting out our stall too early.

Colin Challen: What are the other frameworks? That is the question. I am not aware that anything else is seriously on the table. If we allow ourselves the same time to develop a solution as we took to grasp that there was a problem, the solution will come too late.

What is described in C&C is an overarching framework, [in the words of the secretariat of the UN climate change convention] "inevitably required to achieve the goal of the UN Climate Treaty Contraction and Convergence."

Full text from Hansard below.

http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm050614/halltext/50614h04.htm#50614h04_head0

Colin Challen: I am grateful for this opportunity to raise some of my concerns about the possible outcomes of the G8 summit in relation to climate change. First, I must welcome my hon. Friend the Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight) to his new appointment as Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. I hope that he will bring fresh impetus and wisdom to our thinking on the subject. I am sure that he will. I must also ask him to do his best to ensure that the whole House has a chance to debate this crucial subject at the earliest opportunity in Government time.

I will start with my conclusion. The Government should commit themselves to conducting a serious and impartial study of the climate change model known as Contraction and Convergence [C&C]. In its barest outline, C&C proposes that we should reduce our carbon emissions. That bit is relatively uncontroversial, at least outside the White House. C&C, rather more controversially, says that, over the next 45 years, we should reduce our emissions to the point at which they are not only sustainable, but at which no humans may accumulate for themselves more carbon emitting rights than any other. It is a simple concept, but it is supported by serious analysis. Much detailed work has been carried out on it by the Global Commons Institute.

It appears that, in Government circles, there is much scepticism and confusion about C&C, even though there is also some support. The Government have rightly done what they could to dispel the myth that there remain any credible doubts in the scientific community about human-originated climate change. We now have a better understanding of the processes involved and the likely outcomes if we do nothing to change our ways. There is almost total unanimity on that. But remember how long it took to get to that position. If we allow ourselves the same time to develop a solution as we took to grasp that there was a problem, the solution will come too late.

C&C is a full-term solution, and is the only one on the table that addresses the whole time scale to 2050. C&C and the discrete measures that we are already adopting, such as cap and trade schemes, renewables or environmental taxation, are not mutually exclusive. But C&C provides the

benchmark against which those policies can be tested. We know from recent figures that our policies are not delivering the desired net reductions in carbon emissions. We need to be more scientific in our approach, and far more determined. We need an overarching framework in which to operate, not only so that we can test our policies against it, but because it will provide long-term certainty to all those who are required to invest in future systems—be they in carbon trading or technology.

Only last week two dozen leading British industrialists called for a 30-year period of certainty in policy. We are not offering them that at the present. These industrialists are known as the G8 climate change round table, which was convened only a week or so ago by the World Economic Forum. They said: "The current 'patchwork' scheme of regulatory, financial, and technology incentives that has evolved in various parts of the world is not conducive to a cost-effective and efficient approach to the problem of climate change."

That is what we need. Our policies at the moment - that patchwork quilt - are not giving off the right signals about our long-term policies on climate change. At a recent conference in Bonn, called to prepare for the United Nations conference of the parties meeting later this year, a senior civil servant at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was quoted as saying that "even trading may not be the way forward."

I find that rather incredible. If true, it would certainly be a significant shift in policy. Many who are investing in renewable technologies are anxiously waiting to see whether the Government will go down the nuclear route. As in the past, such a move would inevitably soak up huge amounts of public funds. As we saw in the general election, climate change was not an issue, hardly being raised by the Government, let alone by the Opposition. Indeed, our climate change manifesto was launched as part of the rural manifesto launch. This is a sad commentary, especially when the Prime Minister has done so much to make this issue one of his top priorities at the G8.

There are times when it feels like the whole G8 agenda is too big, even with only two items on it. It has become clear that climate change is being shunted to one side because of a lack of clarity in our response to the science. I also recognise the obstacle represented by the United States President, but he is increasingly isolated, even in his own country, despite his dissembling friends in ExxonMobil. I commend the initiatives that are now taking place all over the United States, from the Chicago climate exchange to the mayor of Seattle's climate protection agreement, which has been signed by scores of city mayors across the United States, representing perhaps 130 million people.

Those involved do not feel that they have to wait for President Bush, and nor should we. Indeed, if we had, we would not have Kyoto. We must not enter the post-Kyoto negotiations seeking to appease Bush. I realise that without him, no agreement would be as effective as it should be, but if we please him, we will have an agreement that is of little value to anyone.

C&C has acquired much support, and the Secretary of State understated the case in telling Aubrey Meyer, the director of the Global Commons Institute, that C&C was merely "currently fashionable". In 2003, the secretariat of the UN climate change convention said: "Achieving the goal of the UN Climate Treaty inevitably requires Contraction and Convergence."

In 2000, our own royal commission on environmental pollution said that it supported C&C. In 1997, at Kyoto, the Africa group tabled a C&C amendment. Even the American delegation said that C&C "are elements for the future, perhaps for a next agreement that we may ultimately all seek to engage in."

Indeed, the Byrd-Hagel resolution of the United States Senate, which is often cited as an example of American hostility to climate change agreements per se, actually opposes only climate change treaties that exclude developing countries. Of course, the American Administration has changed since Kyoto, but they will change again, and we must not wait to make progress on these ideas.

I fear that the Government's approach to renewables technology—saying, "We do not choose winners. Let the markets decide"—also applies to overall climate change policy and that they want to wait and see what consensus emerges. Of course, it would be highly desirable to obtain consensus, but all markets have leaders, and the good start that we made in setting the G8 agenda is in

danger of being frittered away.

Let us take a closer look at where the Americans are coming from. Bush wants to reduce the carbon intensity of the American economy, but that could easily be explained as much by a fear of weakening security of energy supplies as by a fear of climate change; indeed, it is probably the former. As such, the policy does not guarantee a net reduction in carbon emissions. That is identical to our own experience over recent years. We may have seen a reduction in carbon intensity—in transport, for example—but the growth in the economy has outweighed it. That is not a good result, no matter how much the Department for Transport would like us to think otherwise.

Such a policy is also dangerous because it encourages some industries—aviation is the worst—to believe that Governments should accept that improvements in their energy efficiency must lead to the grandfathering of emissions rights into the foreseeable future. They want future growth to be built into negotiations, not negotiated away. If they succeed, we might as well stop discussing doing something about climate change in our homes and offices. There are not enough energy-saving light bulbs in the world to compensate for the extra flights Ryanair alone would like us to take in one month.

George Bush is at least putting some money where his mouth is, and the US is committed to spending a lot on new technologies. In the UK, the Council for Science and Technology, which was appointed by the Prime Minister and co-chaired by the Government's chief scientific adviser, published a little-noticed report entitled "An Electricity Supply Strategy for the UK", illustrating the parlous state of our investment in energy technologies. It shows that Government investment in energy research, development and demonstration—RD and D—has dropped to just 5 percent of what it was in 1974, down from the equivalent of \$1 billion annually then to just over \$50 million annually now. According to the report, we spend about 10 percent of what France spends and 20 percent of what Germany spends.

Our privatised industries' performance is equally poor: measured as a percentage of sales, spending on RD and D is half that of American companies. In its report, the council says that Government spending on RD and D is highly fragmented. That is not a rosy picture, and it urgently needs addressing, because without a strong RD and D base, the optimism surrounding new technologies such as hydrogen will be misplaced. The report also shows that we have no choice but to make reductions in energy use a more radical feature of policy than it is. There is no alternative, and the promise of business as usual on the back of technological innovation is wishful thinking. However, that does not lead me to one of the council report's conclusions, which was that nuclear power offers a way out. The dangers of nuclear power have not gone away, but the real danger of hitching up again with that hugely expensive beast is that it will drain resources away from other technologies that offer a cleaner long-term future.

Back in 1974, when we spent so much on research and development, more than three quarters of it went on nuclear power. If we had spent similar sums on renewables, we would be in a far better position. Are we condemned to make the same mistake again? A very powerful lobby would wish that on us, and points to nuclear power's "renaissance" in China, Finland and elsewhere. Although it uses the word "renaissance", I think that "proliferation" is more appropriate, as it implies a more significant meaning.

I recognise that the Government are in a bind. It would take a courageous or, some might say, suicidal politician to tell his or her electorate that their lifestyle was unsustainable. However, we are moving swiftly towards that unpalatable truth and people are beginning to understand why the future cannot be an ever-expanding balloon of economic growth without consequences. I have deep reservations about the Department for Transport's predict-and-provide approach to aviation, but nevertheless its radical thinking on tackling congestion is emerging, although that is not yet about climate change. If it were, the question would not be about whether we should have to pay more for driving our cars at certain times of the day, but about how we could use our cars less.

In the run-up to the G8 summit, we are sending out too many mixed signals. We do not have a single, straight, honest and powerful message that is both practical and conceptually coherent. Unless we adopt a firmer approach, we shall find ourselves fire-fighting on more and more fronts,

to be engulfed—forgive the mixed metaphor—not by fire, but by the sea.

I repeat my conclusion. C&C provides the framework necessary to construct our climate change policies; it provides the discipline that we lack. It is not only environmentally indispensable, but socially just. Nobody on this earth has a greater right to pollute than anyone else. No rich nation has the right to purloin the atmosphere of the poorest nations and then, as is exemplified by our approach to tackling poverty, tell them that we will give them our charity or release them from their debt to us.

Let the Archbishop of Canterbury have the final word. He said that Contraction and Convergence “appears utopian only if we refuse to contemplate the alternatives honestly.”

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jim Knight): I congratulate my hon. Friend the Member for Morley and Rothwell (Colin Challen) on securing this debate on climate change and the G8. Like me, he was elected in 2001; since then, he has established an excellent reputation as a passionate campaigner on such issues. His work on the Environmental Audit Committee and elsewhere in Parliament adds real value to our debates. I thank him for his leadership on such vital matters. Similarly, the UK’s leadership on international climate change is respected and welcomed all over the world by those committed to tackling that issue; no country has done more in recent years to make it an issue for Heads of State, and we shall continue to do so during our EU presidency and presidency of the G8.

Action must be taken in conjunction with our international partners, but if the UK is to influence others successfully, we must first demonstrate that we have taken action at home. Since 1997, we have established the target of 10 percent renewable energy by 2010; placed an obligation on energy suppliers to supply an increasing proportion of energy from renewables; introduced the climate change levy; established the Carbon Trust to work with businesses on reducing energy use; and established the first greenhouse gas trading scheme in the world and one of the toughest trading caps in the new European Union regime.

We have also overturned the whole basis of company car fleet taxation, shifting it towards low-carbon emissions, and lowered vehicle excise duty for low-carbon vehicles. I can tell my hon. Friend that we are pushing for aviation to be included in future in the EU emissions trading scheme and that, just today, the Department of Trade and Industry launched a carbon abatement technology strategy, which I am sure he will find interesting.

The UK has shown that tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions can be achieved without damaging economic competitiveness or living standards. The UK has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5 percent since 1990; during the same period the UK economy has grown by more than 36 percent. We are one of only two EU countries on track to meet the target of cutting 1990 greenhouse emissions by 8 percent before 2010. As has been mentioned, we have more work to do to meet the domestic target of a 20 percent reduction in carbon dioxide because CO₂ reductions are less than greenhouse gas reductions as a whole and because 20 percent is a tougher target.

The climate change programme review will report later this year. We will make some announcements on that shortly and advise on those measures required for the UK to achieve the 2010 target. We cannot tackle climate change unilaterally. As the Minister with responsibility for biodiversity, I noted with concern the report today from the Royal Horticultural Society conference—it has taken a lead by organising the event—on the effect of climate change on trees and forests in this country. Clearly, we cannot do anything on our own to tackle that loss to the enjoyment that we all take from our gardens, recreation areas and rural areas.

As we know, the Prime Minister has made tackling climate change a central theme of the UK’s G8 presidency this year. The Government’s primary objective is to raise the profile of climate change as a matter deserving the urgent attention of Heads of Government in the G8 and outside, so as to promote an international consensus on the need for further action to control emissions.

We have also set ourselves more detailed but no less ambitious objectives. The first is to set out a clear direction of travel to deal with climate change, based on the science. The second is to agree a package of practical measures focusing on technologies that have significantly lower greenhouse

gas emissions than traditional technologies. The third is to work in partnership with the major emerging economies to reach a new consensus on how we deal with the challenge in the future. Our detailed proposals have been developed during the year. On science, they have been developed to reflect the outcome of a science conference hosted by the UK in February. Scientists from more than 30 different countries considered how to stabilise greenhouse gas emissions. They considered what level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere would be self-evidently too much and what options we have to avoid such levels. They concluded that there was greater clarity and less uncertainty about the impacts of climate change across a wide range of systems, sectors and societies. In many cases, the risks identified were also more serious than previously thought. We are making progress in understanding the science.

On 7 June, the science academies of all the G8 nations plus those of Brazil, China and India signed a joint statement. It states: "The scientific understanding of climate change is now sufficiently clear to justify nations taking prompt action".

When independent scientists speak with such clarity, it behoves politicians to listen. The science academies called on G8 nations to "identify cost-effective steps that can be taken now to contribute to substantial and long-term reduction in net global greenhouse gas emissions".

To further our aim of developing a package of practical measures, we are working on a possible technology package to be agreed at Gleneagles. Specific proposals are being prepared in collaboration with our G8 partners on cleaning up fossil fuels and improving energy performance. The G8 has already agreed, under the Evian action plan on science and technology for sustainable development, to accelerate the research, development and diffusion of energy technologies. We are hopeful that the G8 can agree on turning the political agreement that we already have from the Evian summit into concrete action.

To address our third aim of working in partnership with emerging economies, we are engaging with a number of developing countries on mitigation and adaptation. The share of global greenhouse gas emissions from developing countries is set to rise significantly. As countries develop, it will be important that they are able to meet their growing energy needs sustainably. There is a role for G8 countries and international financial institutions to work with those economies to enable them to achieve a low-carbon future. Greater clean coal technology, energy efficiency, and renewable energy within the emerging economies should be supported through a combination of capacity building, technical assistance and additional finance. Therefore, we have invited the Heads of Government of Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa to the summit in Gleneagles, where they will have extensive discussions with their G8 counterparts on climate change issues.

It is also important that the G8 and the major emerging economies discuss the impacts of climate change per se. It is widely accepted that some degree of climate change is now unavoidable, due to historic and current emissions. Those effects will disproportionately affect developing countries—the countries who have contributed least to the problem. I know that in many ways that is philosophically what is behind the contraction and conversion ideas about which my hon. Friend has such strong feelings. Developing countries also lack the necessary financial means to cope with the widespread effects of climate change. We need to work with vulnerable developing countries to help them respond to the challenge.

Climate variability and climate change put some \$10 billion to \$20 billion of net overseas development aid at risk each year, threatening the achievement of the UN millennium development goals. As an important first step, we need to ensure that developing countries have adequate regional and national data and the capacity to interpret them, so that they will be able to assess their degree of vulnerability and plan effective responses for the future. We, as donors, should climate-proof our development spending through better screening and management of climate risk. As biodiversity Minister, I attended the launch of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, which has shown the clear link between the loss of biodiversity and the problem of achieving poverty eradication and, as I have already stated, the clear link between biodiversity loss and climate change. Our aims are challenging, but we are confident that they are achievable. We are not at Gleneagles yet—there is still a lot of work to be done—but momentum is moving in our direction. The

Prime Minister recently visited Rome, Moscow, Berlin and Washington, and he is in Paris today. He will also be holding a video conference with his Japanese and Canadian counterparts. The Prime Minister and President Bush had constructive discussions on climate change, and I hear my hon. Friend's cynicism about the President. The differences between Europe and the US on the scientific evidence surrounding climate change are well known, but we agree on the fundamental points that climate change is a serious issue and that we need to act in response. President Bush has said he is looking forward to a discussion on climate change at Gleneagles, and so are we. He and the Prime Minister have regular discussions on the subject.

We should not forget that the summit is not about creating a new Kyoto or any other international agreement, and nor is it about setting new targets—the UN framework convention on climate change is the right place for that. Instead, we want to find ways of reaching a new level of dialogue between the leading economies, private sector and technology leaders and the major emerging economies—dialogue that will lead to practical action, involving promoting new clean technologies and supporting sustainable economic growth. We will achieve that through both the measures that we agree at the summit and working together beyond Gleneagles. In many ways, Gleneagles will be about creating a will and momentum that can be then taken forward through the UN process. The package of measures on the table at Gleneagles will complement the UN framework convention process by providing the means through which the necessary emissions reductions can be more easily achieved.

The UK remains open to any new international framework as long as it is realistic so that it is relevant to countries with different national circumstances, robust so that it can be adjusted in the light of experience, and durable so that the system does not become irrelevant in a few years' time.

My hon. Friend has been very patient, and I will come to his specific points on Contraction and Convergence. He has been an articulate and passionate champion for the framework. His points are well argued and will be compelling to many listening to the debate. Certain aspects of Contraction and Convergence are appealing, including the identification of a fixed level for stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations, and comprehensive global participation. It is a long-term framework and has advantages of clear equity—all things that we support.

One key element, however, of any future regime must be workability. One particular concern with Contraction and Convergence is the question of how globally acceptable and, in consequence, how workable that would prove to be. The debate on further action is at an early stage and to support any one framework over any other at the moment would be premature.

Colin Challen: What are the other frameworks? That is the question. I am not aware that anything else is seriously on the table. What is described is an overarching framework.

Jim Knight: The argument that I am putting to my hon. Friend is that if we went with this particular framework, given that there is nothing approaching uniform support at the moment, we will be setting out our stall too early. We are very early in negotiations about how the framework can go forward at the UN convention in Montreal at the end of the year.

It is important that all existing suggestions remain on the table at present and that full consideration is given both to the possible solutions and to the elements within them that could be used to form part of a workable solution. As I said, the outcome will be decided by negotiations under the UN framework convention on climate change.

My hon. Friend asked if we could commission an independent expert study. I am told that there are already a large number of independent expert studies, which suggest a number of possible future frameworks, including Contraction and Convergence.

As well as the official G8 political process, we have been engaging with international business to hear its views. When the Prime Minister attended the World Economic Forum this year, he asked 25 leading multinational companies, including BP, Deutsche Bank, EDF, Ford and Toyota, to look at the issue of climate change. We are particularly pleased with their statement, issued on 9 June. Their message was strong—that we must take action now and Governments must send a strong policy signal to markets, taking into account the long periods over which investments in infra-

structure are considered. They highlighted the need for the rapid commercialisation of new technologies, which are in many cases already developed. They also dismissed the idea that action to tackle climate change causes economic harm. They pointed out that there are likely to be economic benefits, particularly if initial costs are compared to the costs of inaction. The Government will take their message to the Gleneagles summit and beyond.

With limited membership and participation, the G8 alone cannot and should not produce a new international framework. What the UK's G8 presidency will produce is the momentum that the international community needs to develop a future framework. We hope that that dialogue continues through the United Nations framework convention on climate change, specifically at the next conference of the parties meeting in Montreal this year. We will be pressing for the conference to agree to start negotiations on the framework for beyond 2012, which we hope will produce a regime capable of tackling the huge challenge that we face. I trust that we will continue to debate such a crucial issue.

At the beginning of his remarks, my hon. Friend asked for a debate on the Floor of the House. I am sure that my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House will have noted what he said. Debating the issue is important. As we move through Gleneagles to Montreal, I hope that we continue to hear from my hon. Friend as the debate continues.

(no subject) Aubrey Meyer

Jun 16, 2005 00:58 PDT

Reader-friendly, Detailed, Expert Summary of Global warming/Climate Change Problem and Solution from: -

John Houghton,

Hadley Centre, Meteorological Office, Exeter EX1 3PB, UK

May 4th 2005

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Houghton_IOPhysics.pdf

"An example of how the approach to stabilization for CO₂ might be achieved is illustrated in figure 30. It is based on a proposal called 'Contraction and Convergence' that originates with the Global Commons Institute (GCI) [125], a non-governmental organization based in the UK. The envelope of carbon dioxide emissions is one that leads to stabilization at 450 ppm (without climate feedbacks included), although the rest of the proposal does not depend on that actual choice of level. Note that, under this envelope, global fossil-fuel emissions rise by about 15% to about 2025; they then fall to less than half the current level by 2100. The figure illustrates the division of emissions between major countries or groups of countries as it has been up to the present. Then, the simplest possible solution is taken to the sharing of emissions between countries by proposing that, from some suitable date (in the figure, 2030 is chosen), emissions be allocated on the basis of equal shares per capita. From now until 2030 the division is allowed to converge from the present situation to that of equal per capita shares—hence the 'contraction and convergence'. The further proposal is that arrangements to trade the CO₂ allocations be made.

The 'Contraction and Convergence' proposal addresses all of the four principles [Principle of Sustainable Development (as in the FCCC Objective), the Precautionary Principle, the Polluter-Pays Principle and the Principle of Equity].

In particular, through its equal per capita sharing arrangements it deals with the question of international equity, and the proposed trading arrangements ensure that the greatest 'polluters' pay. Its simple logic makes it a strong candidate for a long-term solution.

What has yet to be worked out is how the 'convergence' can be implemented—although that is a problem contained within any proposal for a solution."

Almost Unbelievable . . . US fried-PUTATO Aubrey Meyer

Jun 16, 2005 12:45 PDT

For some time now, DEFRA – Tony Blair’s Whitehall source of ‘climate-strategy’ for the forthcoming G-8 - has appointed itself as a Psychiatric Unit for Trans-Atlantic Outpatients [You say ‘PUTATO’]. They observe the undeclared assumption, even if mental health is impaired in the process protect the ‘special relationship’ at any cost.

As if further proof was needed [and in case you feel this is too harsh], take a look at this almost unbelievable breaking story.

New draft G-8 Documents leaked in the last hour, reveal that the US are still demanding of DEFRA that global warming is deemed a conjecture and climate change merely a challenge.

<http://www.channel4.com/news/special-reports/special-reports-storypage.jsp?id=260>

[Links to the documents are there too].

Irresponsible as it is, and unbelievable as this seems, this US denial is tactical. Why?

The US warily anticipates a flood of climate-related damage claims against the US, calculated against accumulated US greenhouse gas emissions since 1800. They still have an accumulated emission total that is over 30% of the global total since then. So under that blame-game called the ‘Brazilian Proposal’, they would be in the dock ahead of all other nations.

So the US block the process just long enough to let Chinese and Indian accumulated emissions ‘catch-up’, whereupon the tort courts will be faced with the international chaos of adjudicating un-measurable causation in mounting and massive claims for damage.

The currently fashionable NGO ritualising over ‘ecological debt’ will be inversely fashionable to the real-politik of a C&C deal that is predicated on a blame-limitations or exclusion clause.

When that is clear, a change in attitude will mean less work for the Titannic’s Captain Henry and DEFRA’s US-fried PUTATO.

Beat the Heat . . . ? Aubrey Meyer

Jun 17, 2005 13:10 PDT

“The Contraction & Convergence approach is the most widely known, transparent and comprehensive approach, and has much appeal in the developing world.”

If only the UK Government could wake up to this.

If they can publish the “Heat wave plan for England: Protecting health and reducing harm from extreme heat and heat waves”, it is truly extraordinary that they get behind this global plan?

Apparently preparing for the worst, Sir Liam Donaldson, the Chief Medical Officer explains, “Why the [English] plan is needed: -

Climate change means heat waves are likely to become more common in England. By the 2080s, it is predicted that an event similar to that experienced in England in 2003 will happen every year.”

Sir Liam’s report commits public policy action to be based on the perception that the extreme event and mortality of 2003, slopes to becomes merely the *average* of annual events of this kind within seven decades.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Heatwave_guidance.pdf

Think about it. On this damage slope globally, we’re anticipating giga-heat-death and injury - yes, cumulatively that means *billions* of climate-change related deaths over the years ahead. In the face of this, it is a little hard to stomach the government advice given which includes an admonition to, “be sure that old people know what to do.”

If you ring the Department of Health [DoH 00 44 207 210 4850] you will find that they are pretty candid about the trends. Already over-stretched, over-worked, but probably not over-paid they are ready to provide information about and links to the report on which the present “Heat-Wave Plan” is based. It is the earlier report: - “Health Effects of Climate Change on the UK”: -

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/10/80/61/04108061.pdf>

This report from 2001, based largely on advice from the Hadley Centre, makes stark reading. It is now being updated. It is worth noting en passant that the Hadley Centre is part of the Met Office

and the Met Office is part of the Ministry of Defence. Think about it.

Since the report was written, the Hadley Centre has swung in behind C&C: - "[we] . . . and other scientists around the world are working together to come up with a robust methodology to quantitatively estimate how future emissions reductions might be divided between nations in an equitable way, should such approaches be adopted by the international community. This information will underpin negotiations post Kyoto, and inform negotiations on contraction and convergence."

So C&C should inform the new [DoH] report. Let's see.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmenvaud/105/105we13.htm>

Perhaps DEFRA and the UK Government will take note of the comments from the Ministry of Defence written to GCI saying, "I found your supporting pack on "Contraction and Convergence" persuasive and would encourage you to ensure that the DETR staff involved in climate change policy are aware of its contents."

C&C certainly gets a timely endorsement in the new Dutch report announced yesterday: "The Contraction & Convergence approach is the most widely known, transparent and comprehensive approach, and has much appeal in the developing world. It assumes universal participation and defines emission allowances on the basis of convergence of per capita emission allowances (starting after 2012) in 2050 for all countries under a contracting global emissions profile."

"Meeting the EU 2°C climate target: global and regional emission implications." [M.G.J. den Elzen, M. Meinshausen. The Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment supported this research as part of the International Climate Change Policy Project].

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/rivm.pdf>

C&C is increasingly widely supported. The reason for this is simple. It is understood as the overarching framework within which to organize the commitments to achieve a global reconciliation that protects our children from the worst of what is to come.

Even the techie 'right-stuff' beloved of the US and the UK, needs this framework. And this is the message with which DEFRA should engage their Trans-Atlantic out-patients.

The US may have forgotten: this is what they were asking for all along.

Button-Your-Lip-Service-C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 20, 2005 09:00 PDT

On the eve of the G-8, the Environment and Development NGOs pay 'button-your-lip-service' to African demands for Contraction and Convergence.

A Northern NGOs "Africa - Up in Smoke" climate-report was published by the New Economics Foundation et al today. Progress ?

DEFRA must be wondering. First acting as press agent for the G-8, the NGOs dutifully reiterate the DEFRA/UK Government's White Paper from 2003, before the Gulf War: - "Commitments to cut emissions should be progressively raised up until 2012 in a way that puts countries on track to cuts of between 60 and 80 per cent by 2050." [They don't even specify which [other than 'rich'] countries].

Then taking a *G8 must/must-not* position on the future framework, they go on: -

"In this light, *G8 countries should establish a robust policy framework for long-term future action on climate change post 2012*. All G8 countries should commit to achieving caps on emissions at a national level, that are compatible with a fair a global solution that is rooted in human equality and capable of stopping dangerous climate change."

Hmm – that's good. But hold on! No it isn't.

This was after taking the opposite *G8 mustn't* position, to the UK Parliament recently.

In evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee, a key player in this group of NGOs [RSPB] said: -

"It is particularly important that no attempt should be made by the G8 to impose preconditions on

the negotiations, especially in the form of organising principles, such as contraction and convergence. These *should emerge during negotiations*, not before them, and *preferably from developing countries* rather than the G8."

Well, "the G8 must/must-not establish a framework [C&C or otherwise] What's the G8 supposed to do?

Let's try the developing countries in the negotiations. *Emerging in the negotiations*, previously and again recently, developing countries have called for the C&C framework [see Kenyan Government Proposals below].

But do the NGO's support that?

No. They assert their own mixed-up messages as above and as follows . .

In a recent document they say, "Systems that are not practicable - In a qualitatively different category, the Contraction and Convergence system could in principle achieve the environmental targets and is based on an equity principle, as expressed in its per capita convergence rules. [However], this system however has a number of [wholly unspecified] drawbacks and weaknesses that mean that it is not judged to be a viable basis for a negotiable and practicable regime."

Well that's that then.

No it's not. Back in the document published today, C&C does discreetly return, albeit wearing a church-related C&C fig-leaf. Hidden in an obscure text box in the document marked "The Churches and Climate Change" and with no explanation and no links provided, they quote some words from a letter [09 10 2004] by the Director of the African Climate NGOs to their Northern counterparts: - "We appeal to your conscience to support the concept of Contraction and Convergence as it is not only ethical and moral, but it provides the avenue through which all countries can participate in restoring the ecological and climate change imbalance in an equitable manner. Africa has suffered enough in human history, from slavery to colonialism and now our people are at the mercy of the unbridled economic development of the North."

A link to this letter was not provided so here it is: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Faithbasedgroups-C&C.pdf>

The consciences appealed to have not actually heard this appeal from African NGOs or African Government. Instead, what they have practiced for over 15 years and again now is a mixture of this button-your-lip censorship and let's contradict ourselves and each other and everyone else and be generally helpful the way in which bureaucracies thrive.

Here as one bit of evidence is NEF, self-billed as the experts and the home of C&C, fulfilling the prophecy of unbridled economic growth in the North, has their principals present for £70,000 per year salary from the charitable gravy-train.

Unbelievable? Read it here.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/NEF.pdf>

G-8 salaries are probably better. But, if you wonder whether solving this issue is really *above* everybody's pay-grade and why there's such a mess in the gravy, could it be in fact that actually everybody's salary is actually above solving the problem.

Faced with this, what are the G-8 supposed to do? - Probably just carry on, changing-the-climate, kissing babies when they're not bombing the parents and sometimes getting some charity-funded echo from the NGO's for free.

Well actually the word is that the leaked [and bracketed] G8 documents were in fact *leaked by Downing Street* so the eventual inclusion of the 'threatened text' can be spun as a great victory for the gravy train.

In recent evidence to the UN climate negotiations, the Kenyan Government said [in other words 'emerging in the negotiations']:

AFRICA POST-KYOTO POSITION at UNFCCC BONN

Africa proposed equity in 1997 during Kyoto Protocol negotiations which comprised the following:

1. Global emissions allocations based on per capita basis.
2. A globally agreed date for contraction (reduction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere) and convergence (equal sharing of environmental space per person) of emissions.
3. Trading of emissions based on entitlements.

Why Equity in Post-Kyoto?

Every human being is born equal and therefore must have equal environmental space; a global common resource. Africa will suffer the most from the negative impacts of climate change (IPCC Second and Third Assessment Reports), despite being the least emitter of greenhouse gases, due to her underdeveloped status.

Damages associated with climate change are rising. Deeper cuts in GHG emissions than as presently contained in the Kyoto Protocol urgently required in order to forestall further damages.

Consequences of Inequitable Arrangements are: - Africa's development aspirations compromised; Millennium Development Goals unmet; NEPAD objectives compromised.

Why Trading?

Trading is better than begging; Aid is dehumanising and humiliating; Independence in choice of urgent development priorities.

Making Sense of Carbon with C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 23, 2005 01:54 PDT

James Bruges [author of iconic "Little Earth Book"] reviews Peter Singer's "Ethics of Globalization" and finds common sense and cause with C&C.

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Bruges_Singer_Review.pdf

Anthony Turner [Director of Carbon Sense] finds it too, in a pithy letter, purged of piety and pointed at: -

"Saving the planet and helping the poor."

In today's "Independent."

2005-06-23

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/letters/story.jsp?story=648965>

Sir: According to a source in your article "The hottest issue of all" (20 June), Downing Street believes "it is simply not possible to talk about the two issues [of climate change and Africa] in the same breath". Why not? If a concept such as Domestic Tradable Quotas (DTQs) proposed by Richard Starkey and Kevin Anderson ("Smart solutions for a greener planet", letter, 13 June) was extended to all countries, the very act of reducing carbon emissions by international trading would reduce third-world poverty.

The sums are clear. Nature can at present absorb somewhat less than 2 tonnes of CO2 per person per year. The average American emits 20 tonnes, the average European 10 tonnes, but the average sub-Saharan African emits less than half a tonne per year.

Emissions "rights" would be issued to everyone based on the average of their country's current emissions. This would, over a period of, say, 25 years, move towards equal "shares of the air" for every citizen on the planet. The rich would buy emissions unused by the poor - trade by right, not aid by charity. The framework under which this would operate, "contraction and convergence", is already supported by most developing countries and many developed ones, and provides the basis for the UK's target of 60 per cent reduction by 2050.

Citizens' carbon trading would educate the public to the low-carbon imperative and encourage low-carbon technologies and consumer choice. In the poorest parts of the world communities would earn the finance they need to move out of poverty, but only in a low-carbon way.

ANTONY TURNER

DIRECTOR,

CARBONSENSE
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
KENT

This is helpful on the eve of the PSI Carbon Rationing Conference in London on Thursday 30th June.

The event is titled "Living in a low carbon world: the policy implications of carbon rationing". The key purpose of this day, sponsored by the Policy Studies Institute and the UK Energy Research Centre's Meeting Place, is to raise the profile of carbon rationing and to explore what its introduction would mean for key sectors of society and the economy. It is hoped that it will provide a starting point for continuing dialogue and action and contribute to building a community of interest around the concept of carbon rations.

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Living_in_a_low_carbon_world_programme.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Introduction_to_carbon_rationing.pdf

An expert audience will debate how a low carbon world and personal carbon rationing would affect their sector. The audience and speakers are from the fields of: buildings, transport, planning, health, economy and employment, policy and politics.

The event will be opened by Dr Mayer Hillman (PSI) and Dr Tina Fawcett (University of Oxford) co-authors of "How we can save the planet", and Colin Challen MP. Dr Brenda Boardman, University of Oxford, will chair the event, and speakers include: Tony Grayling (IPPR), Roger Levett, Caroline Lucas MEP and George Monbiot.

Shortly after the meeting a report about on it will be produced, which will include a summary of the speakers' ideas and audience contributions.

UK Parliament debate C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jul 04, 2005 03:35 PDT

On Wednesday last week [29th June], the Liberal Democrat Party tabled a well-worded "Contraction and Convergence" amendment for debate aimed at the G-8 [see link or footnote below].

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmagenda/ob050629.htm>

The Government tabled a substitute amendment that ignored Contraction and Convergence and congratulated itself on its G-8 climate leadership instead [see above link or footnote below].

After a lengthy debate [under a 3-line whip, which means compulsory party-line voting], the government's amendment was carried on a vote 313 against 220 i.e. with a majority of 93 votes or was it ?

When this result is 'corrected' as explained below, the C&C amendment won with a result that was 307 for C&C and 226 congratulating the government on leadership i.e. the government lost by 87 votes.

Here's the correction: - if we allow the 77 Labour MPs who have supported C&C on the record through Early Day Motion 961 and the further 10 who didn't sign EDM 961 but did take the C&C pledge in the last General Election in May to renounce the whip [tribal loyalties - a big issue] and be rejoined with the C&C amendment because they supported EDM 961 and the pledge, the result is that the C&C amendment won the debate with a result that was 307 for C&C and 226 congratulating the government on leadership i.e. the government lost by 87 votes.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/MPs_3_Line_Whipped.pdf

No matter: as Rungano Karimanzira [the brilliant leader of the C&C Africa Group position at Kyoto] "my name means 'life is a long road'." C&C is now the dominant position in the UK parliament and beyond. This is awkward for the government, especially now their links to George Bush have run into his citing the US Byrd Hagel defence again, just a day later [see below].

Full debate here: -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm050629/debtext/50629->

21.htm#50629-21_head0

In the debate, Minister Morley tabled the C&C rebuttal.

He said that Labour politicians welcomed the 'social equity' of C&C. However he then trotted out the now quite infamous canard that C&C could encourage population growth in the populous countries. This is where Indian women, are assumed to breed at twice the standard rate in order to get more emissions permits. This foolish argument is in danger of reaching peer-status with DEFRA's previous and now notorious argument in defence of global cost/benefit analysis, where 15 climate-dead Indians equalled one climate-dead English person. There was an international outcry over that. There will be another if they persist with this.

Pressing on, Mr Morley then tabled the "40 framework proposals" from the Washington-based PEW Centre saying C&C was simply one of these forty PEW pop-up ideas. That Henry Derwent from DEFRA, sits on the PEW Centre's Climate Policy Jury is no coincidence. The PEW pop-up gambit is a filibuster. Parliament' will take an extra year out to study the finer points of this academic bubble-blowing while bureaucrats get left alone to get the policy community foaming at the mouth again.

Mr Morley didn't acknowledge what even the PEW document does, namely that these 40 proposals reduce to three or four generic approaches. One of these is the long-term framework, the cited example of which is C&C.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Pew_Survey.pdf

Minister Morley didn't refer to the memo agreed across Whitehall Ministries and sent to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee enquiry making exactly these points.

Mr Morley is actually a member of this Committee. And in this memo, C&C is cited as a "full-term" and not a "long-term" framework. This important distinction - insisted on by the rather more focused DFID - means that "full-term" is now no longer necessarily tied to "long-term". Simply put - we don't have that much time.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/DEFRA_FCO.pdf

This distinction - full-term is short-term - demands a discourse that sees ten years left to turn things away from certain global climate disaster, as pronounced in the Byers Report. This report says we must *not* exceed 400 ppmv CO2 concentration in the atmosphere if we are to keep within the maximum of a 2 degrees global temperature rise. We are at 380 ppmv now. All other considerations aside, this means that emissions globally must peak within the decade ahead and then go to virtually net-zero within 60 years. Stephen Byers and his co chair Republican Senator Olympia Snowe, are lobbying the Bush administration on this point [apparently with the express sanction of 10 Downing Street].

Mr Morley also didn't acknowledge another memo to the Environmental Audit Committee from the Hadley Centre [like DEFRA, part of the Department of Defence] either which openly says that "Contraction and Convergence" is what we are negotiating.

And while he does this, he is also writing to MPs briefing them on Contraction and Convergence pointing out that C&C is "appealing" because [unlike every other approach] it is numerically driven by a stable atmospheric Greenhouse Gas concentration target: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Morley160605.pdf>

This is good; it is after all why the UNFCCC now says C&C is needed by definition to achieve the convention's objective.

http://www.gci.org.uk/UNFCCC/C&C_Janos_Pasztor_UNFCCC.pdf

Even Margaret Beckett, who over-rode C&C in parliament on Wednesday, stated on the Downing Street web-site that the process, if not the government's approach, is urgency and concentration target-driven.

<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page7754.asp>

However, Mr Morley uses the letter briefing the MPs to rehearse a set of contradictory demands that nothing - let-alone C&C - could ever resolve. For example he says, "the US has already indi-

cated that it is opposed to the percapita approach". The answer is, "So what?" The percapita approach is not a definition of C&C. Even the 40 pop-up options from PEW make that clear. That is a take-it or leave-it moral approach which its advocates have never successfully modelled.

Anyway, 'per capita' isn't the problem and inclusivity is. George Bush and his administration have apparently been opposed to literally *everything* under discussion except perhaps the Byrd Hagel Resolution.

President Bush restated this in a Danish TV interview aired Thursday that adhering to the Kyoto treaty on climate change would have "wrecked" the U.S. economy. "Kyoto would have wrecked our economy. I couldn't in good faith have signed Kyoto," Bush told the Danish Broadcasting Corp., *noting that the treaty did not include other nations -- including India and China -- that he called "big polluters."*

C&C is the answer because it answers that, not because its "moral" or because anyone 'likes' it. It is the answer because the C&C calculus runs inclusivity off any full-term concentration target with the detail a function of that.

It is called "sequencing" [the hierarchy of the argument] and knowing that everything that doesn't is too random to envisage, let-alone organise and implement.

C&C in current media: -

<http://www.newstatesman.com/200507040010>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/hearafrica05/story/0,15756,1517876,00.html>

C&C in current reports: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/H_europe2005ecologicalfootprint\[1\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/H_europe2005ecologicalfootprint[1].pdf)

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/IEA_Approaches\[1\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/IEA_Approaches[1].pdf)

C&C in current speeches: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Ritch-Ditchley-240605.pdf>

[Note 1 "That this House

- * recognises the serious threat posed to the planet by climate change;

- * welcomes the decision of the Prime Minister to make this a priority for the UK presidency of the G8;

- * notes with concern however the lack of progress being made to secure effective international agreement on the way forward and in particular the wrecking tactics of the present US Administration and the total lack of leverage on this issue by the Prime Minister over President Bush, who is still in public denial of even the basic science; believes that carbon emissions need to be cut by at least 60 per cent. by 2050;

- * further believes that without such action, measures to reduce poverty in developing countries will be severely undermined;

- * calls on the Prime Minister to use the G8 to win support for a successor regime to Kyoto based upon the principle of Contraction and Convergence, engaging the participation of both developed and developing nations;

- * further believes that he will be in a stronger position to give an international lead if he now tackles his failures in domestic climate change policy, which mean that the UK is now virtually certain to miss its 2010 carbon emissions reduction target and is now in danger of missing even its Kyoto target;

- * and urges him in particular to adopt effective policies to conserve energy within the domestic sector, and to cut emissions within the transport and energy sectors.

[Note 2 "That this House

- * welcomes the UK's global leadership on climate change and in particular the Prime Minister's decision to make climate change one of the top two priorities for the G8 Presidency and a priority for the EU Presidency;

- * recognises that UK initiatives in 2005 have already made important contributions to the interna-

tional debate on future climate change policy, in particular the scientific conference on stabilisation in February 2005 and the Energy and Environment Ministerial Roundtable in March 2005;

- * looks forward to the Gleneagles Summit and provides its full support to the Prime Minister's continuing efforts to secure a successful outcome;

- * commends the UK's plans to continue to strive for further international action following Gleneagles through both the G8 and EU;

- * further commends the Labour Party for being the only party to commit in its manifesto to a national goal to reduce emissions by 20 per cent. by 2010;

- * celebrates the UK's achievement in already reducing emissions to 13.4 per cent. between the base year and 2003, beyond that required by the Kyoto Protocol;

- * further welcomes the introduction of policies such as the climate change levy and renewables obligation that have been so important in achieving this;

- * and looks forward to the publication of the climate change programme later this year which will set out further policies to deliver the goal of a 20 per cent. reduction in emissions by 2010.

"C&C - logical conclusion" - G8 Aubrey Meyer

Jul 11, 2005 06:45 PDT

Ambassador Estrada backs C&C – vivid imaging at G-8 . . .

"C&C is the logical conclusion of an equitable approach to resolving climate change."

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CandC_Banner_G8.pdf

Short report from [and congrats to] GCI veteran Lewis Cleverdon [and his can-do canines].

"Got the Contraction & Convergence banner up to Gleneagles, avoided fracas, and then flew it again at the gates to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.

There was a captive audience of police (very friendly - brought water for the dogs), who were stunned at the notion of trying to evacuate Scotland post-Gulf-Stream collapse.

Both police & many public promptly adopted the C&C concept."

Ambassador Raul Estrada of Argentina submitted this view to IPCC Working Group 3 in Havana during preparations for the IPCC Third Assessment Report.

Tomorrow, Royal Charter Institutions take their position on the C&C framework and in two weeks there is a C&C intergovernmental meeting in Latin America; info tba.

EDIE news-service David Hopkins reports on C&C at G-8

http://www.edie.net/library/view_article.asp?id=2981&channel=0

C&C: On climate change, the G8 has the chance to make history, not poverty.

Tony Blair put tackling climate change and African poverty at the top of his agenda for the G8 summit.

As David Hopkins reported, there is a way to meet both of these targets head-on, but only if there is the will.

"As leaders gather in Gleneagles for the G8 summit this week, two topics are dominating headlines and discussions: Africa and climate change.

Tony Blair has said he wants to not only heal the 'scar on the conscience of the world', but also to tackle the effects of an issue 'so far reaching in its impact and irreversible in its destructive power, that it radically alters human existence'.

That these are two noble, lofty ambitions is without doubt. Whether or not the G8 is willing to deliver on them, however, is another matter.

Thus far, the poverty and development agenda has dominated debate, with the Live8 concerts and Make Poverty History campaigns making headlines and receiving pledges from the heads of state.

Climate change, by contrast, seems to be falling behind in its wake, with no firm action or pledges made, as if tackling global warming is a wildly unachievable goal, compared to the relative 'ease'

of banishing global poverty.

This seems a desperately worrying state of affairs as climate change and development are not mutually exclusive, and are likely to have a major impact on one another.

As a coalition of development and environment groups recently noted in their report *Africa: Up in Smoke?*, (see edie news story), development goals could easily be ruined by the effects of climate change, such as extreme rains, hail and droughts, that could erode soils and make large swathes of the developing world uninhabitable or unable to grow crops.

Equally, any breakthrough in development is likely to see a massive rise in emissions from the developing world, hastening the effects of global warming.

So, any deal on one should, by rights, offer a framework to take into consideration the other.

This framework already exists and is called Contraction and Convergence (C&C).

Developed and first proposed by Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute in London 1990, C&C is widely accepted by climate and poverty campaigners alike as the only way to move both issues forward in a sustainable manner.

The first step on the C&C path is for the world to agree on a scientifically 'safe' or 'stable' level of carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere, and then work out the rate at which emissions would have to 'contract', ie rate of reduction, in order to meet that target at a specific time, 2050 for example.

"A sensible judgement has to be made as to what that limit is," Mr Meyer explained, speaking exclusively to edie news. "We use 450 parts per million by volume (ppmv) CO₂ as a reference [the current level is around 360ppmv] not because it is necessarily safe, but because we believe it should be central when comparing 'more' with 'less' dangerous."

"The point is, the rate can be annually revised - that is why you'd have annual negotiations," he added.

From this official target or ceiling limit, a global budget of tradable emissions allowances would be created. Crucially, these would be shared out between countries proportional to population, so that each country's emissions entitlements would eventually converge on the basis of equity rather than relative wealth as at present.

This means that, over a phased amount of time, each and every person on Earth would be given the same emissions entitlement.

Rich, polluting countries, would immediately be at a disadvantage in the emissions markets and be forced to buy entitlements from cleaner, usually developing, nations. Depending on the level of contraction and the date for convergence, this could signal an enormous flow of money from north to south, or developed to developing, far surpassing that currently spent on aid.

"Nobody refutes that, to stabilise concentrations you have to have a contraction of emissions. If you have a contraction of emissions, then some form of convergence of emissions shares is already occurring," Meyer continues.

"What you have to decide is whether you want an equitable, scientifically based framework, such as C&C, or roulette style guesswork, which is what we have now. By setting this up, as opposed to nothing, or the good intentioned pick-a-number politics a la Kyoto, what you've got is a frame of reference that is rights based, that is inclusive, and that deprives people, in principle, of a reason for saying, 'I won't play because they won't play'. The game is already going on, C&C is the board on which you play the game."

This could help overcome one of the major stumbling blocks of the Kyoto treaty and satisfy US demands, stipulated by the Byrd-Hagel Resolution, for a truly international process committing all countries to limiting their greenhouse gas emissions.

At present, under Kyoto, developing countries, even rapidly developing ones such as China and India, have no incentive to curb their emissions. A point the US has used repeatedly as a reason why it won't cut its own emissions.

However, C&C is a truly international framework, one whose full workings could be phased in over

an agreed convergence timetable.

In addition, Meyer says, if there is agreement that global emissions should converge to equity, then developing countries would have a huge incentive to conserve energy and adopt a renewable, non-fossil fuel energy future. As part of the C&C framework they would automatically acquire a surplus emissions entitlement, based on their population to emissions ratio, which they could sell to finance the creation of a new, renewable, energy infrastructure.

The simplicity and equity of the framework have gained it support from a number of unlikely sources. Adair Turner, ex-head of the CBI and now with Merrill Lynch has voiced his support and oil giant BP recently invited Aubrey to explain and discuss the principles of C&C with their management.

Even Defra has admitted that its targets for future emissions reduction (60% reduction by 2050) were based on calculations from the C&C models.

More recently, the House of Commons Select Environmental Audit Committee has said the Government 'should formally adopt and promote C&C as the basis for future international agreements to reduce emissions', arguing that: 'The real strength of the model arises from the manner in which the concept of equity underpins it'.

Throughout the election campaign in May, Aubrey and the GCI targeted all sitting MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates, asking them to make a simple online pledge to endorse C&C as the framework within which to negotiate climate change gaining a respectable parliamentary majority of over 300 signatures.

This is not to say that it is without criticism. James Cameron, one of the negotiators of the UN-FCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, and a founder of Climate Change Capital, a specialist merchant bank for emissions trading, has said he found it impossible to apply in practice and that, if used as a negotiating strategy, would delay the implementation of Kyoto and the creation of a post-Kyoto regime.

Meyer, however, remains unperturbed. He has been campaigning at UN level for the adoption of C&C since he developed the framework in 1990 and has been critical of the Kyoto regime since its inception: "Its basis is guess work not science. And, it is inauspicious that Kyoto rewards only the long term polluters. The rule is to start as you mean to carry on, and if Kyoto is that start, then God help us."

"In my opinion, this (C&C) is the only thing that can take us beyond Kyoto and into a safe and equitable future."

So far, however, signs from the pre-G8 build-up do not look good. The American delegation still doubts the science behind global warming - perhaps unsurprisingly, given that large swathes of the country still doubt the science behind evolution - and the UK itself cannot keep its own emissions under control, let alone the rest of the world's.

However, there is hope. All parties have said they favour technological boosts to the problems of global warming and investment in the developing world. C&C provides a clear financial incentive for clean technological development through its equitable system of emissions trading.

"What we're saying to Tony Blair is that the empty chair is yours. When you go to the G8, speak for everybody in terms of this mandate and don't miss the opportunity of your career," Meyer says. He is well aware that the agenda of the G8 is likely to be swayed by the momentum of the Make Poverty History campaign, but is desperately trying to make sure that people don't forget that climate change could make us all history.

"We have the chance to address both poverty and climate change through this one mechanism and it is so crucial that we do this now. Please Tony Blair, you have this one chance. Make history, not poverty."

By David Hopkins

GCI

<http://www.gci.org.uk>

C&C . . . plan and planet . . . Aubrey Meyer

Jul 14, 2005 04:33 PDT

Forbes [US Big Business Magazine] Recognises C&C today . . .

http://www.forbes.com/business/2005/07/13/emissions-trading-utilities-cx_0714oxan_co2.html

"The Global Commons Institute has put forth a second alternative known as "Contraction and Convergence." Under this program, global greenhouse gases are reduced to a common per-capita share by an agreed-upon date, with the appealing inclusion of both developed and developing nations in emissions reduction."

Open Democracy G8 wrap-up with big business

http://www.opendemocracy.org/globalization-G8/climate_reaction_2672.jsp

"Whilst politicians (and entertainers) have failed to show a lead, real progress may come from an unlikely quarter. Big business and the insurance industry have recognised that climate change is likely to affect not just the physical nvironment in which companies operate, but also the social and political context within which decisions are made.

There are clear signs that due diligence processes are going to have to take climate risks into account and the corporate world is becoming aware of this. Once there is recognition that there are very significant commercial risks in neglecting climate change, and opportunities to help alleviate its effects, it may be that business will force the politicians to act.

The left has often complained that big business has more power than the nation-state; it would be ironic if big business were to save the day."

Stephan Harrison, Oxford University

Open Democracy G8 wrap-up with big business and big idea

http://www.opendemocracy.org/globalization-G8/climate_reaction_2672.jsp

"Anticipating this, member companies of the World Economic Forum (WEF) wrote collectively to G8 governments before the meeting in Gleneagles. Their letter instructed governments to create the inclusive framework necessary to achieve safe and stable greenhouse-gas concentration in the global atmosphere, so they in turn could do their job.

This is the point addressed by the contraction and convergence (C&C) model. To reconcile this with the suggested G8 "action plan" for global ecological recovery would require two things: that we solve the problem faster than we create it, and introduce a C&C framework agreement to steer the solution through. On 12 July, the Royal Charter Institutions of the UK's building and engineering industry wrote to Tony Blair applauding the WEF leaders and presenting C&C as their framework of choice – science-based, globally fair, and effective.

The G8 member governments consider that the United Nations is the appropriate forum for negotiation, and have already returned the issue to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A remedy is at hand: the UNFCCC has already said that "achieving the objective of the climate treaty inevitably requires Contraction and Convergence."

To put it another way, this means the future will by definition be a framework-based market rather than a market-based framework; as if God (as Albert Einstein said) does indeed play dice, but only having first designed them."

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Royal Charter Institutions [RIBA ICE SIBSE etc] Wrap up Big Business with C&C

13 July 2005

Dear Prime Minister

Global Climate Change Policy – Contraction and Convergence Framework



" . . . .we welcome the position taken by thirteen leaders of major UK-based companies, and their counterparts in the World Economic Forum . . . we applaud their offer to work for:

. . . . . an inclusive global climate-change policy, with concentration-based targets.

The Contraction and Convergence Framework, accepted by the UN and by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (amongst others), could well provide a fair structure for the engagement of all nations . . . . "

Yours sincerely

Letter available on request.

All this helps to deal with what Mark Lynas now rightly calls: -

"The shadow that looms over our planet"

<http://www.peopleandplanet.net/doc.php?id=2502>

"Thinking up solutions is not the problem. The "contraction and convergence" proposal for tackling climate change (global emissions contract to a sustainable level; per capita emissions converge between countries) knits both human equality and ecological survival into an elegant equation. Similarly, we can protect biodiversity by stopping habitat destruction and countering the spread of invasive alien species around the world, especially in highly biodiverse "hot-spot" areas. And increasing women's control over their fertility is a straightforward way to reduce population growth. Yet these proposals are so vast and all-consuming as to require a strong and durable consensus before they can be agreed or implemented. Biodiversity protection cannot be bolted on to existing growth-oriented economics. Contraction and convergence would require enormous resource transfers from rich to poor countries, as the developed world pays the developing nations not to follow in its own dirty footsteps."

<http://www.peopleandplanet.net/doc.php?id=2502>

The interesting opportunity is for the New Honorary President of the Global Climate Campaign - George Monbiot – to steer this rapidly burgeoning popular movement to what George once described as C&C being the first act of global governance.

Avoid the syllogism: -

People have plan for the planet

Corporations have plan for the planet

Planet requires people and corporations with shared plan.

With two conflicting plans, we stand to lose everything, so there is everything to gain by sharing one.

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C&C and the Brazilian Proposal . . . Aubrey Meyer

Jul 19, 2005 19:26 PDT

Current World Bank view: -

"Two approaches that are receiving significant attention are Contraction and Convergence and the "Brazilian" Proposal.

Contraction and Convergence is a science-based global framework whereby total global emissions are reduced (i.e., contraction) to meet a specific agreed target, and the per capita emissions of industrialized and the developing countries converge over a suitably long time period, with the rate and magnitude of contraction and convergence being determined through the UNFCCC negotiating process. It applies principles of precaution and equity; principles identified as important in the UNFCCC but not defined.

The proposal by Brazil, which is based on cumulative historical emissions and their impact on the increase in global mean surface temperature, aims at sharing equally the burden of mitigation among all countries, industrialized and developing."



<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20357008~menuPK:34476~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>  
High level Conference in Sao Paulo Brazil 26 27 July 2005 to discuss this. Participants include many key Latin American negotiators and diplomats and the former Brazilian President Cardoso.

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Sao\\_Paulo.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Sao_Paulo.pdf)

Booklet with C&C translations into Portuguese and Spanish

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Brazil\\_Booklet.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Brazil_Booklet.pdf)

C&C and HECA Conference in Wales this Friday: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Carnaerfon\\_Conference\\_220705.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Carnaerfon_Conference_220705.pdf)

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Useful paper recommending C&C Royal Meteorological Society: -

"Ways need to be found to achieve reductions that are both realistic and equitable - for instance by following a suggestion of the Global Commons Institute (see www.gci.org.uk) called Contraction and Convergence that proposes convergence within a few decades to equal per capita allowances of carbon dioxide together with trading within those allowances."

<http://www.rmets.org/pdf/houghton.pdf>

"Don't Get Mad, Get Even." Aubrey Meyer

Aug 04, 2005 04:14 PDT

"Don't Get Mad, Get Even."

This was my advice to those nuts still wedded to Kyoto and the Brazilian Proposal: - Get even by uniting around a strategy based on C&C.

At the recent two-day event in Sao Paulo Brazil, it became clear to many present how futile the formula, "the North takes the blame while the South takes the pain" actually is.

With some ecosystems already stressed to collapse by climate change, adding up historic emissions to assign blame to the industrial countries for the rise of concentrations, temperature, sea-level and damages, is more a protest than a proposal for survival. The Brazilian Proposal is a game called "see you in hell" and there is nothing viable, let-alone even, about that.

As if on cue, the US and Australia announced their global clean technology initiative with India, China, Japan and Korea, asserting that Kyoto is now kaput.

Well they would, wouldn't they. They haven't exactly had a climate-survival strategy for the last ten years. This is mirror-image stuff because, like the Brazilian Proposal and the Kyoto Protocol, this US-Oz technology.biz doesn't know where it is going either.

It is Radarless and rudderless, like the wandering hands of 'efficiency' and self-abuse. In evolutionary terms, these are generically failed experiments in the making.

The best news of the day is the increasing fascination with 'intelligent design'. In terms of a survival strategy for climate change this is "C&C". In other words, it is not enough to know where we came from; the key question now is "where are we going?" C&C can answer that. [First set a GHG concentrations target . . .]. Could this be teleology even creationism perhaps?

The best part of driving Brazil nuts last week was the public response to "C&C" by the esteemed and much admired author of the Brazilian Proposal Gylvan Luis Meira Filho, a long time friend and sparring partner; - "Aubrey is right!"

OK - Now we're even, let's get ahead.

Greenpeace and C&C. CO2 Cap in Hand Aubrey Meyer

Aug 04, 2005 11:35 PDT

Is this is an in/conspicuous turn-around . . . ?

For fifteen years Greenpeace has led the Climate Action Network [CAN] and the more recent Environment-Development "Climate Movement" into the heart-ache of UN politics on climate change and the Kyoto cul-de-sac.

During this period GCI devised the C&C model and messages.

Also during this period CAN NGOs have continually rebutted the C&C model and the arguments and analysis on which it is based. Many of them, operating under charitably resource-rich protection, have repeatedly ridiculed and sought to frustrate attempts to argue the C&C case. And as they gradually lost the argument, some resorted to Chinese Whispers, and smear campaigns against GCI people and other C&C advocates.

For fifteen years I have almost, but not entirely, resisted the urge to comment on this comedy of office-corridor-errors. And it wouldn't been relevant to comment at all if the above remarks were not true. More relevant is that if the above weren't true, we might not be as deep in the climate ditch as we now are.

However, finally [last month - 19th July 2005] Greenpeace conceded that Contraction and Convergence [C&C] is the correct and necessary position to adopt to avoid dangerous climate change. Mind you they do it in a type point size that requires a powerful microscope to read, but when you get there [use the pdf search on 'equal' and zoom on footnote xxi] this is what their new report says: -

"To minimise the danger of global temperature rises exceeding 2°C, a level considered dangerous, a concentration of no more than 400ppm of CO2 in the atmosphere is recommended [Byers Report] . . . and the EU's burden of responsibility to meet *this science-based cap should be apportioned on the basis of equal global rights to carbon consumption*."

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Greenpeace.pdf>

This is C&C, argued by GCI since 1990. This is a briefing with links to the records of establishing this global resource.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

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The detail of who did what to whom could be 'the book'.

Relax, it won't be kiss-and-tell.

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C&C/'Big-Ask' - ?'s from Scottish Parliament    Aubrey Meyer

Aug 13, 2005 06:10 PDT

Can you help Mark Ruskell MSP [Member of Scottish Parliament]?

Mark is circulating this C&C-centred climate-policy consultation-document and asks for responses to it [by 21 09 2005].

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Scot\\_Green\\_CC\\_Consultation\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Scot_Green_CC_Consultation_Paper.pdf)

Dear Colleague

Please find attached a copy of 'the Big Ask for Scotland', the consultation paper on a proposal for a bill to set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause Climate change.

The successful drafting and subsequent progress of this bill to tackle Climate Change will very much depend on responses from stakeholders like you. I would, therefore, very much welcome and encourage your response.

I am aware of the pressures of work that organisations and individuals may be under and so I'm keen to stress that responding to this consultation need not be an onerous task. Indeed there are only four questions that we are specifically seeking views on and even a single page response from you would be useful. That said, of course, fuller responses would be particularly valuable.

You may have heard that on the day this bill was lodged in Parliament, the Scottish Executive an-

nounced its intention to set targets to reduce Scotland's contribution to climate change – possibly the quickest reaction to a Members bill proposal ever! However, the Executive has said that its targets will only apply to certain sectors and as you will see from the consultation document, this is very different than my proposal for an overall target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and so I intend to press ahead with this bill.

I look forward to receiving your response. Please contact me if you have any queries. The closing date is the 21st September.

Many thanks

Mark Ruskell MSP

Scottish Parliament

<Mark.Rus-@scottish.parliament.uk>;

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UK Energy Research - C&C meets DTQ    Aubrey Meyer

Aug 16, 2005 05:53 PDT

Excellent Report on the event organised and sponsored by the UK Energy Research Centre at the Policy Studies Institute London, 30th June 2005.

<http://www.ukerc.ac.uk/index>

## MEETING REPORT [August 2005]

### "LIVING IN A LOW CARBON WORLD: THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF RATIONING"

"The international context - Personal carbon rationing as a UK solution emerges from the Global Commons Institute's key global framework proposal - "Contraction and Convergence" (Meyer 2000) - see also <http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

This is aimed at delivering global carbon savings fairly and with certainty.

It will do this by first agreeing a contraction of global carbon emissions to ensure that a 'safe' concentration of emissions in the atmosphere is not exceeded, and second, converging to equal per capita emissions allowances, by an agreed year. Carbon rationing is designed as a policy which will enable the UK to make national savings as its contribution within a global agreement on limiting greenhouse gas emissions based on the same principles of C&C."

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Low\\_carbon\\_world\\_Report.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Low_carbon_world_Report.pdf)

1. "Living in a low carbon world" programme (14.31 KB)
2. Introduction to carbon rationing (19.88 KB)
3. Domestic Tradable Quotas briefing paper (72.5 KB)
4. Speaker biographies (17.61 KB)
5. "Living in a low carbon world" attendees (24 KB)
6. "Living in a low carbon world" report (322.26 KB)

<http://www.ukerc.ac.uk/content/view/96/57>

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Guardian charges - Climate Rhino    Aubrey Meyer

Aug 22, 2005 00:07 PDT

Climate change: imagine a charging rhino

ubrey Meyer

Monday August 22, 2005

The Guardian

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/climatechange/story/0,12374,1553662,00.html>

In what was old Rhodesia, a steam train used to go daily between Salisbury and Bulawayo along

a single track through rhino territory. Eventually, a cranky alpha-rhino took umbrage. As the train chugged south at 70mph, the rhino mounted the track and charged north. The smash derailed the train and killed the rhino.

So with global climate change. With greenhouse gas emissions still accelerating, we are now going down the tracks towards the oncoming rhino. The threatened impact challenges our economy and even our survival.

Peat-bogs are on the verge of out-gassing methane in Siberia and giving climate stability the coup de grâce. Yet we continue to change the climate faster than we act to stop it. Risk analysis suggests we are less than a decade from the point of no-return. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is now at 380 parts per million and on course for 400ppm within 10 years.

As frequently argued here and elsewhere, whatever else is true, the answer is "emissions contraction and convergence (CC)", markets that operate to a full-term concentration target. Fossil fuel emissions must contract globally while the international shares in emissions converge on equality per capita.

The United Nations framework convention on climate change now says this is "inevitably required". The Church of England says: "Anyone who thinks this is utopian has simply not looked honestly at the alternatives."

Support for CC grows relentlessly. Following the so-called Byers report, Greenpeace put out its own report in July advocating CC with a concentration target of 400ppm. Since 1997, CC has been the position of the Africa group of nations. Will the UK NGOs' new "avoid climate chaos" movement now adopt such a focus - one that has only severally and partially attracted its members so far? Africans would be pleased: African poverty is aggravated by climate change and CC addresses both together.

Everyone knew that Kyoto fell short. But now, apparently killing this baby before it had even crawled out of the cot, our prime minister as good as conceded so at the G8. In exchange for the disarming concession by the US president that we actually do have a problem called human-induced global climate change (as if we didn't know), Mr Blair arranged for five key developing countries to attend and informally succumb to this somewhat vacuous transaction.

Three weeks later Mr Blair learned the US had quietly been putting together a "clean-technology" deal with India, China and Australia behind his back. This deal not only ignores Kyoto, it also ignores the UN and tackles neither rising emissions nor atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations. More extraordinary still is the untold story of the corporations. Chief executives of the 23 largest corporations in the Davos World Economic Forum made a joint statement to the G8 leaders. It said governments must define an atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration that is stable and safe, and create a common global framework to enable them to invest in markets that operate effectively to this purpose from now on.

UK building industry leaders wrote to Mr Blair saying that this framework-based market is contraction and convergence.

They were all ignored. The rhino cometh, but Rome was not fazed. Washington's men appear to regard the whole matter as either above or below - but not actually at - their pay-grade.

Preliminary climate change damages, already lethal at a local and regional scale, are growing globally at twice the rate of the economy. The buck stops either with UN-led CC or with the rhino.

- Aubrey Meyer is director of the Global Commons Institute.

Various press and indy media c. G8

[http://www.gci.org.uk/press/CandC\\_Various\\_G8.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/press/CandC_Various_G8.pdf)

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C&C tabled in Greenland? Aubrey Meyer

Aug 23, 2005 00:01 PDT

Big Thaw?

12:02 p.m. August 19, 2005

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/20050819-1202-environment-greenland.html>

"COPENHAGEN – Representatives of 23 nations deeply split about how to combat global warming ended talks in Greenland on Friday with a plea from the host to stop years of squabbling and take urgent action.

'The blaming game has to stop,' Denmark's Environment Minister Connie Hedegaard, said in a statement after the four-day meeting she chaired in Ilulissat, north of the Arctic Circle.

'Instead of blaming other countries for the lack of action, all governments should present credible visions on how they could make their own fair contribution to combating global climate change.'

Representatives at the talks toured a fast-receding glacier. Areas of summer melt in Greenland have expanded sharply in recent years. Many scientists say that a build-up of greenhouse gases from fossil fuels burnt in cars, factories and power plants is contributing to what could become catastrophic global warming.

Representatives of nations including the United States, Japan, China, India, Mexico and the European Union were at the informal talks hoping to smooth policy splits after Washington pulled out of the United Nations' Kyoto protocol in 2001.

Exact details of the talks were kept confidential."

However, these "Types of mitigation commitments" were tabled: -

1. Binding absolute emission reduction targets as currently used in the Kyoto Protocol for Annex-1 Parties. They have the advantage that they are relatively simple; and when linked to emission trading allow for least-cost abatement. However, absolute targets are often referred to as being inflexible, since they do not accommodate for different rates in population and economic growth among Parties.
2. Equal per capita entitlements to GHG emissions have been proposed as a means of allocating absolute targets among countries, with a view to achieving global contraction and convergence of emissions and implementing the principle of equitable distribution of the GHG absorption capacity of the atmosphere between countries based on their population size. Coupled with emissions trading, this type of commitment structure would generate important financial flows between developed and developing countries, as the latter, with their current low average per capita emission levels, would be allocated growth targets with considerable "headroom" in the short term, whereas the former would be compelled to acquire substantial volumes of emission allowances.
3. Absolute targets, but combined with a safety valve or price cap, i.e. a maximum price on allowances. Setting a safety valve would increase the certainty regarding the costs of abatement, but at the same time would not guarantee environmental effectiveness, since targets would effectively be relaxed in the event that compliance costs prove unexpectedly high.
4. Energy, carbon or GHG intensity targets, for instance per unit of GDP or per unit of output in specific sectors. Intensity targets have the advantage that they allow emissions to expand with economic growth. They can also be linked to emissions trading as policy instrument to reduce emissions. If applied on a sectoral basis, they also have the advantage of reducing competitiveness concerns, e.g. in energy intensive industries.
5. No-lose targets i.e. non-binding targets, which if exceeded, would not imply a penalty, but would enable parties to sell surplus allowances if their emissions remain below the target at the end of the commitment period. This type of target would especially be appropriate for countries that find it difficult to estimate their economic growth level.
6. Technology-related commitments, such as commitment to technology research, development and deployment. It is generally believed that large scale deployment of existing and new technologies will be crucial in mitigating climate change, but it has been questioned whether a "technology only" approach would succeed in spreading advanced technologies without targets and accompanying price incentives. A commitment to increased R&D spending could be combined with harmonised technology standards; for instance international energy efficiency standards set on the basis of existing low carbon technologies or carbon, efficiency standards for financial flows from

industrialised to developing countries through development banks and export credit agencies. The experience from available success stories suggests that a combination of market “pull” and “push” is most likely to achieve high and fast penetration of developing technologies.

7. Coordinated global carbon taxes, which, from a purely economic perspective, would be the simplest and most efficient way to address GHG emissions. Though carbon and energy taxes have been successfully applied at the national level, the idea of internationally harmonized taxation has never proved to be politically feasible so far.

8. Pledge-and-review commitments to implement specific policies and measures (PAMs), such as prevention of deforestation, efficiency standards, the reduction or abolishment of fossil fuel subsidies or a national carbon tax. These policies would be defined at the national level and, after being “pledged”, be subject to review by the international community. This option has the advantage that it allows for country or regional specific policy preferences, but it would not guarantee a certain environmental outcome upfront and would involve a substantial regime management burden in terms of monitoring and verification.

[http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/Issue\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/Issue_Paper.pdf)

These people attended.

#### LIST OF HIGH LEVEL PARTICIPANTS AT THE GREENLAND DIALOGUE

##### Argentina

Dr. Atilio Armando Savino

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development

##### Austria

Mr. Werner Wutscher

Vice-Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment & Water Management

##### Brazil

Mr. Luis Manuel Fernandes

Vice-Minister for Science and Technology

Mr. Stephane Dion

Minister of the Environment

##### China

Mr. Gao Guangsheng

Director-General, National Development Reform Commission

##### Denmark

Mr. Per Stig Møller

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs. Connie Pedegaard

Minister for the Environment

##### Faeroe Island

Mr. Jógván við Keldu

Minister of Interior



Finland

Mr. Jan-Erik Enestam

Minister for the Environment

France

Mrs. Nelly Olm

Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development

Germany

Mr- Karsten Sach

Director General, Federal Ministry of Environment

Greenland

Mr. Flans Enoksen

Premier of the, Greenland Government

Iceland

Mrs. Sigridur Anna Thordardottir

Minister for die Environment

Indonesia

Mr. Rachmat Witoelar

State `Minister for the Environment

Japan

Mr. Toshiro Kojima

Vice Minister for Global Environment Affairs, Ministry of the Environment

Mexico

Mr. Jose Luis Luege Tamargo

Minister for the Environment

Dr. Fernando Tudela

Vice Minister of Planning and Environmental Policy

Norway

Mr. Kriut Ariild Hareide

Minister for the Environment

Russia

Dr. Alexander I. Bedritskv

Head of the Russian Federal Service for Hvdrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring

South Africa

Mr. Marthinus Christofel Johannes van Schalkwyk  
Minister of Environmental Affairs & Tourism

Sweden

Mrs. Lena Sommestad  
Minister for the Environment  
Tuvalu

Mr. Samuelu. P. Teo

Minister for Natural Resources, Energy and. Environment

United Kingdom

Mr. Elliot Morley MP  
Minister or state for Climate Change and Environment

United States of America.

Dr. Harlan L. Watson  
Special Representative for Climate Change at US Department of State

UNFCCC

Mrs. Joke Waller-Hunter  
Executive Secretary

Mr. Valli Moosa

President of the World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar

Ambassador for International Environmental Affairs, Malta

Dr. Robert W. Corell

Chair of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA)

Special Attendees

Mrs. Anne Grete Holmsgaard  
Member of the Danish Parliament

Mr. Eriing Bonnesen

Member of the Danish Parliament

Professor Marc Pallemmaerts

Co-Director of the Environmental Law Research Unit, Universite Libre de  
Bruxelles

[http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/High\\_Level\\_participants\\_at\\_the\\_Greenland\\_Dialogue.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/High_Level_participants_at_the_Greenland_Dialogue.pdf)

This was the view from Downing Street

22 August 2005

<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page8085.asp>

"Environment minister Elliot Morley has come 'face to face' with evidence of how man-made climate change is affecting Greenland's ice-cap.

He attended three days of informal Ministerial discussions with more than 20 countries - including the United States, Canada, China, Brazil and South Africa - on measures that need to be taken to combat global warming.

Following the meeting, which was hosted by the Danish government, Mr Morley and other ministers took a helicopter tour of the ice-cap.

Latest satellite data shows that Arctic Ocean ice shrunk to a record low for the month of June.

Defra-funded research recently found that man-made greenhouse gases are probably causing increasing river flows into the Arctic Ocean, which are already having a knock-on effect on rainfall patterns across the world.

Mr Morley said:

"Ministers have come face to face with the visible evidence of the scale and urgency of the climate change challenge.

"The UK has done much during the G8 Presidency to stimulate and open up international discussions on the future of climate change.

"I am particularly pleased that developing countries such as China have been present here, as well as the United States."

Countries who have signed up to the Kyoto Protocol - an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions world wide - will meet in Montreal in December for further talks."

This was the view from the BBC

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4174574.stm>

Talks renew vigour to tackle warming

By Roger Harrabin

BBC environment correspondent

Maybe it was the night cruise with ice crunching against the prow of the boat and icebergs the shape and size of medieval castles floating serenely past.

The meeting drew 25 environment ministers from different countries. Maybe it was the helicopter flight over the ice-packed fjord to witness one of the fastest-melting glaciers in the world.

Perhaps it was the expert presentations warning that if carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions continue to rise, the melting Greenland ice sheet will drive up global sea levels.

Whatever the reason, politicians from all around the world visiting the Arctic on a fact-finding trip left professing new determination that action to tackle climate change must be taken everywhere.

Genuine dialogue

Ministers and climate negotiators from 22 nations arrived at the tiny west Greenland village of Ilulissat at the invitation of Denmark, in conjunction with the Greenland government.

Danish environment minister Connie Hedegaard said she wanted to create a forum where politicians could enjoy a genuine dialogue on climate. During the usual UN climate negotiations, she said, the majority of agreements were reached between civil servants, and ministers arrived in time only to argue over the details of disputed text.

At a news conference after the meeting, she said the gathering had helped to build on momentum gained at the G8 Summit at Gleneagles, Scotland, in July.

At the summit, all leading nations agreed climate change was a serious problem that had to be tackled.

#### Scientific consensus

South African environment minister Marthinus Christoffel said a watershed had been crossed. Greenland could be badly affected by rising temperatures around the globe.

Until now developing countries had believed it was not in their interest to shift their economies to prioritise emissions reduction, he said.

Now his government accepted that playing a part to reduce the growth in emissions was in South Africa's own interest to shield its economy from the havoc that could be wreaked by climate change.

Together the ministers said they looked forward to December's meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Montreal, Canada, where they would map out future world climate policy.

#### Expressing confidence

All the ministers at the news conference expressed confidence that the Montreal meeting would improve the performance of the Clean Development Mechanism designed to provide cash for green technology in developing countries.

But there were two sour notes. Firstly, India's environment minister withdrew from the conference at the last minute.

Other delegates privately described India's position as a serious problem at climate talks because, unlike China, the country's ministers insisted on sticking rigidly to the original UN climate convention.

This stated that developing nations were not obliged to tackle emissions until developed nations had cut their pollution.

The second perceived let-down was the position of the US chief climate negotiator delegate, Harlan Watson.

Just weeks after President Bush put his signature to the Gleneagles declaration that climate change was a serious problem facing the world, Dr Watson told a Radio Greenland journalist that the US was still unconvinced by the consensus science on climate.

He later declined to be interviewed by BBC News."

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Help "Avoid Climate Chaos" with C&C    Aubrey Meyer

Aug 26, 2005 08:11 PDT

The UK Climate-Movement [WWF – Greenpeace – OXFAM et al] is due to launch itself on Thursday next week [19 2005]. Could be very useful.

Their slogan is sharp: - "Stop Climate Chaos".

They wrote asking for publicity and support and then said as no-one on their board had thought of including C&C in their policy message, it wasn't yet included.

C&C is a strong, simple and well-focused, now widely supported message for stopping climate chaos. It will give a focus where it is needed.

The movement will want to know that there is support for C&C. Some is listed below.

Please write these good folk about it.

Ashok Sinha

ash-@climatemovement.org

Andrew Lee

al-@wwf.org.uk

Anne Miller  
Anne.M-@tcp-uk.co.uk

Graham Wynne  
Graham-@rspb.org.uk

Ian Leggett  
ianle-@peopleandplanet.org

Stephen Tindale  
stephen.-@uk.greenpeace.org

Tony Juniper  
ton-@foe.co.uk

Tim Johnson  
ti-@aef.org.uk

Reggie Norton  
reg.-@rmpc.co.uk

Adrian Lovett  
ALov-@oxfam.org.uk

Margaret Gardner  
margaret-@practicalaction.org.uk

John Grimshaw  
joh-@Sustrans.org.uk

Andy Atkins  
andy.a-@tearfund.org

Ruth Bond  
ruth.-@tesco.net

Below is some support to draw on if you do write.

Many thanks.

Aubrey Meyer  
GCI

"C&C is the most widely known, transparent and comprehensive approach, and has much appeal in the developing world."

The Dutch Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning supporting research that concluded recently by saying [2005],

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/rivm.pdf>

The World Bank took the view this year: -

"Contraction and Convergence [C&C] is receiving significant attention. Contraction and Convergence is a science-based global framework whereby total global emissions are reduced (i.e., contraction) to meet a specific agreed target, and the per capita emissions of industrialized and the developing countries converge over a suitably long time period, with the rate and magnitude of contraction and convergence being determined through the UNFCCC negotiating process. It applies principles of precaution and equity; principles identified as important in the UNFCCC but not defined.

[http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/](http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20357008~menuPK:34476~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html)

0,,contentMDK:20357008~menuPK:34476~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html

Dr Rowan Williams, The Archbishop of Canterbury the Archbishop of Canterbury took a sharper view [subsequently endorsed by the Anglican Communion] in "Sharing God's Planet".

"C&C appears utopian only if we refuse to contemplate the alternatives honestly."

Then what did the United Nations Climate Change Convention Secretariat really mean when they took this position in 2003: - "Achieving the goal of the climate treaty, inevitably requires contraction and convergence".

It probably meant what the IPCC said in 2001: - "A formulation that carries the rights-based approach to its logical conclusion is that of contraction and convergence."

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, TAR WG3"

Here are some "Avoid Climate Chaos" NGO views and links highlighting C&C - founding members of the movement.

## 1. GREENPEACE

Last month - 19th July 2005] Greenpeace acknowledged that Contraction and Convergence [C&C] is the correct and necessary position to adopt to avoid dangerous climate change.

"To minimise the danger of global temperature rises exceeding 2°C, a level considered dangerous, a concentration of no more than 400ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is recommended [Byers Report] . . . and the EU's burden of responsibility to meet \*this science-based cap should be apportioned on the basis of equal global rights to carbon consumption\*." [Endnote 21].

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Greenpeace.pdf>

### 1a. The Byers Report

"CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere has presently risen to 380 parts per million per volume of atmosphere [ppmv]" "There is an 80% chance of limiting global temperature rise to no more than 2 degrees Celsius [the limit advocated], if CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is held at or below 400 ppmv. Carbon-emissions rights are equal to everybody on the planet, but only in a long-term transition."

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Byers.pdf>

## 2. WWF - Footprint Report

Contraction & Convergence and Shrink & Share: -

<http://www.panda.org/downloads/general/lpr2004.pdf>

"Contraction & Convergence (C&C) as proposed by Aubrey Meyer from the Global Commons Institute (Meyer 2001) provides a simple framework for globally allocating the right to emit carbon in a way that is consistent with the physical constraints of the biosphere. The approach rests on two simple principles: -

- contraction: reducing humanity's emissions to a rate that the biosphere can absorb
- convergence: distributing total emissions so that each person ultimately gets the same portion of the "global budget".

Although C&C focuses exclusively on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which are responsible for about 50 per cent of humanity's Ecological Footprint, the C&C framework can be extended to other demands on the biosphere.



### 3. TEARFUND

. . . from Tearfund's Campaign and Policy Brief to Downing Street: - [http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Tearfund\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Tearfund_Briefing.pdf)

"Contraction and convergence (C&C) is a science-based, global climate-policy framework proposed by the Global Commons Institute, that is based on the objective of achieving safe and stable GHG concentrations in the atmosphere. It promises global participation in efforts to reduce GHG emissions and a unique solution to the equity principle that is the hardest one for the international community to address.

The framework proposes: -

A global emissions budget based on a formal GHG stabilisation target. The target would be science-based so that it would actually be effective at preventing dangerous climate change.

This target, and the global GHG budget it implies, form the framework for an equitable global distribution of emissions permits, assigned to different countries on a per-capita basis. Every country converges from their current GDP-proportionate levels of GHGs to equal per capita levels by an agreed date.

Countries with the largest populations will get the most permits, but for the sake of efficiency and to achieve economic convergence these permits will be internationally tradable.

Developing countries can grow their economies up to the per capita share of emissions and would be able to profit from their lower per capita emissions by selling surplus permits. The proceeds of sales could be invested in sustainable technologies with sharing of knowledge and resources from industrialised nations.

Thus the C&C framework is global, long-term, effective, and, importantly, equitable – without which it would stand no chance of being agreed. From the outset developing countries would have a guarantee of equitable allocations and assurance as to when this would happen.

### 3. UP IN SMOKE - NEW ECONOMICS FOUNDATION et al

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Up\\_In\\_Smoke.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Up_In_Smoke.pdf) [P 14].

"For this revolution to happen there has to be a managed withdrawal from fossil fuels towards the uptake of cleaner low-carbon technologies – one that gives developing countries their equitable per-capita shares of the remaining carbon cake that it is still safe to burn. The type of framework which will best do this is a matter of debate. For example, there is the 'contraction and convergence' scheme proposed by the Global Commons Institute. It works in stages: agreeing a pre-cautionary concentration target for greenhouse gases; setting an emissions budget to reach it, assuming that everyone in the world has an equal entitlement to emit; and then politically negotiating both the period of time and rate with which the target is met and equal entitlements are achieved. In the process of shrinking and sharing greenhouse gas emissions, spare entitlements can be traded to generate income for 'under-emitting' countries."

### 4. FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Equal rights to the atmosphere:

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Juniper.pdf>

Excerpted from, "Strengthening the Link between Climate Change, International Development and Social Justice" Tony Juniper: - IPPR, "Sustainability and Social Justice" – 05 2004

"A fair approach to allocating emission entitlements If the world is to stabilise concentrations of greenhouse gases at a safe level, a 'global emissions budget' consistent with the target concentration will need to be implemented. At some point therefore a 'global deal' on sharing our atmospheric property rights will also have to be agreed. This in turn raises questions about how to allocate this global emissions budget in a manner that is fair and reflects developing country concerns that they have adequate room for their economies to grow.

"Agreeing emission limits on a 'per capita basis' would, as a guiding principle, ensure that every person is entitled to release into the atmosphere the same quantity of greenhouse gas emissions. Without a long term guarantee of equitable emission entitlements, developing countries are likely

to continue to refuse to participate in international action on climate change which would provide an excuse for further procrastination by the US.

Perhaps the best chance of getting developing countries on board would be to allocate emission entitlements on a per capita basis rather than in proportion to national wealth or even existing emissions. This approach has already received some support from developing countries including India and the African Group of the Non-Aligned Movement.

An immediate per capita allocation of emissions would probably not stand much chance of being implemented as it would mean that industrialised countries would have to cut their emissions by far more, while many developing countries could increase theirs. Because of the very wide differences between per capita emissions levels around the world, there will have to be an adjustment period covering several decades in which nations' quotas converge on the same per capita level (Blundell 2002).

This transitional framework is known as 'Contraction and Convergence' and was first proposed by the London based Global Commons Institute."

#### 5. UP IN SMOKE [AFRICA] - NEW ECONOMICS FOUNDATION et al

"The Churches and Climate Change"

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Up\\_in\\_smoke\\_Africa.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Up_in_smoke_Africa.pdf)

Some words from a letter [09 10 2004] by the Director of the African Climate NGOs to their Northern counterparts: -

"We appeal to your conscience to support the concept of Contraction and Convergence as it is not only ethical and moral, but it provides the avenue through which all countries can participate in restoring the ecological and climate change imbalance in an equitable manner. Africa has suffered enough in human history, from slavery to colonialism and now our people are at the mercy of the unbridled economic development of the North."

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Faithbasedgroups-C&C.pdf>

Here is a longer list of support from other eminent people.

#### Governments

1.7 Indian Environment Minister, Kamal Nath, COP 1, April 1995 <http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/zew.pdf> page 17 "Equity should guide the route to global ecological recovery. Policy Instruments such as "Tradable Emissions Quotas", "Carbon Taxes" and "Joint Implementation" may well serve to make matters worse unless they are properly referenced to targets and time-tables for equitable emissions reductions overall. This means devising and implementing a programme for convergence at equitable and sustainable per values for consumption on a per capita basis globally."

1.8 Chinese State Councillor Climate Change & Population, Dr Song Jian, Oct 1997 <http://www.gci.org.uk/cop3/songjian.html> "When we ask the opinions of people from all circles, many people, in particular the scientists think that the emissions control standard should be formulated on a per capita basis. According to the UN Charter, everybody is born equal, and has inalienable rights to enjoy modern technological civilization."

1.9 The Africa Group, August 1997

<http://www.gci.org.uk/refs/C&CUNEPIIIb.pdf>

"As we negotiate the reduction of GHG, the countries of Africa believe that there should be certain principles that need to be clearly defined.

1. There must be limits on all GHGs if the danger to our climate is to be averted. The IPCC scientific assessment report provides us with the basis for global consensus on such limits.

2. A globally agreed ceiling of GHG emissions can only be achieved by adopting the principle of per capita emissions rights that fully take into account the reality of population growth and the principle of differentiation.

3. Achievement of a safe limit to global GHG emissions can be achieved by reducing the emissions of Annex One while at the same time ensuring that there is controlled growth of future emissions from Non-Annex One countries, reflecting our legitimate right to sustainable economic growth. We

strongly believe that this will take us along a path to responsible climate management that allows us to reach our goal of defining a mutually agreed point of convergence and sustainable development. Such a convergence Mr. Chairman must ensure that we maintain a global ceiling on emissions to prevent dangerous interference with the climate system.

4. When we look at time frames, we believe that insufficient commitment by Annex One countries will only result in delaying our influence on the climate system. If this course is maintained, then we will all suffer and the burden will be even greater for humanity in general. The burden for any future mitigation efforts on those of who have not been historically and currently responsible for creating the problem will be greater. Mr. Chairman, we must focus our attention on the most appropriate, reasonable and acceptable time frame for action. There is an over-riding prerequisite. The time frame cannot be too far away into the future if we are to avoid at all costs the dangers that global climate change poses. The current scientific evidence indicates that Africa faces decline in water resources, agricultural production and economic performance. It is for this reason that we wish to register the seriousness with which we view the effective implementation of the Convention and future agreements emanating from it."

1.10 The Africa Group, COP-3 Kyoto, 3a.m. 10th December 1997

[http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3\\_Transcript.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3_Transcript.pdf) page 16

" . . . . we do support the amendment that is proposed by the distinguished delegation from India, and just to emphasise the point of the issues that still need a lot of clarification, would like to propose in that paragraph the inclusion, after 'entitlements' that is the proposal by the delegation of India, the following wording after 'entitlements', the global ceiling date and time for Contraction and Convergence of global emissions. Because we do think that you cannot talk about trading if there are not entitlements. Also there is a question of Contraction and Convergence of global emissions that comes into play when you talk about the issue of equity . . . . "

1.11 Non-Aligned Movement, Heads of Government Conference, (NAM),  
September 1998

[http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/Letters\\_Articles\\_1989\\_2002.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/consolidation/Letters_Articles_1989_2002.pdf) Page 202

"In August and September the NAM held a heads of Government conference in South Africa. Combining the logic of "Contraction and Convergence" with the trade Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol (KP), the NAM agreed the following statement: -

"Emission trading for implementation of (ghg reduction/limitation) commitments can only commence after issues relating to the principles, modalities, etc of such trading, including the initial allocations of emissions entitlements on an equitable basis to all countries has been agreed upon by the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change."

1.12 Indian Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, October, COP-8, 2002 [http://unfccc.int/cop8/latest/ind\\_pm3010.pdf](http://unfccc.int/cop8/latest/ind_pm3010.pdf) Page 3 "First, our per capita Green House Gas emissions are only a fraction of the world average, and an order of magnitude below that of many developed countries. This situation will not change for several decades to come. We do not believe that the ethos of democracy can support any norm other than equal per capita rights to global environmental resources."

1.13 Kenyan Minister for Planning and National Development, Anyang Nyong'o, April 2004 <http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Nyong'o.pdf>

"It is now apparent that the world has to urgently agree to a more equitable method of reducing greenhouse gas emissions based on per capita emission rights allocations. This brings me to the concept of Contraction and Convergence. This concept embodies the principles of precaution (contraction of greenhouse emissions) and of equity (convergence at to equal share per head through a globally agreed date) in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions between industrialized countries and developing countries. The world must go an extra mile to avoid climate change, as it is cheaper than adapting to the damages.

This in no way under estimates what the Kyoto Protocol aims to achieve from the flexible mechanisms. Kyoto should continue but due to the increasing and unbearable negative impacts of climate change on developing country economies, in particular Africa, the world must begin to

evaluate other globally equitable approaches. The concept of Contraction and Convergence therefore needs to be assessed and evaluated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change particularly, its Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. I am certain that our Ministers for Environment here present will see the need to bring this agenda very urgently to the attention of the Climate Change Secretariat."

1.14 Kenya, Director General of the ruling NARC, Alex K Muriithi, April 2004

"Avoiding dangerous rates of climate-change from fossil fuel dependency must be strategically guaranteed with appropriate structural adjustment of the international system. The "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) scheme presented by the Africa Group at COP-3 in Kyoto, is the basis of this. Combined with international currency arrangements, C&C determined carbon shares create an inclusive global standard for sustainable resource use. The full rent for the use of the environmental and atmospheric space of Developing Countries, can be paid by the Developed Countries helping the world move from uneconomic growth to sustainable development for all."

1.15 Indian Minister of Food Processing Industries, Shri S. K. Sahay, October 2004

"We have to find an acceptable and equitable way to reduce emissions that involves every society but recognizes differentiated responsibilities. I suggest that the way forward should be based on the fundamental principles of equity incorporated in the proposals known as "Contraction and Convergence." In this increasingly interdependent world, there is no reason to suggest that any individual in any country should have a lesser right to see prosperity or comfort involving green house gas emissions than any other. On what basis is it acceptable that an American or European should have a greater right to consume the World's precious resources than an Indian, an African or indeed any other human being? Thus, if the principle of "Contraction and Convergence" is acceptable, then it may be possible to develop a system of carbon trading that would allow those already over dependent on the use of environmentally damaging energy to plan their emissions reduction more slowly by transferring renewable energy technologies to those countries presently less dependent on the carbon emissions."

1.16 USA, COP-3 Kyoto, 3a.m. 10th December 1997

[http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3\\_Transcript.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3_Transcript.pdf) " . . . . It does seem to us that the proposals by for example India and perhaps by others who speak to Contraction and Convergence are elements for the future, elements perhaps for a next agreement that we may ultimately all seek to engage in . . . . "

1.17 European Parliament, 1998

[vironment.fgov.be/Root/tasks/atmosphere/klim/pub/eu/parl/pre%20ba\\_en.htm](http://environment.fgov.be/Root/tasks/atmosphere/klim/pub/eu/parl/pre%20ba_en.htm)

". . . calls on the Commission & Member States to take the lead in brokering an agreement on a set of common principles & negotiating framework beyond BA based on:

1. agreement to have a worldwide binding limit on global emissions consistent with a maximum atmospheric concentration of 550 ppmv CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent,
2. initial distribution of emissions rights according to the Kyoto targets,
3. progressive convergence towards an equitable distribution of emissions rights on a per capita basis by an agreed date in the next century,
4. across-the-board reductions in emissions rights thereafter in order to achieve the reduction recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),
5. an agreement to have a quantitative ceiling on the use of flexibility mechanisms that will ensure that the majority of emission reductions are met domestically in accordance with the spirit of articles 6, 12 and 17 of the Kyoto protocol; in this context trading must be subject to proper monitoring, reporting and enforcement;
6. an adequately financed mechanism for promoting technology transfer from Annex 1 to non-Annex 1 countries;"

1.18 Danish Environment Minister, Svend Auken, April 1999 "The approach of "Contraction and

Convergence” is precisely such an idea. It secures a regime that would allow all nations to join efforts to protect our global commons from being over-exploited, without the risk that any country would be deprived of its fair long-term share of the common environmental emission space. And it allows for consistent and efficient management of the global emissions that would enable us to strive for constraining global interference with the climate below fixed ceilings.”

1.19 Swedish Minister of the Environment, Kjell Larsson, September 2000;

– “On the issue of equity, Sweden strives for a global convergence, meaning that the long term objective of the international community should be a per capita emissions target equal for all countries. The work towards sustainability embraces the right for the poorest countries to continue their development and requires that the developed world contribute to this. In other words the industrialised countries must reduce their emissions in order to enable the least developed countries to develop.”

1.20 Belgian Minister of the Environment, Olivier Delouze, COP6 November 2000; “We are conscious that in the end, we will have to inevitably evolve towards a more equitable partition between the north and south, of the capacity of our common atmosphere to support green house gases, by a gradual convergence of the levels of emissions on a per capita basis.”

1.21 French President, Jaques Chirac, COP6, November 2000

<http://www.sovereignty.net/center/chirac.html> “Since 1992, we have fallen too far behind in the fight against global warming. We cannot afford any further delay. That is why, I can confirm to you here, Europe is resolved to act and has mobilized to fight the greenhouse effect.

Europe calls upon the other industrialized countries to join with it in this fight. And Europe proposes to the developing countries to join it in a partnership for sustainable development. Let us start thinking about the post-Kyoto period without further ado. Tomorrow, it will be up to us to set forth the rights and duties of each, and for a long time to come. In order to move forward while respecting individual differences and special circumstances, France proposes that we set as our ultimate objective the convergence of per capita emissions. This principle would durably ensure the effectiveness, equity and solidarity of our efforts.”

1.22 Netherlands Environment Minister, Jan Pronk, Chairman of COP-6,  
July 2000

[http://www.earthtimes.org/jul/environmentthekyotoprotocoljul25\\_00.htm](http://www.earthtimes.org/jul/environmentthekyotoprotocoljul25_00.htm)

“ . . . . Suggestions have been made for commitments for those developing countries in the period after 2012 in terms of increased energy or greenhouse gas efficiency. In other words: not an absolute cap, but a relative efficiency improvement in the production structure of developing countries. This strategy would imply that developing countries gradually start participating, as they achieve a certain level of economic development. That is a reasonable and realistic option.

However, it can be argued that such gradual participation would only lead to a slow decline of global emissions, even if current industrialized countries would drastically decrease their emissions. As a result global average temperature increase would significantly exceed the 2 degrees centigrade limit that could be seen as the maximum tolerable for our planet. There are alternatives for this scenario. Some developing countries have argued for an allowance of equal emissions per capita. This would be the most equitable way to determine the contribution of countries to the global effort. If we agree to equal per capita emissions allowances for all countries by 2030 in such a way that global emissions allow us to stay below the 2 degrees global temperature increase (equivalent to about 450 ppmv CO<sub>2</sub>), then the assigned amounts for Annex B countries would be drastically reduced. However, due to the fact that all countries would have assigned amounts, maximum use of global emissions trading would strongly reduce the cost of compliance. So, in such a scenario, industrialized countries would have to do more, but it would be cheaper and easier. . . . .”

1.23 Sweden’s third national communication on Climate Change, 2001

<http://www.regeringen.se/content/1/c4/12/88/96b4e59c.pdf> “Emissions should ultimately converge towards a common international target, expressed as emissions per inhabitant.” Bill



1996/97:84, p 74

## 2 Publications

### 2.1 Corner House, Briefing No.3 - Climate and Equity, December 1997

<http://www.thecornerhouse.org.uk/briefing/03climate.html> Trading emissions only have a place if they are set in the discipline of contraction and convergence

### 2.2 Financial Times, 30th November 2001

<http://specials.ft.com/world-economy2001/FT30CRLVJUC.html> "Many politicians - and businesses making long-term investment plans - would prefer to agree on some overarching principles that would determine future emissions targets. For some policymakers, the answer is "contraction and convergence."

### 2.3 ENDS Report, Blair leadership claim on climate change March 2003

<http://www.endsreport.com> "The RCEP said, future global climate agreements should be based on the so-called "contraction and convergence" approach, under which national emission allocations converge towards a uniform per capita figure. The Government has accepted the RCEP's 60% but not the underlying logic."

### 2.4 New Scientist, December 2003

<http://www.newscientist.com/hottopics/climate/climate.jsp?id=ns99994467>

"For the past two weeks, representatives from around the world have been in Milan, Italy, for COP9, the ninth annual meeting of signatories to the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change. Many of them now privately admit that C&C is what we have been waiting for."

### 2.5 ICE, Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Paper 13982,

December 2004 <http://www.thomastelford.com/jol/> "Contraction and convergence" is an ambitious yet widely supported plan to harmonise global greenhouse gas emissions to a safe and sustainable level."

### 2.6 Reason Online, Ronald Bailey, November 3, 2004

<http://reason.com/rb/rb110304.shtml> "While the climate talks in Buenos Aires will deal with the minutiae of implementing the Kyoto Protocol, they will also turn to considering what the next steps might be. And there will have to be next steps, because even when fully implemented the Kyoto Protocol will have next to no effect on any actual global warming trends. My bet is that negotiations will start to consider contraction and convergence."

## 3 Individuals

### 3.1 Raul Estrada, Chair Kyoto Negotiations, February 2000

[http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Estrada\\_on\\_C&C.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Estrada_on_C&C.pdf) "Long before the end of the Framework Convention negotiation, the Global Commons Institute has presented a proposal on "Contraction and Convergence", aimed to reach equality in emissions per capita. We all in this room know the GCI model where contraction is achieved after all governments, for precautionary reasons, collectively agree to be bound by a target of global GHG emissions, making it possible to calculate the diminishing amount of greenhouse gases that the world can release each year in the coming century, subject to annual scientific and political review. The convergence part of the proposal means that each year's global emissions budget gets shared out among the nations of the world so that every country converges on the same allocation per inhabitant by an agreed date."

3.2 Sir John Houghton, Former Chair IPCC Working Group One, 26th April 2003 "Admiration is frequently expressed, regarding the elegance and simple logic of Contraction and Convergence and it has been widely supported by policy makers as a basis that should underlie the next stage of policy formulation."

### 3.3 Lord Bishop of Leicester, November 2003

[ment.uk/pa/ld199900/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds04/text/40209-10.htm#40209-10\\_head0](http://ment.uk/pa/ld199900/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds04/text/40209-10.htm#40209-10_head0)

"Contraction and convergence", therefore, is a simple yet radical solution, and one that I suggest we should be brave enough to support."



### 3.4 Lord Bishop of Hereford, 9th February 2004

[ications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds03/text/31127-05.htm](http://www.parliament.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds03/text/31127-05.htm)

"Contraction and Convergence meets every single objection raised by the United States to Kyoto."

### 3.5 Michael Meacher MP, Former Minister for the Environment, December

2003 <http://www.commondreams.org/scriptfiles/views03/1207-04.htm> "The best proposal so far is the "Contraction and Convergence" from the Global Commons Institute and Globe Parliamentarians."

### 3.6 George Monbiot, Manifesto for a New World Order, ISBN: 1565849086, 2003 "Contraction & Convergence... "the only just and sustainable means of tackling climate change."

### 3.7 Myron Ebell, CEI reports on COP-9, 12th December 2003

<http://www.globalwarming.org/cop9/cop9e.htm> "This so-called "Contraction and Convergence" approach appeals to both unreconstructed communists and to human rights absolutists. It has a certain moral force for those lost souls who have completely lost their bearings in the world. So it ought to be the winner in these darkening times."

### 3.8 Dick Lindzen, [After a good meal at New Global Vision Conference, Pisa, July 2004

"If you really have to stabilise concentrations, a 60% contraction of emissions would be necessary. As for the convergence requirement that follows from this, well I have no faith in the ability of humanity to organise anything like this."

## 4 Organisations

### 4.1 Africa Group, Mrs. Rungano Karimanzira, Chair, February 1998

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc\\_19.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc_19.pdf) "The approach of contraction and convergence presents a new economic development paradigm for the twenty first century and beyond."

### 4.2 Royal Society on Environmental Pollution, Sir Tom Blundell; Chairman, June 2000 <http://www.rcep.org.uk/newenergy.htm> "The government should press for a future global climate agreement based on the "Contraction and Convergence" approach, combined with international trading in emission permits. These offer the best long-term prospect of securing equity, economy and international consensus."

### 4.3 UK Chartered Insurance Institute, Report on Global Climate Change, March 2001 [http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc\\_19.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc_19.pdf) "The most realistic way to bring about the required reduction in ghg emissions (which will have the combined effect of reducing the damage imposed on the insurance industry and encouraging the transition to renewable energy) is that proposed in the concept of Contraction and Convergence."

### 4.4 IPCC WG3, Third Policy Assessment, Chapter 1, Section 3.2, 2001 [http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc\\_tar/wg3/pdf/1.pdf](http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc_tar/wg3/pdf/1.pdf) "A formulation that carries the rights-based approach to its logical conclusion is that of contraction and convergence."

### 4.5 Green Party, Climate Change Policy,

<http://policy.greenparty.org.uk/mfss/climchg.html> "The Green Party advocates the adoption by the UNFCCC of a framework of Contraction and Convergence (C&C) as the key ingredient in the global political solution to the problem of Climate Change mitigation, and urges the UK and other governments use it as the basis for negotiations in the international fora."

### 4.6 New Economics Foundation, Ed Mayo, Director, October 2002

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/NefEdC&C.pdf> "We regard Contraction and Convergence as no less than the logical starting point for any sustainable future."

### 4.7 Performance and Innovation Unit, The Energy Review, February 2002

<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/su/energy/TheEnergyReview.PDF> "The RCEP suggested that a 60% reduction for the UK by 2050 would be needed within a contraction and convergence agreement."

### 4.8 UNEP Finance Initiatives, 7th October 2002

[http://www.unepfi.net/cc/ceobriefing\\_ccwg\\_unepfi.pdf](http://www.unepfi.net/cc/ceobriefing_ccwg_unepfi.pdf) "For the long-term, policy makers should

reach consensus on a global framework for climate stability based on the principles of precaution and equity such as Contraction and Convergence which would aim to achieve equal per capita emissions for all nations by an agreed date."

4.9 UNFCCC, Secretariat, COP-9, 4th December 2003

[http://www.gci.org.uk/slideshow/C&C\\_UNFCCC.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/slideshow/C&C_UNFCCC.pdf) "Stabilization inevitably requires "contraction and convergence""

4.10 World Council of Churches, David Hallman, Programme Coordinator,

October 2003 <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/moscow2003.html> "A fair distribution, establishing the concept of per capita emission rights for all countries, as proposed in the "Contraction and Convergence" scheme."

4.11 Climate Network Africa, Grace Akumu, Director, 28th April 2003

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc\\_19.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc_19.pdf) "Many governments around the world have accepted the concept of Contraction and Convergence as the only equitable response mechanism to the threat of climate change."

4.12 UK Environment Agency, Sir John Harman; Chairman, 9th December 2003

<http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/EnvAgency.pdf> "I support the concept of 'Contraction and Convergence', as does the Environment Agency."

4.13 World Nuclear Association, John Ritch, President, December 2003 <http://world-nuclear.org/dgspeeches/wiltonpark2003.htm> "Not only support the C&C concept, I find it inconceivable that we will avert climate catastrophe without a regime built on some variation of this approach. In the debate about climate change, an impression has been created that the problem is too daunting and complex to prevent. Contraction and Convergence provides a way forward that is both fair and feasible."

4.14 FEASTA, Richard Douthwaite;

<http://www.feasta.org/events/debtconf/sleepwalking.htm> "... to say - as a growing number of people now do - that the right to emit carbon dioxide should be considered a human right and that emissions permits should therefore be issued to all humankind on an equal basis. "Contraction and Convergence", a surprisingly flexible plan is based on this idea."

4.15 WBGU, German Advisory Council on Global Change, Dr. John Schelnhuber; Climate Protection Strategies for the 21st Century: Kyoto and beyond, November 2003 [http://www.wbgu.de/wbgu\\_sn2003\\_engl.pdf](http://www.wbgu.de/wbgu_sn2003_engl.pdf) "... WBGU recommends emission rights be allocated according to the "Contraction and Convergence" approach.i

4.16 IPPR, Tony Grayling, Associate Director and Head of Sustainability, September 2003

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/doi/10.1111%2F1468-0041.00303>

The Prime Minister has already expressed his desire to create a global deal or 'climate covenant' between North and South on the issue of climate change. IPPR's belief is that the Contraction and Convergence framework for global climate policy is the practical application of this aspiration."

4.17 Zululand Environmental Alliance (ZEAL), Prof. James M. Phelps, Chairman, April 2003 [http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc\\_19.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc_19.pdf)

Without equity considerations as devised in Contraction and Convergence, the Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol will remain un-implementable and leave all people on earth facing the devastating effects of climate change."

4.18 The Australia Institute, Dr Clive Hamilton, 29 April 2003

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc\\_19.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc_19.pdf) "The idea of 'Contraction and Convergence' is destined to be one of the most important principles governing international relations in the 21st century. It is a powerful ethic that incorporates global justice and sustainability and thereby bridges the dominant concerns of the last century and this one. It is the only way to accommodate the interests, ethical and economic, of developing countries and rich countries in the struggle to find a

solution to the most important environmental problem facing the world.”

4.19 DEFRA, The Scientific Case for Setting a Long-Term Emission Reduction Target, 2003

[http://www.gci.org.uk/DEFRA/long\\_range\\_target\\_science.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/DEFRA/long_range_target_science.pdf)

[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/ewpscience/ewp\\_targetscience.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/ewpscience/ewp_targetscience.pdf)

“Methodology: The framework of this study builds on the RCEP work which uses a convergence and contraction methodology. Whilst prescribed per capita emissions are retained, the flexibility is such that these are only a tool to constrain total emissions and this should not be considered a typical contraction and convergence (C&C)\* approach (although any mechanism which brings all emissions to a level lower than today’s will have an element of C&C). \* Contraction and convergence is an international policy framework for dealing with global climate change developed by the London-based Global Commons Institute.”

4.20 WWF, Living Planet Report, November 2004

<http://www.panda.org/downloads/general/lpr2004.pdf> “Contraction & Convergence (C&C) as proposed by Aubrey Meyer from the Global Commons Institute (Meyer 2001) provides a simple framework for globally allocating the right to emit carbon in a way that is consistent with the physical constraints of the biosphere.”

4.21 GLA, Green light to clean power - The Mayor’s Energy Strategy, February 2004

[http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/energy/docs/energy\\_strategy04.pdf](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/energy/docs/energy_strategy04.pdf)

“The recommendations of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution are based on a contraction and convergence scenario in which global emissions converge in 2050, and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is stabilised at 550ppm by 2100. The Mayor believes that all national and regional emissions reduction targets, including those proposed in this strategy must be seen as part of this long-term process. The Government’s support for the commission’s recommendations for a 60 per cent reduction in emissions by 2050 implies an acceptance of the contraction and convergence scenario that produced the recommendation.

The Mayor encourages the Government to acknowledge this. policy 2 The Mayor supports the principle of contraction and convergence as a long-term international policy objective. The contraction and convergence proposal was developed by the Global Commons Institute, London. Details of its origins, methodology, and support are available online at <http://www.gci.org.uk> ”

4.22 Church of England, Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Rowan Williams, 5th

July 2004 <http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Williams.pdf> “This kind of thinking [C&C] appears utopian only if we refuse to contemplate the alternatives honestly” The Prime Minister has already declared that his international priorities as chair of the G-8 in 2005 will include climate change and the future of Africa; Contraction and Convergence addresses both of these”.

4.23 Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Report No. SEPA 69/04, 12 October 2004

<http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/board/agency/2004/papers/1210/6904.pdf> “It is essential that the EU facilitates the exporting and uptake of energy efficient technologies to developing nations, to ensure that the growth of emissions from these countries is minimised and consistent with the principles of Contraction and Convergence.”

4.24 Liberal Democrats, Charles Kennedy, 16th November 2004

[http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Kennedy\\_C&C\\_Speech.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Kennedy_C&C_Speech.pdf) “If Tony Blair is really serious in making his mark in these areas, the greatest single achievement for the UK’s G8 presidency in combating climate change would be securing agreement among G8 nations, including the United States, that the way forward will be based on this principle of contraction and convergence.”

Maybe I should get out more. But it’s a good score so far.

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Climate Movement . . . ? Aubrey Meyer

Sep 01, 2005 11:14 PDT

This morning it was launched.

At a stroke, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and WWF, re-ignited the international 'equity' quarrel of the last fifteen years, this time with many development organisations joined to their ill-judged prospectus: -

Under a 400-450 ppmv concentration target, they call on the UK government to create a framework for 60% cuts in UK emissions by 2050, whilst also calling for 60% cuts in global emissions by the same date.

That's not OK. The concentration target [Contraction] is fine. But, far from dealing with the 'historic responsibilities' [convergence] [as campaign rubric claims], this invites a patch-work of numbers that still apportions the lion's share of future emissions-entitlements to the developed countries. They will object.

It is important to remember that, like-it-or-not, these entitlements are being created and traded as an increasingly scarce and valuable commodity. Developing countries have a well-established claim to an equitable share of what's left.

The rubric of the NGOs in the 1990's against C&C's way of dealing with this was "opposition to 'Tropical Hot-Air'." This, according to the NGOs, was the 'un-needed developing country entitlements'.

All governments were not that ill-judged, knowing that developing countries would inevitably – and correctly - read this kind of prospectus as being at their expense, limiting and curtailing their 'rights'.

The C&C mechanism is constitutional [rights-based]. It was created to negotiate this problem in a stable and rational manner. Since 1995 it has said, 'under a given concentrations:contraction global-emissions-profile, convergence to equal emissions-entitlements can - and should - be accelerated relative to the contraction rate'.

This creates a greater equity share to the injured party, subject to a total that saves us all. The fifteen year campaign to establish this has progressed.

Even the BBC picked them up about this: -

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4201372.stm>

Perhaps the NGOs are re-thinking. This WWF pro-forma reply is now going out repeatedly to all the people writing in saying "where is C&C?"

[quote] "Contraction and Convergence is a concept that has merit and which is being considered by members of Stop Climate Chaos. Our prime concern as a coalition at this stage is that the UK commits to driving down its own annual emissions as a top priority, and maximises its efforts to persuade other industrialised countries, with their historical responsibilities, to do the same."

Hmm; here's a reference: - [www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf)

Please do encourage the right kind of movement . . . we need a global one . . . that now goes in the right direction.

Katrina . . . for musicians, Louisiana without New Orleans is like Austria without Salzburg.

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"Katrina - What to do?" - Guardian    Aubrey Meyer

Sep 04, 2005 22:59 PDT

"The Stop Climate Chaos proposals are admirable in many ways, but disappointingly make no mention of the best method that has been worked out to deal with climate change in an equitable, global fashion: the contraction and convergence process aimed at shrinking and fairly sharing out greenhouse emissions."

The poor reap the whirlwind

Larry Elliott

Monday September 5, 2005

## The Guardian

No water. No power. No shelter. Homeless people scavenging for food and armed looters running amok on the street. New Orleans after the deluge was like the scenes we have become used to from developing countries. Songs have been written about when the levee breaks, and last week it did, turning the city into a toxic swamp. The death toll may run into tens of thousands; repairing the damage may cost tens of billions.

For most people, the initial response to the disaster has been the right one - an outpouring of deep sympathy for those who have been bereaved or lost everything. Some, however, have taken the view that now America knows what it is like to feel the full force of nature's terrible power and that the people of New Orleans brought the tragedy on themselves by their gas-guzzling lifestyles. Not only does this attitude lack common decency and humanity, it spectacularly misses the point. The SUV drivers had sped down the freeways to safety long before the storm arrived; those left behind to feel its full force were black, car-less and trapped. In this respect, New Orleans is just like every other disaster: the poor suffer most.

Concern for those affected by the disaster should not, however, prevent questions being asked. A seminar conducted by the American Meteorological Society less than three months ago concluded: "Dramatic land loss currently occurring in coastal Louisiana and projections of a period of possibly more powerful hurricanes in the Atlantic basin warrant a closer look at New Orleans as a case study in resiliency, with broad-sweeping implications regarding risk, human lives and the fate of a major coastal region."

It added that there were an estimated 57,000 households without cars in the city and that these were expected to bear the brunt of the casualties (estimated at 60,000-plus households in a category 4 or 5 storm).

## Evacuation

"The possibility of infrastructure improvements to facilitate evacuation is not promising. Projections of over a decade before major improvements to the levee system and to Lake Pontchartrain portend many hurricane seasons of continued significant risk." Clearly, there are people in positions of authority - right up to George Bush - who have a lot of explaining to do.

A second question, with global rather than domestic US ramifications, is whether Hurricane Katrina is a sign that something big and dangerous is happening to the weather. One school of thought is that the Gulf of Mexico has always been prone to violent storms at this time of the year, which was why it was possible for me to buy a lurid but potent cocktail called a Hurricane in a bar in the French Quarter in 1978.

Yet Hurricane Katrina needs to be put in context. In July, parts of the US were suffering from a heatwave so brutal that homeless people were dying in the streets in some of the south-west states. Europe has had a summer of droughts, forest fires and floods. Barely a week goes by without TV pictures of a parched savannah in Africa or a glacier in retreat.

The fact that the weather is behaving strangely does not automatically mean that we are suffering the ill-effects of climate change. Fluctuations in temperatures have been common down the centuries; the reason London was able to hold fairs on a frozen Thames three or four centuries ago was because it was colder and the winters were harsher. It is a possibility that we are simply experiencing a series of unfortunate events; that the tsunamis and the droughts, the floods and the rising temperatures are random occurrences that arrive from time to time. New Orleans just got unlucky, in other words, just as Florence did in the floods of 1966.

Others are less sanguine. Writing in the August edition of *Nature*, Kerry Emanuel of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, concluded that the power of hurricanes had increased since the mid-1970s. He said this was "highly correlated with tropical sea surface temperature, reflecting well-documented climate signals ... my results suggest that future [global] warming may lead to an upward trend in tropical cyclone destructive potential and, taking into account an increasing coastal population, a substantial increase in hurricane-related losses in the 21st century."

This prompts two final questions. If we can expect ever-more violent weather as a result of cli-



mate change, how much is mankind to blame? And

if mankind is to blame, what are we going to do about it? It could be the case, as some argue, that rising temperatures cannot be blamed on increasing carbon emissions. Scientists overwhelmingly, though not exclusively, reject this view. Their take on the data is that it proves beyond reasonable doubt that global warming is a reality and that it is caused by the activities of man. Some of those most concerned about climate change say the world is perilously close to a tipping point, after which the damage will be irreversible. Dismissing violent extremes of weather as inconsequential, in other words, is rather like an individual who shrugs off a series of violent headaches and refuses to go to the doctor.

My guess is that the majority view of scientists is now widely accepted. On a visit to the US this summer, it was notable how many times the phrases "global warming" and "climate change" came up unprompted in conversation. Hurricane Katrina will add to the concerns, and there is now perhaps the best chance in many years of persuading Washington that global warming is a reality and needs to be tackled with urgency. Last week was an opportune moment for the launch of Stop Climate Chaos by a coalition of environmental and development groups.

Sharing

But let's not get carried away. It is one thing to accept that global warming is a reality and needs to be tackled; it is quite another to agree to the practical steps that would be necessary to bring about change. The Stop Climate Chaos proposals are admirable in many ways, but disappointingly make no mention of the best method that has been worked out to deal with climate change in an equitable, global fashion: the contraction and convergence process aimed at shrinking and fairly sharing out greenhouse emissions.

However, this is not just a question of what policymakers decide. If the argument is that global warming threatens the future of the planet, then we may need to question the entire basis of the modern industrial economy. At one level this is a conceptual process: should growth be the prime objective of economic policy? Do the arguments in favour of free trade stack up once environmental costs are taken into account? Is globalisation the irresistible force of progress meeting the immovable object of the environment? How these policy debates are resolved will have practical implications. If our way of doing things is a dead end, it would mean more limited choice when we shop. It would mean cut-price flights would be a thing of the past. There would have to be a dramatic change in lifestyles. Some economists believe the price would not be worth paying, and that the best option is to allow capitalism to respond as it has to other challenges, so the market throws up technological solutions to the problem, from solar power to hybrid cars.

By and large, policymakers are more comfortable with this approach than with the change to energy policy and trade and consumer behaviour that would be necessitated by a more radical approach. They believe, perhaps rightly, that while we may tut-tut about climate change, we also see it as somebody else's problem. Whatever the solution, it doesn't mean giving up that weekend in Prague or freshly squeezed guava juice.

Instead, we will follow King Lear's example and say: "Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks! rage! blow! You cataracts and hurricanoes, spout till you have drench'd our steeples, drown'd the cocks!" Lear was mad, of course.

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C&C-FSC: Meeting in House of Lords. Aubrey Meyer

Sep 06, 2005 05:54 PDT

Forum for Stable Currencies

Advocating Economic Democracy through Freedom from Debt

Convenor: Lord Sudeley FSA;



Host: Lord Ahmed;  
Organiser: Sabine McNeill;  
Chairman: Donald A. Martin;  
Vice-Chairman: Austin Mitchell MP  
Minute Secretary: Canon Peter Challen,  
Chairman, Christian Council for Monetary Justice  
NEWS RELEASE 1st September 2005

The Money Fuse of the Climate Bomb  
On Defusing Economic Growth to Avoid Weather Explosions  
The Forum for Stable Currencies will meet  
Wednesday, September 7th, 6 to 9pm  
House of Lords Committee Room G [use 'Blackrod's Entrance'].  
[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Climate\\_Bomb\\_Text\\_Page.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Climate_Bomb_Text_Page.pdf)  
[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Climate\\_Bomb\\_Poster\\_Page.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Climate_Bomb_Poster_Page.pdf)

Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute [GCI] will address climate change, the monetary system and "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C), a full-term framework for securing the objective of the United Nations Climate Change Treaty.<sup>1</sup>

GCI contributed the ground-breaking "Expansion and Divergence" analysis to the Second Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [1993/5] and then the "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) analysis to their Third Assessment [2000].

Aubrey has spent the last 15 years at the UN winning acceptance of the C&C proposals. 2 C&C is now cited as, "destined to become one of the most important principles governing international relations in the 21st Century. It is a powerful ethic that incorporates global justice and sustainability." 3

Sabine McNeill, organiser of the Forum will link the framework to the issues of Sovereignty & Seignorage and the control of future currency growth. She says: "It is remarkable how few people understand causes and effects underlying global systems. Globalisation is built on economic growth while the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly uneconomic. Understanding the connections is now a priority."

James Gibb Stuart, author of The Money Bomb in 1983, predicted that the 'Public Sector Borrowing Requirement' would reach £25 billion – just to pay the interest on the national debt - which is close to reality today. In Fantopia – Invoking the Public Credit for a Balanced Economy and Social Justice, he quotes Reginald McKenna, the Chairman of the Midland Bank in 1924: "I am afraid the ordinary citizen will not like to be told that the banks can and do create money. And they who control the credit of a nation direct the policy of Governments and hold in the hollow of their hand the destiny of the people." He had been Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1915-16.

Donald Martin, Chairman of the Forum for Stable Currencies says: "I hope that more and more MPs begin to understand the mechanisms of money creation and welcome constructive proposals for redressing the balance between state created money and bank-created credit."

Lord Ahmed, the Host of the Forum for Stable Currencies, says: "I only hope people wake up to the detriment of usury in its financial capitalism. In Islam it is a deadly sin to take interest for money."

For further information, please contact the Organiser of the Forum for Stable Currencies: -  
Sabine McNeill 020 7328 3701 or [sab-@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:sab-@globalnet.co.uk) .

1 Definition of C&C at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

2 Support for C&C at: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/EAC\\_document\\_3.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/EAC_document_3.pdf) &

<http://lists.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read>

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FT on C&C [08 09 05] Aubrey Meyer

Sep 08, 2005 03:10 PDT

FT on C&C [08 09 05]

"As president of the European Union, Mr Blair should move on from the failure at Gleneagles and show leadership. The EU is in disarray on institutional matters but could prove its value by offering an imaginative long-term climate deal to the developing world. At Gleneagles, the big four developing countries refused to commit to limiting emissions so long as the rich north, with its far higher per capita emissions, fails to offer equity. But India has long urged a deal that combined the necessary reductions with gradual convergence to equal emission entitlements for each person on an agreed date.

The Africa Group and at one time China have backed this concept. This after 15 years of waiting for America, the rest of the world must move decisively and define how the task of emissions cuts can be shared "contraction and convergence" model could mobilise the rising powers of the southern hemisphere, clarifying both their entitlement and task.

If the EU accepts this principle there are signs that, even without America, the Indian government would be prepared to talk. Brazil has proposed a different formula but a conference in Sao Paulo in July explored whether the "contraction and convergence" model can meet Latin America's requirements - a key factor in forging a common approach by developing nations. This could be crucial, just as the emergence of a common southern front on trade has precipitated serious trade negotiation in the Doha round."

"Hurricanes can speak louder than bombs. Katrina brings home the words of David King, the British prime minister's chief scientific adviser, that climate change is a greater threat to humanity than terrorism and no less urgent. As the great ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica melt and move towards the sea, presaging a series of planetary chain reactions that could become unstoppable, the evasion that climate change is a long-term problem that can be dealt with later rings hollow. The accelerating instability of the world's climate system, leading to more frequent and devastating storms, droughts, floods and other wild events, is hitting not only millions of people in the poor world but also the rich - and the insurance industry.

Yet, at the Group of Eight summit in Gleneagles in July, fine words about technology, even if spiced with subsidies, could not obscure the adamant refusal of George W. Bush to join in a collective response. President Bush's call to Americans to spare the gas is good news. But business leaders require a global framework to mobilise long-term

investment and innovation. The task of statesmen is to provide it. By implementing the Kyoto treaty, Europe and others have taken a first important step without America. But far deeper cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions - of at least 60 per cent by mid-century - are needed and time is running out. From the end of 2005, Kyoto signatories must shape a longer term agreement for the next "commitment period" starting no later than 2012 and bringing in developing countries. After 15 years of waiting for and talking to America, the rest of the world must move decisively and define how this task has to be shared.

As president of the European Union, Mr Blair should move on from the failure at Gleneagles and show leadership. The EU is in disarray on institutional matters but could prove its value by offering an imaginative long-term climate deal to the developing world. At Gleneagles, the big four developing countries refused to commit to limiting emissions so long as the rich north, with its far higher per capita emissions, fails to offer equity. But India has long urged a deal that combined the necessary reductions with gradual convergence to equal emission entitlements for each person on an agreed date.

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The EU should invite key developing countries to join it in grafting such an equitable global deal, open to all willing states and leading to the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change despite the Bush blockade. The EU Council of Ministers has explored the objective of 80 per cent cuts this century that could enable it to play its part. Its emissions trading scheme could be extended to include all countries committed to the necessary emission cuts, providing an incentive to energy saving and new carbon-free technologies and transferring resources and capacity to developing states with surplus emission entitlements to sell.

US states that are committed to real emission reductions despite the myopia of their federal government could join too. Action to meet the climate crisis by the world's majority could in time spur progressive US companies and inspire America to join.

Mr Blair needs to explore the potential for co-operation between India and Europe to initiate a global partnership of willing states to address the climate challenge. He should put it at the top of the EU agenda, while inviting the Commission and other member states to explore how the flagging European economy can gain new vitality from north-south leadership and innovation in the post-carbon age. Many of Europe's political leaders are on the ropes. The EU is in shock. By addressing the threat of climate change, the Blair presidency could provide a theme for European foreign policy that bridges north and south and resonates as powerfully as the theme of peace and reconciliation which gave birth to the Community half a century ago."

The writer, Christopher Layton, is chairman of the non-profit Action for a Global Climate Community

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Climate at the Point of a Rhino Aubrey Meyer

Sep 13, 2005 05:10 PDT

Conference this week [14/16 09] at the beautiful EDEN PROJECT in Cornwall.

"Rainforest Gathering" - including climate change.

[www.gci.org.uk/events/Rainforest\\_Gathering\\_Conference\\_Programme.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Rainforest_Gathering_Conference_Programme.pdf)

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Rainforest\\_Gathering\\_A4.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Rainforest_Gathering_A4.pdf)

This is C&C, the 'Rhino' Edition . . . previewing the lead article in the forthcoming 'C-Minus' supplement to Britain's premiere Sustainability Magazine: -

<http://www.sustainmagazine.com/pages/mainframe.html>

Report on Counting the Costs at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/press/Jackie.pdf>

Short interim report on Money Fuse/Climate Bomb at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/press/Challen.pdf>

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Gloves Off: - Independent on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Sep 19, 2005 04:30 PDT

Your Planet and How You can Save It

Very Effective Supplement in today's Independent

Doesn't seem to be available on-line

## THE CASE FOR RATIONING

If we think we can stave off climate catastrophe simply by raising public awareness, we are deceiving ourselves, says Mayer Hillman. The truth is, only urgent and ruthless government action will do.

Hurricane Katrina, which has dominated the news over the last fortnight, is part of a wider pattern of extreme weather events. Just within the last few weeks, unusually severe floods in China, India and Central Europe have wreaked havoc. Meanwhile, fires have burned out of control in exceptionally dry conditions in Spain and Portugal. Across Western Siberia, the tundra is beginning to release methane – a particularly lethal greenhouse gas. And new research has revealed that the soil, rather than acting as a sink for carbon emissions from fossil fuel use as previously believed, now returns more of the emissions into the atmosphere than it absorbs.

There is now near-consensus in the scientific community that these and other alarming changes are directly attributable to human-induced global warming. Leading meteorologists are warning that the threat this poses is the greatest ever to face mankind. There is the clear prospect of further lethal climatic disasters, resulting from rising land and oceanic temperatures, which could make the horrors of Katrina appear minor by comparison. Clearly for some time the focus in New Orleans, and in other cities affected by the hurricane, will be on saving lives and dealing with the extraordinary aftermath of the damage. But could it be that Katrina will prove to be the wake-up call to America to put climate change at the top of the political agenda, and for it to move from rhetoric to action?

Unfortunately, it may be the ease that only catastrophes like Katrina can shake the world out of its complacency. We continue to avoid the evidence that stares us in the face. Instead we prefer to maintain energy-profligate lifestyles that are relentlessly accelerating the process of climate change with consequences that are in all likelihood irreversible.

Those of us who are ignorant, sceptical or in denial of the facts decrease day by day. The prevalent view is now that it is not the responsibility of individuals to respond to the shared predicament we now face but that of government to create a framework that requires us to do so. And until that happens, only extraordinarily principled individuals will be prepared to act.

On the surface, global warming is an increasing political concern. The G8 communique on climate change at the end of the Gleneagles Summit in July was a significant and long-awaited expression of political agreement that human beings are contributing to climate change and of the consequent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also welcome was the explicit acknowledgement of the UN as the body that must ultimately take the lead on negotiations around the creation of an international framework to ensure that climate change is tackled globally and fairly.

Nevertheless, there are a number of grounds for serious disquiet. First, the communique was rhetorical rather than practical. It stated that the G8 will “act with resolve and urgency” to reduce greenhouse gases, yet no targets were set to that end. Second, the conclusions were based on the false assumption that the necessary cuts in greenhouse gas emissions from human activity in affluent countries around the world can largely be achieved through the combination of more efficient use of fossil fuels and increased research, development and investment in technology, particularly in renewable energy. In practice, this cannot be sufficient either on the scale or in the timescale required. Third, both within the communique and indeed across the economies of every country in the estimated carbon rations the table shows projected rations under two reduction scenarios: the official one and the author’s recommended one. In each case, the figure shown is for average per capita energy use, with average individual energy use in brackets. (The rest of the per capita average is accounted for by the business, industry, commerce and public sectors which produce the goods and services we all use.) The current figures for average carbon emissions per person in the UK are 10.4 tonnes per year (all energy use) and 5.2 tonnes per year (personal use) world, the view continues to be universally held that growth is the primary objective of public policy and that an adequate response to climate change need not and must not be allowed to limit that. Business as usual and preferred lifestyles, albeit with minor modifications, remain the order of the day.

Thus, crucial connections are not being made. Even in the week of the G8 Summit, with words of alarm about climate change still ringing in the ear, Britain celebrated its success in the flamboyant competition to host the 2012 Olympics. Bidding hosts made no reference to the hundreds of thousands of spectators and participants who would be making long-distance flights to their cities, apparently oblivious of the ecological consequences. And that is just one global jamboree held every four years. Almost every profession and sport holds annual events in different world locations to which typically large numbers of participants fly. Were they to be questioned, they might well now express concern about climate change and, with current trends, the consequent alarming prospects for their children. But they are either unaware of or choose to ignore the personal contribution that their return flight makes to accelerating the process. Even the progressive broadsheets fail to make the connection. Their reports on climate change and their expressions of concern about it in their leader columns are juxtaposed with the promotion of distant destinations and cheap flights to them, presumably with unintended irony.

The near-universal failure to make the connection between energy-intensive lifestyles and ecological disaster is a disturbing illustration of collective amnesia. As a consequence, an increasing majority of the population is inadvertently complicit in a process that is already reducing the quality of life of literally billions of people, and which will almost certainly cause the deaths of millions in the near and longer-term future. The only strategy now open to government is to act resolutely to slow the pace of damaging change. Yet the scale of preventive action it is actually taking is pathetically inadequate.

Many of those who are concerned with global warming unwisely believe it can be dealt with by taxing fuel more highly, by tree-planting and perhaps by carbon sequestration, and by buying emission rights from countries whose economies have not yet achieved the levels of success in raising material standards living that we have achieved in the West. Even those supposedly in the vanguard of the response to global warming, such as the green lobby and progressive local authorities, advocate naive remedies. Owing to their limited powers and resources to bring about the necessary major transformation of our practices, their efforts are largely focussed on the actions that the public can be encouraged to take in terms of exhortation, pledges and commitments. They believe that strategies of promoting and subsidising voluntary action, based on better education and the wider take-up of energy saving measures, will deliver in time the essential degree of reduction required. This is well-meaning, but frankly wishful thinking.

Of course, it suits government very well that these strategies are put on the table by those at the greener end of the spectrum. This enables politicians and civil servants to maintain their faith in the effectiveness of "soft" policy options and relieves them of the need to admit that the costs of damage from climate change already significantly exceed the benefits of our energy-profligate lifestyles. The government now surely knows that this approach can do no more than scratch the surface of the problem. To believe that most people will be prepared to forego much of the current lifestyles voluntarily is to live in cloud-cuckoo land.

There is, however, some room for optimism. There is growing international support for the Global Commons Institute's Contraction & Convergence framework - an ingenious mechanism which as soon as one understands it immediately appears to be the only way forward. It is based on principles of precaution and equity enshrined in the UN Climate Treaty: the process by which the future allocation of carbon rations becomes equal per capita globally by an agreed year, while aggregate global emissions are reduced year-on-year to their relatively safe level of concentration. Of course it is only governments that can enforce a system in which individuals exercise their responsibilities in this way.

Could anyone reasonably argue that policy can be formulated on the proposition of an unequal distribution of the capacity of the global commons to absorb a quantity of greenhouse gases that does not lead to a serious destabilisation of the world's climate?

Contraction & Convergence will require the UK to reduce its current average per capita carbon dioxide emissions of roughly 10 tons (two-and-a-half times the world average) to about one-and-a-half tons by 2030. You can easily calculate your own rough annual carbon dioxide emissions from



the table on page 35 and see how this current total relates to the one-and-a-half ton total that would need to be your limit if the damage from climate change is to be limited sufficiently, in most cases, the gap between our current habits and the way we need to be living is enormous. To take just one example: the carbon dioxide emission equivalents per passenger from just one round flight from London to New York and back are about three times this entire annual allowance.

Contraction & Convergence would also have important effects at an international level. Current economic activity and personal lifestyles have created a vicious cycle in which in general the affluent world has been advantaged by its use of fossil fuels whilst the Third World has suffered an unequal share of the consequent damage. One of the substantial benefits of the C&C framework is that it reverses this process by creating a virtuous spiral. It puts a premium on conservation for everyone: people who are not contributing to degrading the planet's climate system, principally but not exclusively those living in Third World countries, become recipients of revenue arising from the sale of their unused carbon entitlements to those still engaging in energy- profligate activity. And this structured synergy between social justice, market forces and human survival makes the "price of carbon" equal to the price of survival. This then inevitably leads to a rapid international embarkation on the route to equal per capita emissions of greenhouse gases.

Overall the C&C strategy has unique characteristics: first and foremost, by its very nature, it assures governments of success in delivering the internationally agreed degree of reduction in greenhouse gases. This is in marked contrast to a strategy relying on the setting of targets which may not be met "owing to unforeseen circumstances" and for which it would therefore not even be possible to apportion blame for failure. Furthermore, personal carbon rationing will act as a driver towards limiting the awesome impact of climate change far more effectively than simply trying to encourage individuals to adopt green practices.

The prime responsibility for such a radical transformation lies with world leaders. They could learn invaluable lessons from history - if only they were willing to do so. In the years leading up to Second World War, British and other governments spent a long period in denial of the threat of Fascism and a further period trying to deal with it by appeasement. Both these mistakes proved costly. Finally, leaders faced up to the dreadful truth, and the struggle for survival could begin in earnest. So it has been with the threat of climate change: years of denial, followed by years of kidding ourselves that it could be dealt with painlessly. Only if we face up to the severity of the crisis can we even begin to take appropriate action.

We should think back to the late summer of 1939. Against the reneging of the promises made by Hitler in Munich 18 months previously and the possible need to go to war with fascist Germany, no one proposed a referendum on this crucial decision - it was left to Parliament to reach a vote. And, with war in prospect, Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister of the time, did not simply invite the population to eat less owing to the inevitable curtailment of food imports, he imposed food rationing; nor did he issue a call to arms, he imposed military conscription. So it is today. The time for debate is past. We need to confront the emergency.

So far, we have been in the phoney war. To have any hope of winning, we now need to begin the war in earnest. It will be uncomfortable, but it is our only hope. Without urgent action, far more ambitious and visionary than our government has demonstrated to date, we will be handing over a dying planet to the next generation. By its delay in adopting Contraction and Convergence (and logically therefore introducing carbon rationing) as the only realistic and effective course of action to take, government is running a distinct risk that it will be charged with gross incompetence for its mishandling of what increasingly looks like being the worst world catastrophe that it is possible to contemplate. With our politicians making decisions on our behalf, at this rate we will be justly accused by our children of outrageous selfishness in disregarding the consequences for them of our energy-profligacy.

Dr Mayer Hillman is Senior Fellow Emeritus at the Policy Studies Institute.

He is co-author of 'How We Can Save the Planet' (Penguin, £7.99).

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C&C & UN Millennium Project   Aubrey Meyer



"Energy and Environment."

Background paper commissioned for the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Environmental Sustainability. UNDP, New York.

Robert T. Watson. 2004.

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Watson\\_2004.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Watson_2004.pdf)

The key recommendations include: -

"Negotiation of a long-term stabilization target for the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases, which will send a signal to governments and the private sector that there is a long-term growing market for climate-friendly technologies.

This paper, especially the sections addressing climate change, is based on Chapter 13 of the Responses Working Group of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, which in turn was based extensively on the expert and government peer-reviewed comprehensive reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), especially on the three Working Group Reports of the Third Assessment Report (TAR) and its Synthesis Report, the Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), the Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES), the Special Report on Methodological and Technological Issues in Technology Transfer, the Technical Paper on Climate Change and Biodiversity."

"One approach that is receiving significant attention, and endorsed by the German Advisory Council on Global Change, is some form of contraction and convergence whereby total global emissions are reduced (i.e., contraction) to meet a specific agreed target, and the per capita emissions of industrialized and the developing countries converge over a suitably long time period, with the rate and magnitude of contraction and convergence being determined through the UNFCCC negotiating process.

Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) 12 is a science-based global climate-policy framework proposed by the Global Commons Institute (GCI) with the objective of realizing "safe"<sup>13</sup> and stable greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. It applies principles of precaution and equity, principles identified as important in the UNFCCC but not defined, to provide the formal calculating basis of the C&C framework that proposes:

- A full-term contraction budget for global emissions consistent with stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at a pre-agreed concentration maximum deemed to be "safe" using IPCC WG1 carbon cycle modeling.
- The international sharing of this budget as 'entitlements' results from a negotiable rate of linear convergence to equal shares per person globally by an agreed date within the timeline of the full-term contraction/concentration agreement.
- Negotiations for this within the UNFCCC could occur principally between regions of the world, leaving negotiations between countries primarily within their respective regions, such as the European Union, the Africa Union, the US, etc, comparable to the current EU bubble.
- The inter-regional, inter-national and intra-national tradability of these entitlements should be encouraged to reduce costs.
- Scientific understanding of the relationship between an emissions-free economy and concentrations develops, so rates of C&C can evolve under periodic revision."

12.

<http://www.gci.org.uk> ;

<http://www.gci.org.uk/model/dl.html>;

<http://www.feasta.org>;

[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC\\_Demo\(pc\).exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo(pc).exe);

[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C\\_Bubbles.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C_Bubbles.pdf);

13.

"safe" – a level that avoids dangerous anthropogenic perturbation to the climate system as defined in Article II of the UNFCCC – the level to be determined through a socio-political process, e.g., the UNFCCC

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a first - Local Gov in London adopts C&C    Aubrey Meyer

Oct 11, 2005 03:14 PDT

HECA members will enjoy this shift . . .

"The Council [Camden London] should support the principle of contraction and convergence as this is the only solution radical enough to reduce CO2 emissions to stable levels" [They must mean 'concentration levels'].

"The principle of contraction & convergence proposes that a global per capita annual allowance of acceptable emissions be calculated, and that countries where per capita emissions are higher should reduce their emissions steadily and as rapidly as possible towards this goal. This implies a reduction of about 90% in the UK."

"The scientific integrity and the ethical basis of this policy both appear to be strong, and the Council will support this principle and is prepared to lobby on it. See action L1."

"Action L1: The Council will support the principle of "contraction and convergence" in general and lobby for legislative and policy means to achieve this."

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Local\\_Government/Camden\\_Council.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Local_Government/Camden_Council.pdf)

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SNP adopts C&C at Party Conference    Aubrey Meyer

Oct 11, 2005 04:29 PDT

Scottish National Party formally adopts C&C: -

Tackling climate change and reducing Greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland

"Conference recognises the unacceptably high level of per capita greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland and the urgent need for action to mitigate climate change given the potentially disastrous consequences for the planet;

pledges to achieve a low carbon emitting society and commits the SNP to supporting the adoption of the internationally-recognised principle of "Contraction and Convergence" that accepts developed countries must reduce greenhouse emissions and developing countries are set to increase their levels until convergence is achieved . . ."

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Political\\_Parties/Scottish\\_Nat\\_Conf.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/Political_Parties/Scottish_Nat_Conf.pdf)

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C&C - varied activity    Aubrey Meyer

Oct 13, 2005 08:31 PDT

1. C&C in climate debate, yesterday in UK parliament [12 10 2005]
2. C&C talk at Canning House Belgravia London
3. Government Response to Environmental Audit Committee on C&C
4. London Mayor on C&C at GLA International Conference [04 10 2005]
5. European Parliament Resolution on C&C [21 09 2005]
6. Br Council/Embassy Finland event [13 10 2005]
7. New Statesman C&C article [13 10 2005]

Norman Baker of the Liberal Democrats, together with the Conservative Oliver Letwin posed a motion yesterday in parliament for cross-party consensus on climate change.

Despite his polite and accomplished efforts it was rejected by the government. Many people be-

yond the parliamentary cat-walk value his efforts notwithstanding.

Mr. Chaytor [Labour] of GLOBE UK

"On the question of the ice fields and crevasses and looking forward beyond 2012, is my right hon. Friend [Secretary of States, Margaret Beckett] attracted to the concept of contraction and convergence as a means of bringing on board China, India, Brazil and other powerful developing countries? Does she believe that the basis of equal per capita rights to emit carbon should form the basis of any agreement beyond 2012?"

Margaret Beckett:

"I do not say this pejoratively . . . contraction and convergence is the fashionable option. It has obvious and evident attractions . . . "

[Miaow].

Norman Baker:

" . . . the reply that I received from the Secretary of State [Margaret Beckett]. I am grateful to her for the fact that her letter arrived yesterday. She said that she would, "welcome a cross-party consensus on climate change . . . She may be rather sceptical this afternoon—fair enough. It is up to us to prove that we are serious about this business, and I hope that she will respond accordingly.

The Secretary of State's letter includes a number of reasons why she was not prepared to join us at this juncture. In one paragraph, she refers to uncertainties in the two Opposition parties . . . [She] also refers to the position of India and China, and I know that she takes that very seriously. We have exchanged views on this before and I recognise and accept how sensitive the issue is. I recognise absolutely that we cannot start to dictate what those countries should have. I spent some time over the summer in India meeting Indian politicians and business leaders on the very issue of climate change. I came away with a very strong view of how they feel. Of course, the issue is to guide all the different ships into harbour, and that is not necessarily very easy to do.

The Indian politicians whom I met said that they were potentially very responsive to what the EU was doing. They recognised that we in Europe were giving a lead, and they were also quite happy with the idea of contraction and convergence, which they regard as a fair and equitable way forward. I am sure that the Secretary of State has heard the same response . . . "

Margaret Beckett:

"I understand the anxiety that the hon. Gentleman voices, and considerable anxiety was expressed in the run-up to the Gleneagles summit by, for example, campaigners in America. In the summit's aftermath, they greatly welcomed the fact that the Prime Minister had not taken the path that the hon. Gentleman had identified as the one that had concerned him and those campaigners. The Prime Minister had, indeed, maintained his push for the kind of forward look that everyone wants. However, I caution the hon. Gentleman against the assumption that mandatory targets for everybody are necessarily the only way forward. We are nowhere near that conclusion yet.

Norman Baker:

"I accept that we are nowhere near that conclusion, but I remain to be convinced that it is not the right mechanism. There are mandatory targets for countries that signed up to Kyoto, very few of which are meeting them. I fear what the effect will be if there are no mandatory targets at all."

Margaret Beckett:

"I do not want to nit-pick, but there are mandatory targets for the developed countries that signed up to Kyoto. A great many countries signed the Kyoto protocol, under which there are not mandatory targets. If the hon. Gentleman has had discussions in India, he will know that the notion of such targets is extraordinarily sensitive."

Norman Baker:

"I accept that. Such targets are sensitive, not least because of the US position. The point that I was trying to make is that, even where there are mandatory targets for the developed countries, including this country and those in the EU, very few countries will meet them. If mandatory tar-

gets cannot even bring the ship into harbour, it is not clear what other mechanism will achieve that end. However, I am willing to be convinced and to see what comes out of negotiations. Like the Secretary of State, I am looking for results that end up with significant carbon cuts across the world in an attempt to stave off a growing crisis. That is our common objective."

[http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm051012/debtext/51012-27.htm#51012-27\\_spnew4](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm051012/debtext/51012-27.htm#51012-27_spnew4)

Thursday 27 October, 7 pm

Canning House,

2 Belgrave Sq,

London, SW1X 8PJ

Aubrey Meyer will talk on the problems facing our planet and the global solution to climate change. "C&C, supported by governments including Ecuador and Chile, is now cited as ...destined to become one of the most important principles governing international relations in the 21st Century. It is a powerful ethic that incorporates global justice and sustainability."

Information & booking:

0207 235 2303 ext 226

Email: [cult-@canninghouse.com](mailto:cult-@canninghouse.com)

£3 members of Canning House,

£5 non-members

[www.canninghouse.com](http://www.canninghouse.com)

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Canning\\_House\\_C&C.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Canning_House_C&C.pdf)

Current European Parliament Draft Resolution

3. "Believes that a future regime should be based on common but differentiated responsibilities aiming at contraction and convergence, on continued and progressively greater emission reductions and the involvement of more countries in the reduction efforts; emphasises that any targets for emission cuts should be based on recent science and aiming to not exceed a global average temperature increase of 2°C with reasonable certainty; further stresses that cost-effectiveness should be a characteristic of all measures considered and that, therefore, a long-term goal should be to develop a global carbon market, based on cap and trade;"

[http://www.gci.org.uk/EuroParl/EP\\_583011.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/EuroParl/EP_583011.pdf)

UK Government Response to Environmental Audit Committee C&C Report

[2005]

"It is the case that certain aspects of the Contraction and Convergence model are appealing. Any framework that incorporates long term targets can offer countries greater certainty about their national targets and provide a clear signal to allow business to plan ahead and help drive investment in new and better technologies.

The principle of equity is extremely important to all countries but in particular developing countries and a number of countries have expressed an interest in using per capita emissions as a basis for assigning responsibility for future action. Some developing countries, in particular, India, have advocated the Contraction and Convergence model."

[http://www.gci.org.uk/EAC/Government\\_Response.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/EAC/Government_Response.pdf)

Ken Livingstone

Mayor of London

Greater London Authority

International Climate Change Summit

4th October 2005 City Hall

"Contraction and convergence

There is a growing trend to try and link the problem of climate change with the phenomenal eco-

conomic growth of China, India and other rapidly growing economies;

In reality it is the small number of nations in the west, plus Japan, whose industrial growth in the 20th century caused climate change, often exploiting the resources of the rest of the world in the process;

While newly industrialising countries have the opportunity to shape their economies around renewable energy sources, there will still be a growing demand for fossil fuels. The solution to climate change is not to restrict the growth of newly industrialising nations so that we can carry on polluting;

A globally equitable model of emissions reductions is required;

The contraction and convergence model calls for already large polluting countries to cut their emissions, while newly industrialising countries increase theirs, up to the point that we converge at a sustainable level;

That, I hope, will be the ethos that will guide cities around the world."

Thursday 13th October

Climate Change Seminar, British Council and British Embassy Helsinki  
Finland

Event Includes

"ROAD TO A ZERO CARBON WORLD: CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE"

Colin CHALLENGE, Labour Member of Parliament, UK

Does an ex-musician hold the answer to the climate crisis?

Mark Lynas in the New Statesman [13 10 2005]

[http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/CandC\\_New\\_Statesman.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/CandC_New_Statesman.pdf)

"Meyer realised that, if humanity is to survive climate change, a very different kind of international agreement will be required. Climate change threatens humanity as a whole, and so requires a species-level response. Meyer's proposal – "contraction and convergence" (C&C) – proceeds from the recognition that all countries must act together to set a limit on global greenhouse emissions. Once this limit is agreed (the contraction bit), they must decide how the remaining emissions are to be shared."

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C&C & Francophone Africa Aubrey Meyer

Oct 14, 2005 09:33 PDT

Conference of the Global Climate Community

Centre de Conference

Jean XXIII (23)

Yaounde

Cameroun

18th - 21st October 2005

Details at: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Conference\\_CLIMAF2005\\_2\\_Francais\[1\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Conference_CLIMAF2005_2_Francais[1].pdf)

This conference has been organised by L'association des Clubs des Amis de la Nature du Cameroun (ACAN) President, Mr Raphael Hanmbock

And the UK-based "Action Committee for a Global Climate Community"

Two briefings circulating at the event at: -

GCI's "Equity and Survival" – the COP3 Africa-Group-Position edition, updated.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Cameroun.pdf>

French edition of pamphlet by Christopher Layton

Former Chef du Cabinet European Union.

"Une Communauté Climatique, Initiative européenne avec les pays en voie de développement"

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/layton\\_fr\\_CandC.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/layton_fr_CandC.pdf)

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C&C and DTQs . . . growing calls . . . Aubrey Meyer

Oct 19, 2005 09:32 PDT

The simple logic of C&C is gradually catching on.

The volume of e-mail to GCI and traffic and on the web that reflects this is conspicuously growing. The volume of downloads from the web-site [with small but continual attention from US Government and Military and large from US .edu and .com] is constant at around 30-50k hits per month. The number of invitations to GCI to make the case for C&C is growing and coming from an increasingly wide constituency.

Some C&C Events just passed . . .

1. Imperial College, Kensington, London

and just ahead . . .

1. Canning House, Belgravia London– October 27th 2005

2. Green Economics Institute, Reading – October 29th 2005

3. Northern Ireland Energy Forum, Belfast – November 2nd 2005

4. CSE Taunton, Somerset – November 23rd 2005

5. British Council, Video-Conference with Brazil – 28th November 2005

6. Liverpool University – 30th November 2005

7. Montreal, Canada COP 11/MOP – December 2005

8. Royal Society of Arts, London – 16th February 2006

9. Sustrans, "The Network" Issue One August 2005

10. Elliott Morley and David King call for personal carbon quotas

[Times-online today]

Imperial College

6th October 2005 16.30

Policy Seminar for the Msc. Course

Imperial College

London

"Contraction and Convergence" (C&C),

Correcting the \$ 'Expansion & Divergence'

Driving Dangerous Global Climate Change."

Aubrey Meyer

Global Commons Institute

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Imperial\\_College.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Imperial_College.pdf)

Described by one of the staff as, "the best lecture we've had here in thirty years", the organisers wrote afterwards to say, "On behalf of everyone here, thank you so much for an inspirational and provocative session [on C&C] last night - I think you could judge by the level of interest - which went on much longer than usual - that you had well and truly 'captured' the audience. I am quite sure that the cause of C&C will be taken up by the vast majority of them in whatever capacity they find themselves in their future careers."

CANNING HOUSE - PRESS RELEASE



Thursday 27 October, 7 pm

Canning House

Belgravia

London

Climate Change: The issue - The solution

"It is fifteen years since negotiations began at the United Nations to prevent dangerous climate change. At Canning House next Thursday, Aubrey Meyer, Director of the London-based Global Commons Institute (GCI) talks about this and explains his efforts to establish the international framework to address it known as "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C).

Since the advent of fossil fuel burning 200 years ago, greenhouse gas concentrations in atmosphere have risen faster and further than at any time in the last 500,000 years. The rates of global climate change threatened by this are now described by the UK Prime Minister's advisors as a threat greater than global terrorism.

This year Aubrey Meyer was described by the City of London as that person from the worlds of business, academia, politics and activism who had made the greatest contribution to understanding and combating this threat, leading strategic debate and policy formation.

"In recognition of an outstanding personal contribution to combating climate change at an international level through his efforts to enhance the understanding and adoption of the principle of "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C)," he was given a life-time' achievement award by the City of London.

In the New Statesman Magazine this week he was chosen as one of the world's ten people, "who are in a hard-headed and practical way helping to make the world a better place."

Commenting on the state-of-play, Aubrey Meyer says, "People are increasingly concerned about the damages augured by climate change and many feel powerless. However, the effort to establish this precautionary C&C framework continues and it is now increasingly well-focused and more widely supported than many people realise. The global situation is dangerous. But an inclusive and rational effort to avoid the worst of climate change is possible and worth it. We owe it to our children, as the price of our failure to them is incalculable."

C&C definition statement at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

C&C support at: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/EAC/Climate\\_C&C\\_Report.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/EAC/Climate_C&C_Report.pdf)

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Canning House: Where the UK meets Latin America & Iberia

Green Economics Institute

Economics as if people mattered

Invites you to a Conference

October 29th 2005 10 am - 7.00 pm

Reading, Berkshire

Green Economics: -

Inter alia, Sustainability and Costing climate change  
Reading International Solidarity Centre,  
London Street, Reading,  
Berkshire RG1 4PS

Bookings <greeneconomi-@yahoo.com>

Amongst the many speakers are:-

Dr Mayer Hillman Policy Studies Institute , London  
How are the economy and society going to adjust to the inevitable

Councillor Dr Rupert Read University of East Anglia, Norwich  
"Philosophy of contraction and convergence"

Dr Hillman's Penguin Book "How to Save the Planet" will be available at  
a discounted price.

Northern Ireland Energy Forum 2005  
Bringing Northern Ireland's Energy Players Together . . .

Sustainable Energy, Climate Change and Emissions  
Sponsored by the Carbon Trust

Wednesday 2nd November 2005  
Stormont Hotel, Belfast

"The afternoon programme at the Northern Ireland Energy Forum 2005 is dedicated to the important issue of climate change, and how the energy sector is impacting on the environment.

The keynote speaker for the session will be renowned world campaigner Aubrey Meyer who will present his 'Contraction and Convergence' theory as the best way to overcome this global emissions problem. Peter Buchanan from The Met Office will give an interesting presentation outlining the impact that climate change has had to date in Northern Ireland, and the evidence which supports this."

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Northern\\_Ireland\\_Energy\\_Forum\\_2005.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Northern_Ireland_Energy_Forum_2005.pdf)

[http://www.bmfconferences.com/download/Northern\\_Ireland\\_Energy\\_Forum\\_2005.pdf](http://www.bmfconferences.com/download/Northern_Ireland_Energy_Forum_2005.pdf)

"From paper to practice -  
Acting on the targets in the Energy White Paper"  
Centre for Sustainable Energy  
Somerset College of Arts and Technology,  
Taunton

Wednesday 23 November 2005, 09.30 to 13.00

CSE has lined up an excellent panel of speakers for this year's sustainable energy conference for the West of England, a FREE half-day event aimed at local authority executives, councillors, planners and building professionals to be held in Taunton on 23 November.

Aubrey Meyer will give this year's key note address. Aubrey is the co-founder of the Global Commons Institute and originator of the concept of 'Contraction and Convergence', a framework for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions based on principles of global equity.

"I am delighted that Aubrey will open this year's conference. Aubrey is one of the leading figures in global environmentalism and climate change", says Mark Letcher of CSE, whose team is organising the conference. "He will provide some exciting challenges to our thinking and put our ambitions to tackle climate change in the West of England in a global context."

Entitled 'From Paper to Practice: acting on the targets in the Energy White Paper', the conference will consider both Meyer's global message and the impacts of climate change in the South West, the targets set out in the Energy White Paper, and the steps required to tackle climate change locally.

Aubrey Meyer will be joined by other expert speakers: Andrew Cooper, energy policy manager at the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly; Adrian Hewitt, the London Borough of Merton's principal environment officer, and; Tim Simmons, manager of sustainable construction at the Genesis Project, Somerset's new £2.5 million centre for sustainable construction which attendees at the conference will be able to visit. Stephen Ward, CSE's Head of Technical Services, completes the speakers list for the conference; all speaker biographies can be found by clicking [here](#).

The event promises to be of great interest and value those working in a range of professions including planning, building control, housing, architecture and energy management. You can download a promotional leaflet and booking form [here](#). Places are free but numbers are restricted. If you would like to attend please contact

[kirsty.m-@cse.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.m-@cse.org.uk)

The Local Energy Support Programme in the West of England is managed by CSE on behalf of the Energy Saving Trust. It is one of a network of 26 Local Energy Support Programmes across the UK that was set up to facilitate the delivery of the Home Energy Conservation Act.

For more information about the programme, see

<http://www.cse.org.uk/cgi-bin/projects.cgi?local&&43>

<http://www.cse.org.uk/cgi-bin/news.cgi?full&live&&1218>

<http://www.cse.org.uk/pdf/news1218.pdf>

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/CSE\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/CSE_flyer.pdf)

Café Scientifique

UK – Sao Paulo – Brasília

Created by the British Council

This event is part of their "Zero-waste Cities" programme

OUTLINE

1 or 2 weeks before:

Send some information about Aubrey Meyer and the theme of the Café to the audience so that they can think about the issues and come with questions. The information we will send won't be identical to what the Aubrey will cover as we don't want to pre-empt the talk.

Day of the event:

Participants arrive c. 45 minutes earlier so that they can start talking to the local facilitator and warm up. BC staff briefs participants the logistics and structure, as follows.

10:15 Welcome to guests in Brazil offices [5 minutes]

A brief explanation of the logistics by BC local staff [5 minutes] Brazilian guests introduce themselves (names and occupation) and start exchanging ideas, encouraged by the Brazilian facilitator in each of the two cities. [35 minutes]

11:00 Introduction of UK-based speaker (Aubrey Meyer) via VC [5 minutes]

11:05 Aubrey talks to participants via VC [20 minutes]  
11:25 3 questions from each city to Aubrey, moderated by facilitators [30 minutes]  
11:55 Aubrey responds and, in turn, sets 4 questions/comments (one for each of the two groups in each city) [5 minutes]  
12:00 Participants collect refreshments and go into break out groups to discuss their question [20 minutes]  
VC reconvenes  
12:20 Group 1 City 1 - participants feedback [5 minutes]  
12:25 Group 1 City 2 - participants feedback [5 minutes]  
12:30 Group 2 City 1 - participants feedback [5 minutes]  
12:35 Group 2 City 2 - participants feedback [5 minutes]  
12:40 Open discussion by all participants via VC [15 minutes]  
12:55 Round up by Aubrey via VC [5 minutes]  
13:00 VC with UK ends but VC within Brazil remains for 30 more minutes for final interaction between groups  
13:30 Event ends

Liverpool University  
30th November, 2005  
C&C Seminar in the Jones Building  
School of Biological Sciences  
University of Liverpool  
LIVERPOOL L69 3GS  
UK

Contact  
Prof. Brian Moss  
Tel: 0151 794 4995

Montreal COP 11/MOP  
United Nations Climate Change Conference  
Montréal, 28 November to 9 December 2005

The eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 11) will be held in conjunction with the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP) in Montréal. Visit the United Nations Climate Change Conference web section.

[www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)

If anyone [C&C sympathiser/advocate] is interested in being on the GCI delegation to this, let me know.

C&C at the Royal Society of Arts  
16th February 2006

An invitation from this prestigious organisation is a sign of the

changing times.

Notice in due course at: - <http://www.thersa.org/>

Sustrans

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/webfiles/nnews/TheNetwork.pdf>

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/The\\_Network\\_Sustrans.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/The_Network_Sustrans.pdf)

The Network Issue One August 2005

Jargon Buster - Contraction and Convergence

No, not what happens to that brand new pair of jeans that gets washed at the wrong temperature. This is a system developed by an organisation called the Global Commons Institute that attempts to make the global process of reducing CO2 emissions fair and equitable whether you live in the UK or Uganda.

The first step in the process is for the world to agree on a scientifically 'safe' or 'stable' level of carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The next step is to work out the rate at which current emissions would have to 'contract', i.e. reduce, in order to meet the agreed stable level at a given date, 2050 for example.

From this target a global budget of tradable emission allowances would be created. Crucially, these would be shared out between countries by head of population, so that each country's emissions entitlement would 'converge' on the basis of the number of people rather than on the wealth of each country as in current emission trading. This means that, by the given date of 2050, each and every person on Earth would have the same emissions entitlement regardless of wealth.

Highly polluting countries which tend to be the richest, i.e. the USA which emits a quarter of the world's CO2 while hosting only 4.6% of the world's population, would immediately be at a disadvantage in the emissions markets. They would be forced to buy entitlements from countries with higher populations who pollute less, usually developing nations. China, for example, is increasingly being talked of as a high polluter by the USA, but with a fifth of the world's population emits 13% of the world's CO2. Depending, therefore, on the level of contraction and the date set for convergence, the system of Contraction and Convergence would result in an enormous flow of wealth from high polluters to low polluters, from rich to poor countries, developed to developing nations.

The flow would far surpass the amount currently being spent by rich nations on aid. For more information on Contraction and Convergence visit [www.gci.org.uk](http://www.gci.org.uk)

GCI Reponse

Dear Dave

Thank you for pointing this up. Of course I approve of the effort to ease the problems of jargon. However, I have three comments beyond that remark on this jargon-buster item. I would be most grateful for your help in passing these back down the line to Adam and his copy-list: -

1. the cited GCI website address is incorrect [cgi] and the correct address is [www.gci.org.uk](http://www.gci.org.uk)
2. the contraction date and the convergence date cited are the same [2050]. The purpose - indeed the whole purpose - behind the campaign to establish C&C is to make it clear to developing countries that \* the convergence rate can be accelerated relative to the contraction rate \* in order to deal with 'historic responsibilities' whilst remaining under a global cap for safe and stable atmospheric GHG concentrations.

It is precisely this problem that makes the stop-climate-chaos lack any credibility. Contrary to their rubric of being fair to developing countries, the effect of their plucking-numbers-out-of-fresh-air is to apportion the lion's share of future entitlements for the Industrial Countries. Greenpeace have led this folly for 15 years and still show no signs of taking let-alone-passing this test. But who knows . . . ?

3. the definition statement at [www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf) is clear on these points.

Warm regards  
Aubrey

Elliott Morley and David King call for personal carbon quotas  
[Times-online today]

Jonathan Leake, Environment Editor, Source:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1827599,00.html>

"TWO senior government figures have called for the introduction of a green tax system to force individuals and firms to cut energy consumption.

Sir David King, the chief scientist, and Elliot Morley, an environment minister, want to introduce personal energy quotas, fossil fuel rationing and surcharges on flights."

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C&C? - Blinder, Dumber and DEFRA Aubrey Meyer

Oct 24, 2005 09:30 PDT

Today, the Guardian describes C&C as: -

"By far the best worked-out method of securing a global accord is the contraction and convergence model, which sets a ceiling on greenhouse gas emissions consistent with preventing global warming and establishes a timetable for apportioning the right to pollute equally to everybody on the planet.

A year or so ago, campaigners for the model thought they were getting somewhere with the government, but ministers appear to have gone cold on the idea, perhaps because spelling out the facts to the public is politically unpalatable.""

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,3604,1599012,00.html>

Today, the Royal Society writes to Margaret Beckett and other G8 energy and environment ministers effectively saying the climate changing consequences of industrial growth will wipe out the benefit of any 'aid' to Africa agreed at the G8.

[The Ekins-Barker costing of Kyoto-compliance in the US [1% US-GDP] cited in the RS letter may be right, but it is barking. The damage-cost to the US of Katrina alone is seen as +/- \$200,000K which is nearly equivalent to 2% of US GDP. Wilma hits Florida as I write at over 100 mph and a storm surge of 18 feet].

<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/page.asp?id=3834> [and see below].

With mixed progress along a rough road, GCI has been making these point about Africa [it is my home] aid and climate change to the British Government since 1990. From that time, C&C was created and offered as the mechanism to steer to avoid this increasingly genocidal trend. DEFRA still has the emphasis on the first syllable.

The only MP left in the UK parliament with clearly African connections at this time – Ms Diane Abbott (Hackney North & Stoke Newington) – tabled a question to Mrs Beckett last week about C&C:

"To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment she has made of the contraction and convergence strategy for combating climate change."

Replying on Mrs Beckett's behalf, Mr. Morley wrote:

[DEFRA says] "Certain aspects of Contraction and Convergence are appealing, including the identification of a fixed level for stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations, and comprehensive global participation."

[GCI says] This should be progress: - DEFRA recognizes that the driver of the whole process is the GHG concentration target; but alas no . . .

[DEFRA goes on . . . ] "However, one key element of any future regime must be its workability and one particular concern with contraction and convergence is the question of how globally acceptable, and in consequence how workable, it would prove to be."



[GCI says] Lo, trumped by the twisting-truism. Because the government's priority is growth at any cost, the failure to foresee a positive answer to C&C applies to <whatever> is globally-effective and doesn't only to what isn't.

Why - one wonders - doesn't DEFRA come out of its little reverie?

[DEFRA goes on . . . ] "First, we do not yet see evidence that other key Annex I countries are likely to support this approach."

[GCI says] We have variously had the French the Belgians the Swedes the Finns [but . . . uhhh . . . the first syllable defence again].

[DEFRA goes on . . . ] "The US has already indicated that it is opposed to a per-capita approach, and as the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, their inclusion will be vital if we are to solve the problem . . . ."

[GCI says] And enter the organ-grinders monkey. The US has also repeatedly insisted that it is the <inclusion of everyone> else that is vital to solving the problem. Why has DEFRA got nothing to say about this? This – under the global emissions cap – is what C&C is about. The 'per capita' aspect of C&C is <secondary> to C&C. Faute de mieux, 'per capita' is the unavoidable derivative of the primary [finite] "concentration-target-approach" of C&C.

If the US really don't like it, let them put up something better than C&C and better than vacuous hand-waving about 'technology' . . . . . 'unavoidable' for two reasons: -

1. Defending unequal rights is global apartheid. It is not just morally daft, it is a provocation and an invitation to mega-conflict in confined space with no agreement for anything let-alone the avoidance of climate change, which was of course the real problem.
2. Defending equal rights – at least mitigated by a C&C agreement - puts everyone in the same boat – end the global apartheid or go down in the un-avoided conflict with the global climate [hopefully unnerved by the realisation that you can't bomb climate change, as it doesn't have an address].

We thought DEFRA had begun to concede all this. But no - DEFRA reverts to asserting C&C as the "per-capita approach" and so making this the primary issue therefore also the goal of C&C . . . . and then to grinding the US organ.

Puzzled monkey – yes, but iterative government dis-information. GCI has their letters conceding authorship yet this reply is a violation of the definition of C&C given by the authors, GCI. A letter to this effect has gone to secretary of state. It seems necessary to take this and other steps in the direction of a show-down. If the government cites this as reasoned evidence of who won't accept C&C and why they won't accept it, we'll just have to raise the bar of the tests of the argument.

In reality, DEFRA's argumentation is evidence of not accepting the concentration target approach. The real reasons for this are that to do so closes off options, especially the tactically sustained, but physically impossible fantasies of continuing global growth.

[DEFRA goes on . . . ] "Australia, Canada and New Zealand would also need to take on much more stringent targets under this regime. Many of the major developing countries, such as China, Mexico, South Africa, Brazil are approaching, or have passed the level that would be permissible for per-capita emissions, and would be forced to take reductions in the short-term if the scheme were implemented. They would be very unlikely to support the proposal as it would be seen as a curb on their development. Experts from these countries have shown some interest in alternative frameworks including an element of historical responsibility and capacity to act."

[GCI says] C&C pre-distributes permits-to-emit, not emissions per se. It does this to countries or regional groupings. In keeping with the Wigley Richels Edmonds budgets, the C&C integral can be shaped and sized to accommodate all the initial adjustment difficulties.

[DEFRA goes on . . . ] "Second, the approach requires upfront agreement to a global stabilisation target, but many countries outside the EU are reluctant to discuss this. Logically, it would make sense to agree a stabilisation level and then from this the respective responsibility of each country would flow. However, the complexity of the issues and political reality is such that a sequential approach is unlikely."

[GCI says] The reason the “countries outside the EU are reluctant” is because they know they are being offered a pig-in-a-poke in the manner of the climate-chaos-movement. Once the developed countries have worked out their share, the remaining global emissions-entitlements are to be devised by passing round the hat on the off-chance that there’s something left.

[DEFRA concludes . . . ] “The UK is therefore pursuing a two-pronged approach—pressing for agreement on a long-term stabilisation limit while simultaneously maintaining pressure on countries to take ambitious short-term action to mitigate emissions.”

[GCI says] You can’t specify contraction without specifying convergence! [otherwise its that climate chaos again].

. . . . Oh the monkeys – blinder, dumber and DEFRA.

RSA to DEFRA

To energy and environment ministers who will attend the G8 dialogue meeting on climate change on 1 November,

As you gather to take forward the action plan on climate change from the Gleneagles summit, I urge you to consider some of the latest scientific evidence on the impacts of climate change that has recently emerged and to agree further action to stop the rise in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

Today, a scientific paper has been published in the journal Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences which concludes that climate change, largely caused by a rise in greenhouse gas emissions from human activities, may already be responsible for an increase in drought conditions, and hence for a rise in the risk of famine, in eastern Africa where millions are already at risk of hunger.

The paper by James Verdin of the United States Geological Survey and co-workers presents evidence, collected by the University of California at Santa Barbara, that there has been a drop in rainfall since 1996 in Ethiopia and neighbouring countries, which coincides with a steady increase in surface water temperatures in the southern Indian Ocean.

The researchers point out that this reduction in rainfall is adversely affecting the growth of crops and increasing the number of people who require food aid. The researchers conclude: “Already facing a food security emergency, with 8-10 million people at risk, troubling multi-year drying has been observed in recent years, associated with a positive trend in Indian Ocean sea surface temperatures that is affecting countries around the basin.”

This finding has particular resonance, coming as it does 20 years after a severe famine in Ethiopia attracted worldwide attention through Live Aid and other events that pricked the collective conscience of richer developed countries.

This is one of 17 papers published today about the impact of climate change on food crops. Overall, these papers show that changes in weather, climate and the concentrations of gases such as carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will have more severe impacts than previously thought on crop yields and quality.

The papers point out that poverty is the principal cause of increasing food insecurity in Africa, along with frequent and extreme weather and climate variability. Africa is now in a critical situation with respect to drought because of population increase, disease and conflicts. Overall, Africa has very little resilience to cope with a widespread drought now, let alone in the next 50 to 100 years. These papers demonstrate very clearly the link between the two major themes of Africa and climate change during the UKs Presidency of the G8. I hope they will act as a spur to you at the climate change dialogue meeting of G8 representatives on 1 November. It highlights the need for urgent action in combating the effects of rising greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere.

At the summit in Gleneagles in July, G8 leaders agreed separate action plans on Africa and climate change. Among the actions agreed on Africa was an increase in aid to help the fight against poverty and the struggle against the hunger, thirst and disease that blight and end the lives of the most vulnerable.

But the action plan on climate change fell far short of a strategy to stop the rise in greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere. As long as greenhouse gas concentrations continue to rise, there is the very real prospect that the increase in aid agreed at Gleneagles will be entirely consumed by the mounting cost of dealing with the added burden of adverse effects due to climate change in Africa. In effect, the Gleneagles communiqué gave hope to Africa with one hand, through a promise of more aid, but took that hope away with the other hand through its failure to address adequately the threat of climate change.

As has been noted many times before, it is vulnerable populations in developing countries that are likely to suffer first and most from the adverse effects of climate change. The Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2001 warned:

"The impacts of climate change will fall disproportionately upon developing countries and the poor persons within all countries, and thereby exacerbate inequities in health status and access to adequate food, clean water, and other resources. Populations in developing countries are generally exposed to relatively high risks of adverse impacts from climate change. In addition, poverty and other factors create conditions of low adaptive capacity in most developing countries."

Therefore, if the increase in aid and other measures outlined in the Gleneagles action plan on Africa are to create the maximum benefit, they must be accompanied by effective action on climate change by stopping the inexorable rise of greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere.

And of course, the effects of climate change will be felt across the world and not just in developing countries. Take for example the United States, the world's richest country. It is counting the cost in terms of lives and property that have been damaged and lost during the most active hurricane season since records began in 1851. There is a distinct possibility that the rise in greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere may have contributed to the severity of the storms that have strengthened above the unusually warm surface waters this year in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

In its 2001 report, the IPCC concluded that there was "no compelling evidence to indicate that the characteristics of tropical and extratropical storms have changed" over the course of the late 20th century. But it noted that if global average temperatures continued to rise there might be an increase in the intensity, but not necessarily frequency, of tropical storms.

In August, Kerry Emanuel of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology published the results of an analysis that showed the average potential destructiveness of hurricanes has increased markedly since the mid-1970s. He noted that the potential destructiveness of hurricanes is correlated with tropical sea surface temperature, "reflecting well-documented climate signals, including multi-decadal oscillations in the North Atlantic and North Pacific, and global warming". There has been an upward trend in the surface temperatures of the oceans over the last century, and this increase has been most pronounced in the past 35 years in the extratropical North Atlantic, probably due to the rise in greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere.

Although it is not possible to say that the destructive potentials of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma were greater because of global warming, a connection is likely and certainly cannot be ruled out. The scientific evidence suggests that the United States will be threatened by more severe hurricanes if greenhouse gas levels continue to rise in the atmosphere. This illustrates the danger posed by climate change to even the most powerful and wealthy of countries.

It has been suggested that countries are unlikely to take actions such as reducing their consumption of fossil fuels, and thus their emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, if it incurs and economic cost. But there will be a great cost to be paid if greenhouse gas levels continue to rise in the atmosphere.

It has been estimated that the cost of dealing with the impacts of Hurricane Katrina could be \$200 billion. That is equivalent to 1.7 per cent of the gross domestic product of the United States in 2004. Compare this with the results of an analysis by the economists Terry Barker and Paul Ekins in 2004 that the cost to the United States of meeting its target under the Kyoto Protocol would be no more than 1 per cent of GDP. Clearly dealing with even some of the consequences of climate change, such as more destructive hurricanes, looks more costly than taking measures to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions.

In short, the scientific evidence now presents a more compelling case than ever before for tackling the threat from climate change by stopping the rise of greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere. And it is accepted, and explicitly acknowledged in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, that the developed countries should take the lead in tackling greenhouse gas emissions because they have been primarily responsible for the rise in atmospheric concentrations.

However, the leadership that the developed countries should be showing has been lessened by the dispute over national targets set by the Kyoto Protocol. Such arguments have caused the world to lose sight of what should be the most important objective of policies on greenhouse gases, namely to stabilise their concentrations in the atmosphere at levels that avoid dangerous climate change a degree of climate change with impacts that the international community considers to be socially and politically unacceptable.

Although this overall aim lies at the heart of the UNFCCC, the treaty does not provide, on its own, a sufficient basis for countries to act as it does not define at exactly what concentrations greenhouse gas emissions should be stabilised in the atmosphere to avoid dangerous climate change. Without that crucial definition of target concentrations, the discussion about national emissions targets is nothing more than an academic dispute.

It is for this reason in June that the national science academies of the G8 nations plus China, India and Brazil called on leaders at the Gleneagles summit in July to initiate a scientific study into the consequences of stabilising levels of greenhouse gases at various concentrations in the atmosphere. Such a study would help all of the countries that have signed the UNFCCC to agree at what level greenhouse gas concentrations should be stabilised, and to devise an appropriate strategy for doing so, including the setting of targets for emissions that all countries can work towards.

G8 leaders failed to act on this recommendation at the Gleneagles summit and the communiqué did not acknowledge the importance of securing an agreement on stabilisation levels. I hope you, as representatives of the G8, will now accept this recommendation from your national science academies and will take the necessary steps to help initiate it.

This study should help to bring the international community closer together in the battle against climate change, but it would not release the urgent pressure on all countries to stop the rise in global emissions of greenhouse gases now. The UK Government calculated in 2003 that if carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are to be stabilised at twice pre-industrial levels, industrialised countries will need to reduce their emissions by at least 60 per cent by the middle of this century. And even then, such a stabilisation level might be associated with a degree of climate change will be judged to be too dangerous for the world to bear.

The mounting scientific evidence shows that the consequences of global climate change are the biggest single threat facing the world today. The international community needs leadership in the fight against climate change and I urge the G8 nations to meet this challenge.

Robert May

President

The Royal Society

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Global C&C Community call from Cameroun Aubrey Meyer

Oct 27, 2005 08:03 PDT

Press Statement

Conclusions of first African conference for

A Global Climate Community

Yaoundé October 24, 2005

"To prevent catastrophic damage through rising temperatures cuts in global greenhouse gas emis-

sions of over 60 per cent are needed by mid century.

A new global initiative is therefore urgently required. Given the refusal of the US Government to act, the resolution calls on other willing countries from north and south to lead the way by negotiating a Global Climate Community based on the principles of Contraction and Convergence: -

1. a commitment to cut global emissions to the level necessary to prevent climate catastrophe;
2. convergence to equal emission entitlements for each world citizen on an agreed date; a global market in emission rights which will promote efficiency and transfer resources to developing countries with surplus entitlements to sell.

Full Statement at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Yaoude.pdf>

The Yaounde resolution

African conference on a Global Climate Community

Climate change is the key global security issue of the century requiring urgent and responsible leadership by countries north and south to form a Global Climate Community within the UNFCCC based on equal rights.

Africa in particular is suffering terribly from climate change and global warming. Drought, famine and spreading deserts in Niger and other countries of the Sahel as well as southern Africa are already hitting millions of poor and vulnerable people in regions where 90 per cent of the population are engaged in agriculture and fishing. Rising sea levels could also devastate many densely populated coastal regions.

Women are particularly at risk because they carry core responsibilities for caring for children and family, fetching scarce water and fuel and tending the land, yet have limited access to economic resources.

At global level the scientific consensus is that emissions must be cut by more than 60 per cent by mid century to avoid catastrophic damage. Yet global emissions continue to rise. In this situation the conference calls on governments in West and Central Africa, with the support of non-governmental organisations, to urge and negotiate the creation of a global climate community based on:

- commitment to contract global GHG emissions to the level necessary to stabilise concentrations and consequently temperature and climate at an acceptable level.
- convergence of GHG emission entitlements to equal per person distribution within a specified time frame.
- a market in tradable emission entitlements which will promote efficiency and transfer resources to developing countries with surplus entitlements to sell
- attainment of sustainable livelihoods and reduction of poverty through capacity building, international cooperation, and transfers of low carbon technology and adequate enabling resources
- institutions that ensure effective decisions, monitor and ensure compliance, manage the emissions market and respect democratic accountability and the rule of law.

To achieve this goal we urge African governments to collaborate within the African Union and regional organisations. They should concert policies with other developing countries that have similar goals, with a view to a joint global initiative with major developed nations and regions, such as the EU, that are willing to act.

The urgent need for global action and the reluctance of key states, notably the US, to commit, means that willing states must take the lead and initiate joint action without waiting for the slowest. Such action could take the form of a "bubble" of enhanced cooperation within the broader framework of the UNFCCC. European experience has shown that a community which starts with a core of states ready and willing to take action and inspire other states to join them can create effective change. In due course an effective community will draw in all UN member states to participate in the global solution that is necessary.

To ensure protection of virgin forests, such as those of the Congo basin, crucial to the planet's climate, we call on African Governments, in concert with governments of the Amazon region and



Asia to develop a separate proposal for bio- forest certificates, which would give the preservation of such assets a recognised financial value.

Even if successful joint action is taken in these ways to mitigate and slow the process of climate change, damage to Africa's vulnerable environment and people will inevitably be painful requiring difficult efforts of adaptation. A major effort of education, information and explanation is required at all levels from policy makers to women planting crops and seeking water. Informed communities can draw on their own wisdom and knowledge to develop more resilient agricultural practices, such as more diverse and mixed crops and ways of storing water. Adaptation can be helped now, under the Kyoto process, through the fund to assist least developed countries, while the Clean Development Mechanism is a tool which could be better used for instance for collaborative development of available renewable energy such as local solar power.

African Governments are urged to enact necessary legislation and decide and apply enforcement measures to ensure effective implementation of the UNFCCC.

A more ambitious global solution is however vital now to arrest climate change, while the much larger incentives and resources potentially available within a global climate community are needed to adapt infrastructures, build capacities, and stimulate the clean investment, innovation and working practices of a sustainable way of life for Africa's people.

The conference resolves to establish a new African Network for a Climate Community (Reseau Africain pour une Communauté Climatique), as a means of communicating, informing and mobilising support for the necessary action set out in this resolution.

Contact: -

Raphael Hanmbock

email [ecoa-@yahoo.fr](mailto:ecoa-@yahoo.fr)

Christopher Layton

email [chris.l-@btopenworld.com](mailto:chris.l-@btopenworld.com)

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Blair; rational, science-based climate unity needed     Aubrey Meyer

Oct 30, 2005 09:31 PST

Tony Blair writes "Get Real on Climate Change" [!]

in the Sunday Observer, October 30, 2005 . . .

" . . . We need to cut greenhouse gas emissions radically but Kyoto doesn't even stabilise them. It won't work as intended, either, unless the US is part of it."

"It's easy to take frustrations out on the Bush Administration but people forget that the Senate voted 95-0 against Kyoto when Bill Clinton was in the White House."

"What we need is: - a sound, rational, science-based unity, which ensures the right legally-binding framework to incentivise sustainable development . . . a robust, inclusive and binding international treaty."

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/green/comment/0,9236,1604797,00.html>

Doubtful, but maybe he read opendemocracy C&C . . . "The United States has it right on climate change - in theory"

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/debates/article-6-129-2462.jsp>

All this happens, while [apparently re-writing UK Charity Law] several major UK Charities start funding NGO's to sue the US Government for causing climate change and melting the ice-caps: -

<http://www.climatelaw.org/sponsors>

<http://www.climatelawsuit.org/>

The legal precedent this seeks is not exactly well thought out. It is the equivalent of seeking that a UK court award damages <against> the UK government and <to> the inhabitants of Boscastle and/or York or Carlisle or New Orleans or Bangladesh and/or whoever, next time they get flooded by events linked to global warming.



Good theatre [as the lawyer Blair remarks in the article] but imagine if the precedent was actually set! Instead of avoiding the wrong the course, we could sue the hell out of each other as we go there.

This group of people would be less ineffectual [not-to-say less legally vulnerable] if they were funding - instead of resisting - efforts to create . . .

" . . . a sound, rational, science-based unity, which ensures the right legally-binding framework to incentivise sustainable development . . . a robust, inclusive and binding international treaty . . . "

. . . but I suspect that would see that as political too, which Charities normally avoid.

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Independent 's Bull in China Shop    Aubrey Meyer

Nov 01, 2005 07:22 PST

Independent

Capping the Planet's current emissions not discussed?

"This elephant was in the room at the 1997 UN Climate Summit in Kyoto. Supported by India and China, the Africa Group of Nations formally tabled the proposals for "Contraction and Convergence" [C&C].

The US response was that these proposals have the "elements of the next agreement we all seek."

The Independent reported this at the time and on much of the remarkable international progress with C&C since then. Boosted by the UK Royal Commission's report on this in 2000, the Government here is now answering the case for C&C with much less cavilling.

Instead of writing bull in the China-shop editorials, comment from the Independent is more helpful when it focuses on this successful consensus-building."

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

Rupert Read of Norwich Council

writes about C&C in The Eastern Daily Press

UK's biggest regional newspaper

"Climate change is in fact the pre-eminent issue -- and crisis -- of our times. Britain's chief scientist has warned that civilisation may perish virtually everywhere outside Antarctica, within a century, if the crisis is not solved. This is a deeply-shocking state of affairs, almost too big and frightening for the human mind to comprehend. We need radical and co-ordinated action on a scale greater than the world has ever known, to solve the climate crisis.

In the early stages of this worldwide crisis, a remarkably effective potential worldwide solution has been presented by Aubrey Meyer's Global Commons Institute: [www.gci.org.uk](http://www.gci.org.uk). It is called 'Contraction and Convergence': contraction of CO2 emissions, to a scientifically-agreed safe level, and convergence of emissions toward the same per capita basis, worldwide.

Contraction and convergence would be equitable: because it is put forward on the basis of the right of each individual to an equal entitlement of the maximum amount of carbon emissions that is consistent with climate safety for all, including for those as yet unborn. It would ensure human survival: because it will be based on the best climate science in drawing up safe emissions levels.

Actually, it will be equitable because it will lead to human survival: insufficiently radical action to counter the threat of climate chaos imposes grossly unfair burdens on those whose lives are threatened by that chaos; especially, our children. And it will lead to human survival because it is equitable: any other deal will be unacceptable either to developed nations (which will ask why they should constrain their own CO2 emissions, if developing nations are not bound to) or to developing nations (which will ask why they should be forbidden development, when it is developed nations who have damaged the world's climate and reaped the economic benefits of having done so).

If any of this sounds too remote or abstract, then just remember: this isn't some academic debate. And it isn't just about people far away of whom we know little. Nor is this even just about your children and grandchildren.

Unless we move now to curb carbon emissions drastically, worldwide, then, next time, it might be us. So isn't it time we adopted a 'Contraction and Convergence' policy, and stopped this man-made climate change, in its tracks?"

<http://new.edp24.co.uk/content/commentary/OneWorld.aspx?>

Adam Poole of "The Edge"

writes about C&C in

"Building"

The UK's top Magazine for Building professionals

"The atmosphere is the last part of this trinity. We accept that there is an upper limit to the amount of CO2 we should let into the atmosphere before it becomes dangerous to life but we debate what that figure should be. Fifteen European governments have agreed we need to prevent a 2°C temperature rise above the pre-industrial average to avert severe climate-induced damage and, at the recent Exeter Climate Change Conference, there was new evidence to suggest that this 2°C rise could be triggered by CO2 atmospheric concentrations of just 400 parts per million by volume (ppmv). Currently at a CO2 level of 380 ppmv, the 400 ppmv 'upper limit' means, effectively, we only have '5% of atmosphere left' and we will 'fill' this in 15 years at current consumption and not allowing for 'unforeseen' developments such as the out-gassing of the 70bn tonnes of methane held in the Siberian permafrost. It suggests that without the elusive silver bullet of carbon sequestration coal is not the answer and that we may run out of atmosphere before we run out of oil.

The question as to what's to be done was something that was explored at a recent Edge Debate

<http://www.at-the-edge.org.uk/TheEdgeDebate26.htm>

where it was recognised that in a tightly coupled economy together with record levels of personal borrowing we are particularly ill-equipped to weather oil price increases, oil shortages and the rise in interest rates that will be needed to combat imported inflation that has already begun to occur with oil and gas price increases. What emerged was that this perfect storm is not a UK problem but a global one and solving the UK part of the problem – such as a new round of UK nuclear power – does not make the bigger problem go away; international action is needed otherwise we face, in an update of the old cold war slogan, mutually assured dislocation (MAD) or worse.

The Contraction and Convergence Framework (C&C), accepted by the UN, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and others, and currently being debated by the professional institutions, is clearly the big answer – where we agree global targets for greenhouse gas emissions, probably on the basis of population, and then tailor our emissions to meet those targets, trading rights to pollute as appropriate (see [www.gci.org.uk](http://www.gci.org.uk)) but getting there will not be easy. The first hurdle is to convince ourselves that the game is worth the candle and that prosperity can continue in a C&C future. In terms of the built environment this means examining all sorts of scenarios involving low carbon build, energy efficiency, reduced demand, transport efficiency and new technologies. There are a number of horses to back and we don't know which ones and which combinations hold the answer. This, however, is something the Edge intends to explore at the next debate."

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C&C Act of [UK] Parliament 2005    Aubrey Meyer

Nov 09, 2005 04:11 PST

Just to give advance notice that the: -

"Contraction and Convergence Act 2005 [Climate Change]" of the UK Parliament will be launched within the next two weeks.

There will be an international appeal to other Parliaments around the world - starting at COP-11

Montreal - to contemplate parallel arrangements.

Wording, based on the definition-statement <[www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf)> is being finalised this week, and will be available thereafter.

The Bill's first sponsor is Colin Challen MP.

It will certainly be a struggle to get this onto the statute book let-alone to getting ahead of the US demand for "globality" - that's politics.

But since "cross-party-consensus" on security matters is becoming the new "necessity", the request is to see this and use this as a tool with which to lobby MPs here to come to an effective cross-party consensus on avoiding dangerous rates of global climate change.

Aubrey

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C&C - B'ham, Warwick and Oz    Aubrey Meyer

Nov 11, 2005 06:05 PST

Climate Change Public Meeting

7-9pm. Saturday 26th November

University of Birmingham Guild of Student Council Chambers

- \* Rt Hon Clare Short (MP for Ladywood),
- \* Dr Jim Bereen, (former Green Party Spokesperson on Climate Change)
- \* Alistair Wingate (Respect: The Unity Coalition)
- \* Dr David Toke (Senior Research Fellow in Environmental Policy: The University of Birmingham)

The Green Party Speaker is Dr Jim Bereen. Jim has been the Party's Spokesperson on Climate Change in the past, he originally taught Ecology at Birmingham University and was a founder member of the Global Commons Institute.

He is extremely knowledgable about Climate Change and Contraction and Convergence.

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Neatly crafted C&C Resolution
from People and Planet
Warwick University
October/November, 2005.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Warwick.pdf>

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Jonathon Porritt's new book  
"Capitalism as if the World Matter"

is now published by Earthscan.

Described as "The Wizard of Oz" [!] by Tim Smit of the Eden Project, Porritt seeks 'Tin Man' as he paves the gold-brick road to Armageddon with yet another tome in search of Capitalism with a heart and good intentions.

One could yet warm to this wizard . . . when what he states on C&C [below] is finally referenced [and not simultaneous 'spelled-out' merely as the choice of "faith-groups" in the report just published by WWF and Oz's 'Sustainable Development Commission'. What is this? Planchette?

Hardly a Rage Against the Dying of the Light].

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/UK\\_Faith\\_Groups\\_October\\_2005.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/UK_Faith_Groups_October_2005.pdf)

"With a particular sensitivity to justice issues, many faith groups, particularly the Christian church, support the principle of 'contraction and convergence', proposing a fairer share of carbon use between the developed and developing world."

"The assiduous campaigning over the last decade by the Global Commons Institute - based on its idea of 'contract and converge' - under which the rich nations undertake to reduce emissions even as developing nations are permitted to grow their emissions until such time as per capita emissions converge at the same level, has given this kind of approach some real credibility. So, too, has the readiness of developing countries such as China, Brazil, Indonesia and Argentina to accept emissions targets for their own counties - not least because they are already beginning to feel the impacts of climate change.

The real strength of this approach is that it is based upon a trading system, with rich nations needing to purchase additional carbon credits from poorer nations. This appeals a lot to those campaigning for global economic justice: a global trading system in carbon would begin to shift substantial resources from rich countries to poor countries as nations with wasteful, carbon-intensive lifestyles had to purchase additional carbon credits from nations with low-carbon economies."

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C&C - Lather in House of Lords Aubrey Meyer

Nov 11, 2005 11:45 PST

In a House of Lords debate yesterday, started by Lord May of Oxford [one feels to have the riot-act read to the contrarian Lord Lawless of Blaby], Lord Bishop of Newcastle opened up the floor for: -

"The best framework for any emissions trading scheme—whether it be European, worldwide or UK-wide—should be that of contraction and convergence. Contraction and convergence is a simple, yet radical, solution. It is important because, above all, it is both global and holistic, requiring minds and hearts to be open to the whole world community, rather than the narrower interests of individual nations or groups of nations.

The difficulty is that that concept is hard to put into language which is clear and understandable. Contraction refers to the movement towards a sustainable formal stabilisation target of emissions. The oft-repeated suggestion is a 60 per cent reduction in harmful emissions by 2050. Convergence is the division of the total contracted carbon emissions by head of population. Each nation has its quota, and is allocated its share of permits to pollute. Of course, the reality of post-industrialised countries is that we emit far more greenhouse gases than do those in the developing world, yet we have much smaller populations. The principle goes that the richer countries can buy permits to pollute from the poorer countries, thereby offering them much needed development aid."

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds05/text/51110-10.htm>

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Scientists fall for C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 11, 2005 23:33 PST

Letter to Margaret Beckett (Environment Minister) from Scientists for Global Responsibility [SGR].

It asks that the UK to take a strong position in favour of C&C at the upcoming climate negotiations in Montreal.

Letter sent on 28th October 2005

by Dr Stuart Parkinson, SGR

Dear Mrs Beckett

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

As we approach the next round of negotiations under the UN FCCC, Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) – a UK organisation representing over 800 science, design and technology professionals – would like to express our continuing deep concern for the issue of climate change and urge you to push for strong action at this forum.

As we are sure you will be aware, scientific evidence that climate change is happening continues to accumulate, not least the recent measurements showing the Arctic ice cap is currently at its smallest for at least a century. Indeed, the possibility is very real that the global increase in the number of severe hurricanes, such as Katrina, observed over the past few decades is connected to climate change. With the probability that continuing the current trends of greenhouse gas emissions could lead to dangerous and irreversible climate change within a couple of decades, the need to kick-start international action is urgent.

While technology will be an important part of the solution, we do not believe that recent attempts to focus exclusively on this area (for example, the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate) stand any major chance of success. A framework involving technology together with social, political and economic change – importantly with quantifiable targets – is in our opinion the only way forward.

This is why we support the well-known concept of “Contraction and Convergence” (C&C) as proposed by the Global Commons Institute as the basis for an agreement which is both effective and fair. It would satisfy both developing countries’ demands for equity and US demands that major developing countries such as China and India be involved in any targets.

Of course, for the UK to be credible in promoting a C&C framework both at this round of negotiations and in future years, we must put more effort into achieving not only our Kyoto target, but also our unilateral target of a 20% cut in carbon dioxide emissions. We believe that much more action is needed. For example, we need more forceful implementation of energy efficiency policies and greater support for renewable energy sources. Of particular importance is the need for radical changes to current government policies on road transport and aviation, which are completely unsustainable. The rise in oil and gas prices should give a favourable background for such measures.

We foresee some difficult negotiations at this Conference of the Parties but we hope that you will be able to ensure that concrete progress is made towards a framework which is fair and effective in reducing the major threat of climate change.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Stuart Parkinson

Director, SGR

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C&C - Lambs and Lions [Church Times] Aubrey Meyer

Nov 14, 2005 01:29 PST

Church Times

Friday November 11 2005

“Why the world needs a green revolution”

Colin Challen MP,

Chair - All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change

Contact: 020 7219 8260/0771 2051556

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/>

"The urgency of climate change demands a new political reality from all parties, argues Colin Challen: the bubble will soon burst. Only a newly awakened mainstream will provide the solution in the time we have left.

As an atheist, I found it uncomfortable recently sitting in Lambeth Palace listening to Christians, from the Archbishop of Canterbury down, speaking of how their faith could help us address climate change, the greatest concern of the modern world.

Yet, only a couple of weeks earlier, I had sat at the Labour Party conference in Brighton, feeling much more uncomfortable that this issue, while in the spotlight, was still one to be skirted around. My discomfiture was accentuated by the knowledge that, in the search for a solution, Labour (my home for the past 20 years) appeared not to be the place to find it, whereas the Christian discourse was far more direct.

The Lambeth Palace conference was convened by the Church Commissioners. They want to put their estate in good environmental order. They want to understand why this is necessary, so they looked at the science of climate change. I haven't seen the science explained so succinctly before, despite having seen many attempts at it.

In the Labour Party, scientific truth and policy are now understood to be the same thing, a false unity that clouds judgement. Globalisation is the truth-cum-policy which is the *prima inter pares* of this approach: our oft-quoted need to be competitive in a global economy is taken both as an unchallengeable truth and as a policy beyond intellectual reproach. Listen to the Prime Minister when people dare to challenge it. the answer is the same to all, Left or Right: understand that we cannot change the new world, we can only accommodate it.

If applied to climate change, this kind of thinking poses self-destruction. The science, as Tony Blair well knows, presents a truth that only a few contrarians would now challenge. The truth is out there, and it demands that we do something about it.

Yet the tendency is to distract ourselves, to feed on our own circular hopes, to run away. This is what my Labour Government is doing. This is why I felt more at home as an atheist sitting among Christians than I did as a Labour Party member and MP, listening to our leader at conference unable to articulate the conclusions that naturally flowed from the science he had commissioned.

The changed reality of the world demands a changed political imperative. That we cannot yet find it is not entirely the fault of a party that sought in its first 100 years of existence to win social justice. Social justice was the vision that continually challenged the industrial revolution to deliver equity (which in our modestly more equitable post-industrialised society, we now think we have). I would argue that, in this sense, nearly the whole of the 20th century was Labours, even though the party was not in government for much of it. Labour made explicit how the post-industrialised society had to address human worth.

The legacy of this long struggle has left Labour in the 21st century with an imagination captive to its past. Curiously, Mr Blair is a representative of the final phase of this imagination, not the gleaming of something new. He has partially assuaged the sense of insecurity developed by Margaret Thatcher. But the problem that he bequeaths is that he has failed to reshape our understanding of what the real challenge ahead is, even though his stance on climate change at the G8 superficially contradicts this.

The solutions to climate change have been discussed elsewhere (for example, contraction and convergence, and what flows from them) there is nothing new about them. But, in the context of Labours and thus modern society's inheritance, they remain revolutionary.

As a result of our legacy, we cannot envision anything other than a linear future of traditional economic growth. In this, Mr Blair is facing only two clicks on the compass away from his most ideologically unsound comrades or opponents. The desire for equality for all is still expressed in terms similar to the way it was 100 years ago. What has changed is the reality of the science of



climate change, and of a diseased global commons. We have come to seeing this reality very late in the day. It is now hard to grasp that our "equality" has been created in a bubble that is about to burst.

Can the Labour Party change itself while in power, and truly adapt to meet the task in hand, while still staying in power? Could any party? Labours opponents will answer this conundrum with: "Let us take over." But no electable mainstream party, by which I mean any party of the centre, has anything substantially different to offer.

In this sense, our political response to climate change should, of course, be crafted in a cross-party way, since there seems no other endgame. But we are faced with how being mainstream and what was once the environmental fringe of politics can join to win not just the hearts and minds of a few keen volunteers, but the majority in a democracy.

This goal has to be explored extensively, since only a newly awakened mainstream, like that crafted by Labour in the 20th century, will provide the solution in the timescale we have left to apply the solution.

If a mainstream political party cannot do this, no party can. This is not the hubris of one wedded to the governing party of the day, but an understated truth of political reality. It calls for a new mainstream, built on mutual understanding, rather than mutual stand-off.

I relinquish not one ounce of my atheism to anyone. To say that I have heard more sense spoken in a Christian conference than in a secular political conference concedes nothing. It means that the best of what we can do to face an extreme challenge has to be marshalled without predisposition. This is difficult, but not impossible. Political tribalism has a powerful grip, but in truth we are no strangers to swapping others would say stealing each others ideas.

Any party in power is blessed with the power to be a changemaker. Now would be a good time for any Labour leader in waiting, who by definition will be the next Prime Minister, to declare his or her hand, and seek to transform the body politic radically. The new manifesto might be called Less is More."

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C&C - "Only Way to Stop Climate Chaos" Aubrey Meyer

Nov 15, 2005 08:31 PST

Johann Hari:

"Don't call it climate change - it's chaos."

Published: 15 November 2005

"The WWF sensibly says we should stop using the strangely soothing label of "global warming". It makes these disasters sound like a planetary holiday in the Algarve.

"Climate change" is even more innocuous, making people wonder what sort of retro-freak would be opposed to all change.

No; we should use the more accurate term "climate chaos".

"There is only one way to prevent [it] . . . It is called 'Contraction and Convergence (C&C), and it was first formulated by Aubrey Meyer of Global Commons Institute.

Meyer's plan is disarmingly simple. The world's climatologists have figured out the amount of carbon emissions the world can stand if the climate is to hold steady at current temperatures - and it's roughly 60 per cent lower than we pump out right now.

Under C&C, this would be designated as mankind's "carbon budget", and each person would be allocated an equal share to use as they wish. At the moment, there are extreme inequalities in the way we draw on the budget - the average Brit burns up more fossil fuels in a day than a Tanzanian family uses in a year.

That's why there would have to be a transition period - say, 40 years - when rich countries would contract their emissions, poorer countries would increase theirs, and eventually we converge on

safe levels.

It's going to be tough - but if we don't all stand together in a C&C framework, the climate may not stand us for another century."

Johann Hari: Don't call it climate change - it's chaos

Published: 15 November 2005

j.h-@independent.co.uk

This year, one news story makes all the scandals, suicide bombings and wars look like here-today, gone-tomorrow froth: 2005 is now officially the hottest year since records began. David Rind, one of Nasa's chief scientists, explained simply, "We're putting a lot more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and we're getting a lot higher temperatures." The results are visible all around us: the collapse of the Arctic, a huge increase in extreme weather events (remember New Orleans?), and inexorably rising sea levels.

But dire warnings from environmentalists - backed up by dire facts like this - have become a kind of political tinnitus: always there, always upsetting, always ignored. Yesterday, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) released a report showing how Tony Blair's environmental policies is "becoming daily less discernable from those of George Bush". Already, it has been added to the tottering pile of similar warnings, waiting patiently to be recycled. Who will remember it next month, when there is another photogenic extreme weather event to coo at?

The WWF sensibly says we should stop using the strangely soothing label of "global warming". It makes these disasters sound like a planetary holiday in the Algarve. "Climate change" is even more innocuous, making people wonder what sort of retro-freak would be opposed to all change. No; we should use the more accurate term "climate chaos". We are destabilising the fragile balance of gases that has made settled human civilisation possible for the past 10,000 years; it's enough to give Ian MacAskill a nervous breakdown.

Once you absorb the risks, the day-to-day news agenda begins to look different. Tony Blair used to say climate chaos is "more dangerous than terrorism" - but if his policy on terror was as scrappy and fickle as his stance on the environment, he would be forced to resign. Imagine if he suddenly announced today, in an aside at a press conference, that the proposals for 90-day detention and the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq were a waste of time and he had never really believed in them. Imagine if No 10 press officers then scrambled for weeks to say this was a "misunderstanding" - only for Blair to repeat it a few weeks later.

These are precisely the political spasms that the Prime Minister has gone through on the question of Kyoto and its successor treaty, with the political class barely uttering a squeal of protest. After years of saying it was "essential" to have legal limits on emissions after Kyoto expires in 2012, he recently blithely declared that the idea "makes people nervous" and should be discarded in favour of "voluntary guidelines". He knows this would be worthless: his own voluntary targets of a 20 percent reduction in Britain's emissions by 2020 were binned with a blush this year. After calling climate chaos "so far-reaching in its impact and irreversible in its destructive power that it alters radically human existence", he is now proposing to do virtually nothing about it. The chaos isn't only in the climate: it is in Blair's own mind.

Or look at last week's visit to London by Chinese dictator Hu Jintao. China's role in fuelling climate chaos is huge and growing. Within 20 years, its net greenhouse gas emissions are set to trump even those of the US and Britain (albeit with a much larger population, so lower emissions per person). Even as they chafe under a cruel police state, the Chinese people are surprisingly active on this issue, because they can see their environment changing around them in bewildering ways. This year alone, the country's deserts expanded by an area larger than the whole of Britain, and 300,000 Chinese people died prematurely of respiratory diseases as a result of pollution.

That's why environmentalist riots are now a regular occurrence in Hu's homeland. This April, for example, 50,000 people rioted in Huaxi in south-eastern China because nearby factories were pumping out unbearable pollution. One villager, Wang Yuhe, explained, "The air stinks now. We

can't grow our crops."

So you would expect Blair to make this the main issue he discussed with Hu. Instead, on the biggest issue in the world, he had nothing coherent to say - and it showed. Even if the voluntary emissions he is urging on the Chinese were worth the paper they are written on, the problem is that we are currently in no position to tell poorer nations what to do. You cannot sit on a flight to New York and cluck at a Chinese peasant for getting his first rickety motor. If we are not prepared to begin kicking the carbon habit from a position of incredible wealth, we shouldn't be surprised when others living hand to mouth begin sucking on an exhaust pipe of their own.

There is only one way we can realistically restrain China's carbon emissions and prevent global carbon emissions that will make today's climate chaos look like drizzle. It is called 'Contraction and Convergence (C&C)', and it was first formulated by Aubrey Meyer of Global Commons Institute. Meyer's plan is disarmingly simple. The world's climatologists have figured out the amount of carbon emissions the world can stand if the climate is to hold steady at current temperatures - and it's roughly 60 per cent lower than we pump out right now. Under C&C, this would be designated as mankind's "carbon budget", and each person would be allocated an equal share to use as they wish. At the moment, there are extreme inequalities in the way we draw on the budget - the average Brit burns up more fossil fuels in a day than a Tanzanian family uses in a year. That's why there would have to be a transition period - say, 40 years - when rich countries would contract their emissions, poorer countries would increase theirs, and eventually we converge on safe levels. It's going to be tough - but if we don't all stand together in a C&C framework, the climate may not stand us for another century.

But instead of scurrying towards this shelter - the only sensible proposal we have - we are drifting towards a global carbon free-for-all. Last week, Hu flew out of a country with an incoherent environmental policy, rising CO2 emissions, and a Prime Minister who sees no need for a post-Kyoto Treaty. Would anybody be surprised if he took this as a (not very) green light to keep on polluting?

As China's petrol fumes still hang in the air, this is a particularly dumb time for Blair to toss yesterday's WWF report on to the carbon bonfire. What we choose to do about these scientific warnings will answer a fundamental question about human beings. Are we a rational species, capable of understanding the damage we are doing and acting in our own self-defence - or are we addled hedonists, too high on our fumes to see the truth?

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In the air, on the air, C&C is everywhere . . . Aubrey Meyer

Nov 16, 2005 10:30 PST

1 C&C - GCI documentation for COP-11, Montreal

2 C&C on air tonight . . .

3 C&C - Blair? ["Just inclusive targets effective framework needed."]

4 Climate Meetings and March - 22nd Nov and Dec 3rd

A C&C reference document compiled by

GLOBAL COMMONS INSTITUTE [GCI]

is being circulated in printed form to the 2 to 3,000 delegates at  
COP-11, Montreal Dec. 2005

Preface below.

The document [essential text in thirteen languages] is on-line at: -

[www.org.uk/briefings/MONTREAL.pdf](http://www.org.uk/briefings/MONTREAL.pdf)

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Preface

URGENT MESSAGE TO COP-11 FROM GCI

There are no military solutions to climate change. Moreover, whatever the unresolved the arguments are about where humanity has come from – ‘creationist’ versus ‘evolutionist’ – the rationale for an inclusive, full-term, framework-based-market of Contraction and Convergence (C&C) is fundamental to the future intelligent design of the means and ends of avoiding dangerous climate change.

So, do we have or lack the judgement and the resolve to organize this effort? This challenge faces the UN; we are at the Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention to prevent dangerous Climate Change (UNFCCC), yet climate change is still accelerating dangerously.

The key messages in this document are: -

The UNFCCC objective was agreed in 1992. It is a safe and stable greenhouse gas [GHG] concentration in the global atmosphere. This is a quantitative limit, it is legally binding and must be set.

The agreed principles of precaution and equity in the UNFCCC are governed by this limit. These are meaningless without a global calculus or combining them with the objective so we can calculate how to come together at rates that are solving the problem faster than we are creating it. Clean technology is not relevant without - and only relevant within - this calculus.

The historic responsibility of industrialised countries for raising GHG concentration in the atmosphere is clear. To address this debt to the South, the C&C calculus demonstrates the future convergence to equal tradable shares per capita globally and that this can and must be significantly accelerated relative to the global contraction of emissions that stabilises GHG concentration in the atmosphere.

This is the realistic way to resolve the North/South arguments about ‘blame’ for the past. Thus, in the interdependent context of surviving climate change, the historic grip of poverty gives way to the mutual benefit from the trading clean development for lucrative emissions equity and global survival.

To deal with the differing national circumstances that - subject to the accelerated convergence under contraction - remain, intra-regional arrangements can be created, as already happens in the European Union under the Kyoto Protocol, but - to avoid political chaos - away from the UNFCCC.

Not doing this is suicidal. Opposing this, as some do, is too. At the same time, proposing it in words while not proposing it in the numbers, as some others do, is neither competent nor honest. Still further, proposing to actually reverse existing per capita consumption differentials as yet others do, is deluded. Unlike C&C, all of these tendencies are anti-consensus, confused and dangerous.

From the outset, the US persistently and correctly demanded globality - all countries are involved. This was explained in the Byrd Hagel Resolution of the US Senate in 1997; commitment/entitlements inclusively combine ‘limitations’ with ‘reductions’ under a global cap. C&C is the only proposition in all the years of this process that directly answers and enables this demand. It prioritises globality with carbon equity over growth, whilst under-writing the clean growth that is still possible.

Led by the Africa Group and supported by India and China, C&C was proposed and accepted in Kyoto [See back cover]. C&C is now led again at COP-11 by - inter alia - the government of Kenya. This document lays out the essential text of this proposition in thirteen languages. Some of the clear support for C&C that has grown consistently since Kyoto, is at the end of this document.

Whatever atmospheric concentration target is set, C&C "is inevitably required" to achieve it. These are the words of former Executive Secretary to the UNFCCC, the late and greatly valued, Joke Waller Hunter. Then again, in the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury head of the Anglican Communion, "C&C appears Utopian only if we refuse to contemplate the alternatives honestly."

It is evident time is against us. C&C can redress this and COP-11 can and should resolve to evaluate C&C in SBSTA/SBI and establish it as soon as possible as the formal basis of future effort.

Aubrey Meyer

Director GCI

CLIMATE CONFIDENTIAL

Wednesday 16 November 2005 6:30-7pm

On Resonance104.4FM (across central London)

And <http://www.resonancefm.com> (worldwide)

UN CLIMATE TALKS IN MONTREAL - CONTRACTION & CONVERGENCE

We continue our look at the forthcoming UN climate change discussions in Montreal.

What needs to come next after the first Kyoto Protocol period expires in 2012?

If we agree that 2 degrees centigrade is the maximum limit beyond which dangerous climate change takes hold - and that to avoid this we need to stabilise emissions of all greenhouse gases at around 400ppmv (CO2 equivalent) - then it is clear that we urgently need a much stronger agreement if we are to reverse the current global trend of rising emissions.

How do we avoid the arguments about the amounts of greenhouse gases that individual nations are able to emit and make sure that we do not end up with another inadequate agreement?

Under the Contraction & Convergence solution, a scientifically-informed emissions reduction curve is drawn up which results in every person on the planet ending up with an equal right to emit.

We speak to the architect of the scheme, Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute.

Information on Contraction and Convergence:

<http://www.gci.org.uk>

From: CAMPAIGN AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CRISIS PUBLIC MEETING:

Is Blair moving to adopt Bush's position on climate or towards C&C?

Will Blair's U-turn on climate destroy the world's last chance to avoid climate catastrophe or will Blair turn now to C&C? Here what he said at the Lord Mayor's dinner yesterday: -

"We urgently need a framework, with the necessary targets, sensitively and intelligently applied over the right timeframe that takes us beyond 2012. It can only happen if the US, China and India join with Europe, Japan and others to create such a framework.

Failure will mean not only increasing the damage to the environment but in a world of greater competition for carbon fuel, real pressure on energy supply and energy prices. Yet such an agreement cannot materialize without the major nations of the world agreeing an approach that is fair and balanced, sharing the most advanced science and technology to tackle carbon emissions; in other words, a just settlement as well as an effective one."

Tuesday 22nd November, 7pm

Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Rd (opposite Euston Station), London

Speakers include: -

Tony Juniper, Executive Director of Friends of the Earth;

Norman Baker MP, Lib Dem shadow environment minister;

Mark Lynas, Author of "High Tide: News from a Warming World";

Jenny Jones, London Assembly Member (Green Party);

Suzie Wylie, National Union of Students and Respect;



Phil Thornhill, National Co-ordinator of Campaign against Climate Change.

There are a number of other public meetings being held in the lead up to the international demonstrations on 3 December both in London and around the UK.

For details of details of activities in North London, South London, East London, London Colleges (SOAS, Goldsmiths, Kingston, Lambeth), Surrey, Sussex, Brighton, Reading, Oxford, Southampton, Portsmouth, Norwich, Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth, Cheltenham, Birmingham, Cardiff, Bridgend, Swansea, Bangor, Sheffield, Doncaster, Barnsley, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Scarborough, Newcastle and Scotland see:

<http://www.campaigncc.org/local.shtml>

From: GLOBAL CLIMATE CAMPAIGN

INTERNATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Saturday 3 December 2005

To coincide with the 'Meeting of Parties' Climate talks in Montreal,  
28 November - 9 December.

We feel that there is an overwhelming need for international demonstrations on climate change both to put pressure on the US to ratify Kyoto, and to highlight the urgency of the climate crisis in general. We need to create a groundswell of global opinion to push for the urgent and radical action, without which we risk a global catastrophe of unimaginable proportions.

We believe that the Montreal Climate Talks represent the best opportunity for coordinated international action on climate change, within the next year or so.

These demonstrations demand that the USA and Australia ratify the Kyoto Protocol immediately, and that the entire world community move as rapidly as possible to a stronger emissions reductions treaty that will be both equitable and effective in stabilising greenhouse gases and preventing dangerous climate change.

See <http://www.globalclimatecampaign.org/index-en.shtml> (international)

and <http://www.campaigncc.org> (UK).

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Message from City of London    Aubrey Meyer

Nov 17, 2005 03:50 PST

I agreed to help the Corporation of London last year only when they inserted the example nominee of David King.

Letter from Simon Mills of the Corporation of London follows below.

BTW the COP-11 Montreal multi-lingual C&C Document link should have

read: - [www.gci.org.uk/briefings/MONTREAL.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/MONTREAL.pdf)

Hi Aubrey - its that time of year again!

I would be really grateful if you could circulate this to your network.....

The City of London Corporation is seeking third party nominations to find the individual who "has made the greatest contribution to the understanding of, or combating of climate change issues"

Your nomination can be from the field of business, academia or campaigning NGOs. They may have led debate, developed new products or conducted ground breaking research.

Last year Aubrey Myer of the CGI received a lifetime's achievement award for his work on C&C. You can help decide who the winner of this year's award is.

To nominate simply e-mail [lc-@corpoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:lc-@corpoflondon.gov.uk) with your nomination by 2nd December.

For further information visit [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lca](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lca)

Simon Mills

\*\*\*\*\*



HoC, C&C - Caught in the Act? Aubrey Meyer

Nov 18, 2005 03:07 PST

18th November 2005

Launch of Contraction and Convergence Bill in UK Parliament.

This Bill is a world first. It is potentially an Act of Parliament and a beacon to other parliamentarians around the world.

When: 1pm, Thursday 24th November

Where: Committee Room 6, House of Commons

Who: Colin Challen MP

Aubrey Meyer, Director, Global Commons Institute

Joshua Wairoto, Kenyan Meteorological Service

Mr Challen is already the sponsor of the very influential DTQ Bill [Domestic Tradable Quota]. DTQs are being taken seriously by government and now the subject of active institutional research.

Mr Wairoto comes hot-foot from the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Malta en route to COP-11 Montreal with the backing of his Government to formally stake out the C&C position. He may well have news of success on this in Malta.

Mr Meyer of GCI has provided technical support to this effort. The C&C Resource Document for COP-11 [in thirteen languages] contains a first draft of the bill and is at: -

[www.gci.org.uk/briefings/MONTREAL.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/MONTREAL.pdf)

[For any who had difficulty with this link, it should now be working properly].

Colin Challen MP will next week launch the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill, the first instance in any parliament of the C&C framework being placed in a legislative format. Contraction and Convergence is the framework devised by the Global Commons Institute (GCI) for tackling climate change, in which contraction refers to the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a sustainable level, and where convergence means that within the same timescale emissions rights are distributed on an equal per capita basis. This is the principle which says that no individual has a greater right to carbon emissions than any other.

C&C is becoming the benchmark framework against which other proposals have to be measured against. On the eve of the Montreal COP 11 climate change talks, the launch of this Bill puts all negotiators on notice that they have to have a far more serious and disciplined approach to climate change than has so far developed, notwithstanding Kyoto or other lesser agreements.

Colin Challen said: "The urgency of climate change is relentlessly bearing down on all of us, and we need to shake off the old way of doing things, which was all about tweaking the controls and hoping for the best. We need to change direction. I hope that this Bill will help start a parliamentary movement, not just here but in parliaments around the world, which adds to the pressure on governments to move further, faster. People in Kenya, where one of our speakers is from, and from other developing nations see that climate change could threaten any benefit that may get from the development agenda. They are not looking for our charity, but for us in the developed world to work with them to address what is now the greatest threat we all face, but which will hit them harder and earlier than it will us. C&C is a comprehensive framework which has sufficient internal flexibility for us all to make real headway."

ENDS

Colin Challen MP is Chair of the All Party Group on Climate Change and a member of the Environmental Audit Committee

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US vs EC Climate Polit-Bureaux . . . Aubrey Meyer

Nov 21, 2005 04:58 PST

As Stalin finally had to concede, composing by even one committee just

doesn't work, let-alone two.

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An international politburo for changing the global climate change now resides at the Washington PEW Centre. Eat your heart out Joe.

Bureaucrats from about nine countries, including veterans from the UN process like Raul Estrada, Henry Derwent from DEFRA and Directors from Shell like Ged Davis [now at the World Economic Forum] have been in 'dialogue' for 18 months trying to figure out how to create an international framework for actions to avoid the looming climate catastrophe.

They acknowledge there is an 'ultimate' objective to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC], namely "stabilizing GHG concentrations at a level that avoids dangerous human interference with the climate."

That there has been, already for ten years now, an existing international legal commitment to meet it, they do not.

The word 'ultimate' in English means both 'fundamental' as well as 'final'. Climate change certainly requires a solution. C&C is a fundamental solution; it is driven by the UNFCCC objective from the word go. The group prefers the apparently fuzzier final solution that is not. That is the problem – avoidance.

Their increasingly implausible argument is that the 'final' solution creates the lebensraum for, the "sustained economic growth needed to protect the global climate." They say is the UN objective is merely an "aspirational long-term goal". Though they say, "the need for action is clear," they also say, "the scientific uncertainties and inherent political stakes are too great to allow formal agreement on a quantified long-term target at this time, particularly one intended as a basis for future commitments."

This composing by committee is hardly any comfort to people looking at the 'looming catastrophe' . . .

Greenland is on the brink of "irreversible melt-down"
<http://news.independent.co.uk/environment/article328217.ece>

Himalayas "Millions Face Glacier Catastrophe"
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/climatechange/story/0,,1646712,00.html>

PEW's politburo go on with their almost now voyeuristic fudge; - "the critical question is how best to engage governments, business, and the public at large in a long-term effort that fairly and effectively mobilizes the technology and resources needed to protect the global climate while contributing to sustained economic growth."

The mobilization must, "be viewed as fair" they say and "a new global bargain on climate change will be possible only if each participating government can justify the outcome to its people as reasonably fair. Given the wide variances in national circumstance, universal acceptance of any particular equity formula is unlikely. Quantified indicators such as emissions historically, per capita, or per GDP may inform each party's assessment of what is fair. But this assessment is ultimately a political one. Whether an agreement is fair will be judged by each country in terms that it believes it can defend both to its own citizens and to the global community."

"Not reaching agreement is, likewise, a judgment with equity implications, as the resulting climate impacts will fall unevenly, and unfairly."

This is pretty anodyne byt do compare PEW's 'each-country-test' against the recycled normative howler [below] from the European Environment Agency below. In this US per capita emissions must go well below Chinese per capita emissions! - [Clearly the only thing to which there aren't limits is lunacy].

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/PEW_Report_5.pdf

PEW'S CHAIRS

Eileen Claussen
President
Pew Center on Global Climate Change

Ged Davis
Managing Director
World Economic Forum
Formerly of Shell International

PARTICIPANTS

Howard Bamsey
Deputy Secretary

Department of the Environment and Heritage
Australian Greenhouse Office
Australia

Francisco Barnés de Castro
Commissioner
Energy Regulatory Commission
Mexico

Howard Brown
Assistant Deputy Minister
Natural Resources Canada
Canada

Preston Chiaro
Chief Executive Energy
Rio Tinto plc
Jo Cooper
Vice President
Government and Industry Relations
Toyota

Chandrashekar Dasgupta
Distinguished Fellow
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Henry Derwent
Director
Climate, Energy and Environmental Risk
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
United Kingdom

Raúl Estrada-Oyuela
Special Representative for International
Environmental Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Argentina

Hiroyuki Fukano
Director-General for Environmental Policy Unit
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Japan

Gao Feng
Acting Director General (former)

Department of Treaty and Law
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
China

Jim Greene
Senior Policy Advisor to the Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee
USA

Mark Helmke
Senior Professional Staff
U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee
USA

Helen Howes
Vice President
Environment, Health and Safety
Exelon Corporation

Meg McDonald
General Manager
Corporate Affairs
Alcoa World Alumina Australia

Expediting the above, the EC's idiotic and error-clone Robocrats offer up the "The Normative Howler of all time."

Report from Danish-based European Environment Agency
[shortly to be submerged?].

About a year ago, an entity in the growing European Environment Bureaucracy called "Ecofys", [much beloved of the UK's DEFRA] published a long report on future climate policy. C&C was found wanting. So C&C was compared with their alleged 'improvement' of it namely the proposal for "Common but Differentiated Responsibilities" [CBDR]. CBDR is truly the bureaucratic Normative Howler of all time.

Method or Madness?

CBDR introduces an arbitrarily raised per capita average threshold of future emissions. The method of raising the threshold is the now familiar 'pick-a-number' model that led to Kyoto Protocol; put it where you like – a second order argument that destroys the very notion of first order argument at the leak of a bureaucrats pen.

It raises this threshold so as to persuade China to join the future effort to avoid the emissions causing climate change. However, the proposal also awkwardly requires US emissions - not just gross but also per capita - to go down and then <below> the rising gross and per capita emissions of China et al.

This fairness test is going to down a storm in the US.

Adding to the flow of bureaucratic entropy, the European Environment Agency have just mindlessly cloned this critique of "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) from 'Ecofys' with funding from the European Commission in their 'report' of June this year.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/EEA_Climate_Change.pdf

I imagine the only reason that the US won't bother to invade Denmark is that Danish Greenland

ice-melt is going to submerge the country first. When I asked the State Department what they thought of Manhattan going under water for the same reason, the jokey answer was, "the other 49 states will be cheering all the way."

What Ecofys and now the EEA have done, is to pick up a ruler and freehand make draw a diagram to illustrate the deliberately crafted fiction that C&C requires "Advanced Developing Countries" to immediately have reduced emissions entitlements.

The device is a charade. The critique is a fiction.

Ecofys and EEA have not been to the definition statements and the CCOptions model and done any work based on these at all. They model retains its integrity of structure whatever the rates weights dates chosen . . . subject to any stabilization target, it can be set so everyone initially goes up or down or is combined in QELRO formation as stated in Byrd Hagel.

When the original authors were asked at COP-10 to defend the assumptions behind the supposed 'calculations' that led to their CBDR proposal, they conceded that the "raised per capita threshold" was completely arbitrary and impossible to numerically reconcile with the objective of the UNFCCC as they were unable to compute it - in other words it was a howler and it was dishonest. It still is.

It was no surprise to find that they were also reluctant to explain how it gets US acceptance that US per capita emissions (as well as gross emissions), are mandated to go 'below' countries like China in exchange for nothing! Could thought this diamond ring be an olive branch to the US, to be followed by a sack of coal when the White House follows Tony Blair and breaks off the engagement [see below].

The notion that this gets the wider international agreement that resolves [a] historic responsibilities [b] individuated country differential circumstances and [c] the internationally solidarity needed for a pre-specified ghg atmospheric concentration value with emissions budget to match, is juvenile and specious.

It is no different from the make-it-up-as-you-go-along crisis that created and crashed Kyoto.

If nothing else, the original authors [Berk and van Elzen followed by Niklas Hohne et al of Ecofys and now the EEA] are prolix. Their reports are endless. But over the years the flow of words has changed positions so many times that the currecny of expertise has been devalued. Is this why the European Commission pours money in?

The latest error-clone robocrats, in alphabetical order, are below. [Rob Swart should know better].

Andreas Barkman,

André Jol,

Stephane Isoard,

Aphrodite Mourelatou

Tobias Wiesenthal (EEA)

Judith Bates,

Marcel Berk,

Bas Eickhout,

Hans Eerens,

Michel den Elzen,

Bernd Gugele,

Leonidas Mantzos,

Jelle van Minnen,

Dora Petroula,

Bas van Ruijven,

Rob Swart,

Willemijn Tuinstra,

Peter Taylor and Detlef van Vuuren (ETC/ACC)

Antonio Soria (JRC IPTS).

The EEA project manager was André Jol,
ETC/ACC project leader was Hans Eerens.

Peter Saunders assisted in editing the report.

EEA acknowledges advice provided at various stages during the preparation of the report by an advisory group consisting of Lars Mueller, Matti Vainio (European Commission, Environment DG), André Berger (EEA Scientific Committee), Nebojsa Nakicenovic (IIASA), Juergen Schneider (EMEP) and Cedric Philibert (IEA).

Comments provided by the national focal points and other country representatives as well as other members of the EEA Scientific Committee (Manfred Kleemann, Costas Cartalis) are also acknowledged.

Tony Blair: 'We must do more to beat climate change'

'We will cut our emissions by 2012 by almost twice the targets set by Kyoto'

Published: 19 November 2005

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/commentators/article327944.ece>

"The challenges of global integration need to be met with stronger, more effective global, multi-lateral action. No single country is able to tackle climate change. All major countries need to act, if we are to tackle it effectively. So if some countries stand back, it won't work and others will question why they should act. This is why I have placed so much emphasis this year on trying to rebuild an international consensus on climate change. In other words, we need to think globally as well as act locally. We are doing both.

We are acting to cut carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. We will cut our emissions by 2012 by almost twice our Kyoto targets. And we have set an ambitious long-term target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 60 per cent by 2050.

But it is true that currently we can only be sure that we will achieve about two-thirds of our planned reductions in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010. Carbon emissions have gone up about 3 per cent since 1997. But emissions would have gone up by 8 per cent if it were not for the actions we have taken under our climate change programme. But that is no excuse. So the Government is conducting reviews both of our climate change programme and of our energy policy. We are determined to do all we can to meet our 2010 target. We will need a national effort to meet this goal. The Government must and will lead the way but we cannot achieve it alone. We need businesses and everybody, as consumers and passengers and drivers, to help achieve it too.

Greenpeace have argued that we should use less coal. But it is just unrealistic to expect countries with growing energy needs and huge supplies not to use it. The challenge we must face is to make coal clean. And the UK is leading the way in doing so, by working with the EU to develop demonstration power stations in China for carbon capture and storage.

Greenpeace have claimed that I have instructed airports to expand despite aviation being a major contributor to climate change. Nonsense. Airport companies want to expand to meet the increasing demand from people to travel. As I said on Monday, globalisation is a result of the choices of individuals. Our responsibility is to try to reduce the downsides from this growth in aviation. Aviation emissions are growing. We believe that emissions trading is the best way to reduce them. It sets an absolute cap on emissions and encourages innovation.

Greenpeace have also said that we have failed to halt the growth in greenhouse gas emissions from traffic. Whereas in fact, as part of our climate change programme, we have just announced the renewable transport fuels obligation, which will mean that 5 per cent of petrol and diesel will be made from bio-fuels. This will cut a million tons of carbon per annum from road transport emissions by 2010. This is the equivalent of taking a million cars off the road every year.

So we are acting locally but we also need to think globally. Even if the UK achieves every emissions target we set ourselves, we will have tackled a mere 2 per cent of the problem. That is why

international action and consensus is so important.

The Kyoto protocol entered into force this year. Kyoto shows how an international system of capping emissions, with a trading market to help meet the caps cost-effectively, can drive substantial emissions reductions. Under Kyoto, 15 of the EU countries including the UK will deliver a 16 per cent reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2012 compared with business as usual.

I could talk about nothing but the Kyoto protocol. That way, maybe people would believe that I am still committed to it. Which I am. But as I have been saying since 2001, Kyoto is only a first step. Even if all countries, including the US, signed up and met their 2012 targets, this would only stabilise emissions - not cut them, which we need to.

So, we need an international framework and emissions targets which take us beyond Kyoto's 2012 commitments. That is the "green" thing to do. Some people have said that I have undermined the idea of post-2012 targets by saying that countries would not agree to them if they meant choking off economic growth. On the contrary, I am showing the path we need to follow if we are going to agree internationally binding targets which all can sign up to. Because countries like the United States (which represents 25 per cent of all emissions), India and China (which is building a new power station every week) will only sign up to those targets if they feel they can be met without slowing down their development - development which is needed to lift two billion people out of desperate poverty.

And what we also need, if we are going to meet those targets as well as increase prosperity, is new technologies and cleaner energy. Too much of the debate over climate change has become polarised between those who advocate compulsory targets and those who advocate technology. For me this is a false choice. The technology is the means by which we will achieve those targets. We have made real progress this year, taking the opportunity of our EU and G8 presidencies to build an international consensus both on the need for a new international framework after Kyoto, and on the technology we need to reduce emissions.

At the Gleneagles summit in July, leaders from the G8 countries plus China, India, Brazil, South Africa and Mexico, acknowledged that climate change was a serious and long-term challenge and that we have to act with resolve and urgency now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. On 9 July, The Independent's own Michael McCarthy called it "the most important step to counter climate change since the signing of the Kyoto protocol in December 1997".

The post-Gleneagles climate change dialogue we have established has helped to lay a constructive foundation for the Montreal UN climate change conference next month, by bringing together countries who had serious disagreements when they met in Buenos Aires one year ago. Montreal will begin the formal discussion on how we can work together beyond 2012.

We have also made practical international progress in putting into use both new and existing technologies which will reduce emissions. The G8 agreed a plan of action to ensure that those technologies are brought out of the lab and put to use as soon as possible. The US has announced around \$1bn in incentives for alternative fuel vehicles over the next 10 years. Canada, Italy, France and the UK all now have policies in place to improve the energy efficiency of public buildings. And the EU has agreed to develop a near-zero emissions coal power station in China.

So the new consensus we have built this year is making a difference. I am sure that it will also make a difference at the crucial meeting in Montreal which starts in 10 days, where we must start to shape an inclusive global solution to climate change after 2012."

C&C Challenge in Parliament Aubrey Meyer

Nov 23, 2005 12:44 PST

23rd November 2005

CLIMATE CHANGE (CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE) BILL

Formally tabled by Mr Colin Challen

"Bill to make provision for the adoption of a policy of combating climate change in accordance

with the principles of contraction and convergence; and for connected purposes.”

24th November 2005.

Joined by Kenyan Government representative, Colin Challen MP introduces the Contraction and Convergence Bill to the press tomorrow 24th November 2005.

Committee Room 6, 13.00 hours.

All interested welcome to attend.

Printed Copies of C&C Documentation for Montreal COP-11 available.

22nd November 2005.

C&C in Commons Debate.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm051122/debtext/51122-33.htm>

“John Smith said that even if a country cannot achieve its international consensus, it should lead by example. I think that we should lead by example because if we do not, personally, nationally and internationally, nobody will believe that we mean what we say. Contraction and convergence is the only workable model.

I have looked at all 40 of the models that the Minister mentioned in a recent debate—40 models that were provided by the Pew centre in its report. Some of those are simply a reading of the literature, extracted from an academic journal, and are not really models at all.

Contraction and convergence is fully worked out. It is comprehensive. It has the flexibilities—it allows for trading. It also meets the objections that the Byrd-Hagel resolution posed, back in the time when Kyoto was being negotiated, for any President—Clinton or Bush and any successor.

The Byrd-Hagel resolution in the Senate said that the United States should not enter into an agreement that did not involve all countries. That was the sense of it. It was an agreement not simply for the developing world, but for all countries, including the developing ones.”

“ Is cross-party consensus desirable? We should consider what that means for collective responsibility. We may not agree on nuclear power as a solution—that is quite possible, as we shall probably soon find out. However, if we appear to disagree on climate change, that sends out damaging signals. People might say that the Opposition wanted consensus because they wanted to get their hands on the decision-making process without collective responsibility.

In Denmark, after a long consensual process, all the parties, both in and outside government, signed up in July to about eight measures to reduce energy use and improve energy efficiency. I realise that the Danish electoral system is different from ours, which produces different results, but at least the Danes were able to agree positively on those measures. We should consider emulating that approach.

Another example, although not one that I particularly favour, is offered by Finland, which recently agreed to go ahead with its fifth nuclear reactor. In the 1990s, the Finnish Parliament rejected that option, but a couple of years ago a free vote was marginally in favour of the nuclear option. However, despite cross-party consensus and a free vote, the Greens left the Government.

The “stop climate chaos” initiative is building consensus between development and environmental non-governmental organisations. I hope that shortly there will be an initiative in the House so that all the party groups can work together to parallel and reflect what is happening outside in civil society. Perhaps we could develop the same sort of consensus that produced “Make Poverty History”. Indeed, it is crucial that we do so. “Make Poverty History” is marginally less important as an all-embracing issue than climate change, although they have an impact on one another.

Earlier this autumn, I was looking for consensus between the party leaders. What better place to start than their conference speeches? Members may recall that this year we heard nine leadership speeches at three party conferences. If anyone wants to read the efforts of all the leadership contenders, they are available in the handy little publication that I have produced, entitled “Carbon 2 Share”.

Sadly, climate change was completely absent from the speeches of some of the leadership contenders of one party. I am pleased that one of the leading contenders for the Conservative party crown has now come out with some sensible ideas, such as independent carbon accounting and auditing—described as a model based on the Monetary Policy Committee. A question was put earlier about whether domestic tradable quotas would require penalties. An independent source of information on carbon counting and how the system works would have more credibility and engage people much more.

I hope that the inquiry of the all-party group on climate change will take place early in the new year. It will pose serious questions about how we should proceed, and about the obstacles. A few years ago, the Prime Minister and leading individuals from the other parties came together to form a cross-party consensus on the euro, and it was a fiasco. It went nowhere. That is an example of consensus going wrong. In Sweden, there was cross-party consensus on that subject, and consensus among the media, including broadcasters, and the people rejected it. In fact it was anticipated that they would reject it, despite the great sense that the establishment supported it. We must ask profound questions, such as whether people might feel that this consensus was a politicians' artifice, created to hoodwink them into actions that they did not agree with. It is possible that domestic tradable quotas could be such a thing.

I want to finish by saying that I am not getting Bill crazy, but tomorrow I shall present a Bill. It will be launched officially on Thursday in Committee Room 6 at 1 o'clock, and Aubrey Meyer, director of the Global Commons Institute, will be present.

The Bill will be called the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill, and it is the other half of the Domestic Tradable Quotas (Carbon Emissions) Bill. This is the international framework that has been proposed to frame all of our considerations, and consensus, and negotiations. It is what is called a full-term framework because it covers the entire process. It is not just about setting one target for next year and one for 10 years' time, and keeping our fingers crossed that we shall be able to deliver, perhaps as a result of a piece of technology. Instead, we shall be able to benchmark what we do against the contraction and convergence model. It will demand of us all quite an effort to achieve that kind of thing in the international negotiations that we face.

There is an analogy with early Christendom. What would have happened if the early Christians had gone to Rome and said, "We are not going to bring down the Roman empire, or even change the views of the emperor"—I think we know who the emperor is in the present-day world—"so let's just give up. Let's pack it in, because we cannot change their opinions; we shall just get tossed to the lions"? They did not stop because of that argument.

John Smith said that even if a country cannot achieve its international consensus, it should lead by example. I think that we should lead by example because if we do not, personally, nationally and internationally, nobody will believe that we mean what we say.

Contraction and convergence is the only workable model. I have looked at all 40 of the models that the Minister mentioned in a recent debate—40 models that were provided by the Pew centre in its report. Some of those are simply a reading of the literature, extracted from an academic journal, and are not really models at all.

Contraction and convergence is fully worked out. It is comprehensive. It has the flexibilities—it allows for trading. It also meets the objections that the Byrd-Hagel resolution posed, back in the time when Kyoto was being negotiated, for any President—Clinton or Bush and any successor. The Byrd-Hagel resolution in the Senate said that the United States should not enter into an agreement that did not involve all countries. That was the sense of it. It was an agreement not simply for the developing world, but for all countries, including the developing ones."

C&C or 'We'll all be toast' - Guardian Aubrey Meyer

Nov 26, 2005 11:35 PST

'We'll all be toast'

"We must embrace carbon emissions rationing or face dire consequences" warns the Labour MP

Colin Challen, chairman of the all-party climate change group

Guardian

Thursday November 24, 2005

My climate change (contraction and convergence) bill, which was formally presented in the House of Commons yesterday, calls for the UK government to take the lead in putting forward the contraction and convergence (C&C) framework in future climate change negotiations.

C&C calls for the contraction of global greenhouse gas emissions to a safe and sustainable level by 2050 and for such emissions to be distributed equally among the world's population by that time.

It thus expresses the sustainability and equity principles in a single, full-term framework.

C&C was developed by the Global Commons Institute and recognises that there is an inescapable logic humankind is confronted with: that climate change is a proven threat we face, and that it affects us all.

We know that what we have done so far to tackle climate change has been ad hoc and piecemeal, and we have no idea whether what we are doing is really going to solve the problem.

We would like to believe that new technologies and short-term targets will do the trick, but we have no benchmarking and no satisfactory means of measuring our progress. Yet we know we have to reduce our emissions and we know, within reasonable margins, what that reduction has to be.

We also know that no one is born with an automatic right to emit more greenhouse gases than anyone else. If we dispute that principle, it would be equivalent to saying that some people have a greater right to eat than others. We do not accept that such a right exists, yet our behaviour is quite different.

I believe that C&C, precisely because it plots how we need to tackle both these principles over the fully stated period of time we have to achieve the task, gives everybody the opportunity to see how their contribution will be measured and how their contribution will be acknowledged.

At the moment, the majority of people seem to believe that the challenge of climate change is somebody else's responsibility: America's, China's, India's, the government's or big business's.

If we continue with such buck-passing, we'll all be toast."

The bill complements my domestic tradable quotas bill of last year, which shows how within a country the task of reducing carbon emissions could be achieved. This gives each citizen a free annual "ration" of carbon emissions that can be bought and sold, depending on whether they use less than their allocation or more.

Each year, the overall cap on carbon emissions would be reduced according to levels the C&C framework indicates are necessary.

Unless such a firm framework as C&C is in place, it is likely that traditional thinking, along the lines of simply trying to reduce the carbon intensity of economic growth, will prevail, ultimately leading us away from our goals.

The UK, while likely to meet its Kyoto target, has recently seen net increases in carbon emissions, since the traditional model of economic growth is considered our overall imperative.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/climatechange/story/0,,1649924,00.html>

Eco Soundings

Guardian

Wednesday, November 23, 2005

Global rights

A small triumph for Aubrey Meyer, of the small Global Commons Institute (GCI).

For 16 years, he has argued in every climate change forum possible that the fairest, indeed the only, way to get both rich and poor countries to agree to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions is with global, per capita emissions rights, which can be adjusted over time. He calls it "contraction and convergence", and the idea could just prove to be the hit of the Montreal talks, with Kenya

and other developing countries determined to put it on the international agenda.

Tomorrow, Colin Challen MP will launch the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill. It won't suddenly get into British law, but Meyer and GCI do believe that the tide is turning for them.

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/societyguardian/story/0,,1648170,00.html>

December March, C&C is Climate Justice Aubrey Meyer

Nov 27, 2005 04:21 PST

This message is from Jo Abbess, the Heloise of global climate justice.

March for Climate Justice!

March for Contraction and Convergence!

3rd December 2005

London and all over the world

http://www.workface-limited.co.uk/html/cande_200511.html

"Come rain or shine, heatwave or freeze-over, we'll all be out on the streets for London's hugest ever Climate March on Saturday 3rd December 2005.

Want to join us and save the planet?

We want Contraction and Convergence.

We want Climate Justice.

We want Energy Sense.

We want Renewable Energy.

We want to Stop Climate Chaos.

We want the energy crisis bubble to burst without damaging our lives.

You know, Climate Change poses risks to all of us, rich and poor across the world, and if we want to leave a habitable planet for all our children, we have to agree international binding treaties on greenhouse gas emissions.

The biggie is Carbon Dioxide - the major exhaust from burning fossil fuels - stop burning the planet - turn off lights - do it by hand instead of machine - install household insulation - build wind farms - and let's all get out of our cars and walk.

The Climate March starts assembling at 12 noon at Lincoln's Inn Fields, London on Saturday 3rd December 2005, and all are welcome, with banners, placards and coloured winter scarves.

We will walk as the UN negotiators and scientists talk in Montreal, trying to carve out a sustainable future from visions, debates and ink and paper.

We will walk until our voice is clear.

We will gather for a final rally in the shadow of the United States Embassy in Grosvenor Square for speeches by major leaders in sustainable development, environment, faith groups and politics.

Following the rally, there will be Prayers for the Planet in Hinde Street Methodist Church, London WC1, at 4pm led by Christian groups but open to all. Bring your prayer shawls, your prayer wheels, your prayer mats, and wave your coloured winter scarves: we unite in spirit to seek help for the future.

Wrap up warm: London still gets wintry.

Please come to the march on foot, by bicycle or on public transport. If you're feeling keen, join the Bike Ride from the Thames Barrier at 9.30am . . . "

All enquiries : in-@campaigncc.org

Campaign against Climate Change

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<http://www.campaigncc.org/globalclimatecampaign/index-en.shtml>

Press x5 urge C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 29, 2005 00:03 PST

1. Guardian

"One technology being looked at by some governments - including the US and UK - is carbon capture and sequestration, which although in its infancy would see carbon dioxide emissions separated from other emissions and stored under the seabed in sandstone layers. Environmentalists argue this is merely displacing the problem of cutting emissions to begin with, and favour a long term move to a global system of "contraction and convergence" whereby countries would have a per-capita carbon allowance and contract and converge with other economies depending on their size of population. This would fix a desired global reduction in emissions, then utilise the free market to allow countries to trade their unused or surplus quotas."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/climatechange/story/0,12374,1652846,00.html>

[full article below]

2. Independent

"Global temperatures will rocket past the two degrees limit unless rapidly developing nations such as Brazil, India and China agree to their own emissions targets, just as industrialised nations have done for Kyoto's first phase (due to end in 2012). In order to get the developing world to come to the table, rich countries' governments must offer a reasonable deal. Poor countries must be able to grow as rich countries contract towards a common goal of per capita emissions equality between nations. This is the contraction and convergence principle, surely the basic starting point for any post-2012 framework."

<http://news.independent.co.uk/environment/article329857.ece>

[full article below]

3.& 4. E-Politix and Tuvalu Times

"The mechanism exists, in the Kyoto Protocol, for a binding international programme of tough targets to take over from the protocol in 2012, and this week's talks in Montreal provide a golden opportunity for Blair to deliver on his pledge to prioritise the fight against climate change during his G8 and EU presidencies by championing the cause of just such an agreement, in the framework of contraction and convergence based on per capita carbon emission shares."

<http://www.eupolitix.com/EN/News/200511/3cc734b4-d422-40e6-9326-aeab6ee43c1b.htm>

[full article below]

5. We've all got to help counter climate change, says MP by Anne Alexander Political Editor

A Yorkshire MP has made a bid to bring in a new law which would put a limit on the amount of greenhouse gases any one person is allowed to create.

Colin Challen MP (Lab, Morley and Rothwell), pictured, introduced a bill to the House of Commons which would restrict individual carbon emissions by limiting energy use. Under the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill, no one person would be allowed to create more carbon emissions than another – with each adult set a specific limit. Carbon emissions are caused by activities including the use of fuels such as driving a car, air travel, heating and lighting. The bill would put a limit forcing consumers to cut down on their energy consumption to help protect the environment. Mr Challen said: "The urgency of climate change is relentlessly bearing down on all of us, and we need to shakeoff the old way of doing things, which was all about tweaking the controls and hoping for the best."I hope that this bill will help start a parliamentary movement, not just here but in

parliaments around the world.”

Mr Challen is chairman of the All Party Group on Climate Change. Contraction refers to a need to reduce emissions and convergence to the idea that no one person has a greater right to carbon emissions than any other.

<http://www.leedstoday.net/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=39&ArticleID=1269257>

1. Guardian

Q&A: the Montreal conference

The Montreal conference on climate change will see delegates from 190 governments meet to discuss how to take forward the Kyoto protocol. Matthew Tempest takes a look at the main issues
Matthew Tempest, political correspondent

Monday November 28, 2005

What is the Montreal conference? Two weeks of talks, starting today and lasting until December 9, discussing how to take forward the Kyoto protocol on cutting carbon emissions to combat climate change. Between 8,000 and 10,000 delegates from 190 governments are expected at the event, making it the biggest inter-governmental climate change conference since the signing of the Kyoto agreement in Japan in 1997. Senior ministers will only be arriving later next week, with the first few days negotiating done by what is known in government circles as “sherpas” - well-briefed teams of officials preparing the nitty-gritty.

In fact, Montreal is slightly more complicated than that, effectively an umbrella conference combining three events - the 11th meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), plus the parallel conferences of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP) and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP). The seemingly arcane difference is between those states who signed up to the Kyoto protocol (such as Britain), which put legally-binding targets on countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and those who are only signatory to the convention process (such as Australia and the USA), which commits the states to stabilising their emissions over time. The overarching theme, however, will be what happens when the current first phase of the Kyoto process comes to an end in 2012.

What is Kyoto?

The process of negotiations referred to by the shorthand term “Kyoto” began in the Japanese city of Kyoto in 1997 and was finally signed in the German city of Bonn in 2003.

The Kyoto Protocol, committing 36 of the world’s most developed nations to legally-binding emission targets, came into force in February this year. A total of 140 countries have ratified the Kyoto Convention, which itself grew out of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, a watershed United Nations meeting. The industrialised nations that signed up to the protocol committed themselves to a combined reduction in emissions to 5% below 1990 levels by the period 2008-12, although each country is set an individual target. Japan, for example, will reduce its emissions by 5%, the EU by 8% and the UK government has declared its intention to cut greenhouse gasses by 10% by 2010.

What are the sticking points?

The main one is the refusal of the USA to ratify the protocol, since it alone is responsible for around a quarter of global emissions. President George Bush unilaterally pulled out of Kyoto in early 2001, saying that the treaty was “fatally flawed” because it did not encompass developing countries, such as the growing economies of China and India.

In fact, that was always part of the plan - to lure the developing nations onboard overtime, while recognising they currently contribute less, and will suffer more, from the affects of climate change. As Tony Blair said at the time, “the biggest responsibility falls on those countries with the biggest emissions”.

Meanwhile, many meteorologists and environmental campaigners say the original target of a 5% reduction in emissions was hopelessly inadequate to begin with, with something nearer 60% needed. Montreal first of all needs to decide whether there will, in fact, be any “phase two” of Kyoto, covering the period post-2012, who will sign up to it, and what any targets may be.

How great is the danger?

The British government's chief scientific advisor, David King, has already said that climate change is the greatest problem facing the world today, more so than international terrorism. In addition to near universal consensus that climate change is both happening, and man made, two recent studies, published in the US journal Science, show CO₂ levels are the highest for 650,000 years and sea levels have been rising twice as fast in the last 150 years as in the previous 5,000 years. The consequences are likely to be extreme flooding, more extreme weather events, and as direct knock-on effects, environmental refugees and resource wars over elements such as water.

What are Britain and the EU doing?

As chair of the both the G8 group of the world's richest nations, and of the rotating presidency of the EU, this year, Tony Blair promised to put both Africa and climate change at the top of the world's agenda. The focus on Africa, in the form of the Live8 concerts, Edinburgh march and G8-8 summit, was undeniable, even if the results are still debatable.

The commitment to climate change has been somewhat more muted. As temporary president of the EU, the UK will be leading the negotiating stance for Europe. Green campaigners are worried that Mr Blair appears recently to have backtracked on the idea of concrete targets in favour of vaguer "frameworks" in light of fears that reducing greenhouse gas emissions will cut economic growth. Speaking alongside president Clinton in New York in September Mr Blair said: "My thinking has changed in the past three or four years. No country is going to cut its [economic] growth."

Speaking of developing nations such as China and India, he added: "They're not going to start negotiating another treaty like Kyoto. What countries will do is work together to develop the science and technology...There is no way that we are going to tackle this problem unless we develop the science and technology to do it." Campaigners worry that if Mr Blair shuts the door on specific targets in favour of voluntary agreements and untested technological fixes, the momentum behind the talks will collapse.

What technologies are those, and will anything come of it?

Most commentators suggest that the most to be expected out of Montreal is simply that countries will agree a timeline and deadline for further negotiations on Kyoto post-2012. That could take the form of a 2008 or 2009 deadline for further deals.

One technology being looked at by some governments - including the US and UK - is carbon capture and sequestration, which although in its infancy would see carbon dioxide emissions separated from other emissions and stored under the seabed in sandstone layers. Environmentalists argue this is merely displacing the problem of cutting emissions to begin with, and favour a long term move to a global system of "contraction and convergence" whereby countries would have a per-capita carbon allowance and contract and converge with other economies depending on their size of population. This would fix a desired global reduction in emissions, then utilise the free market to allow countries to trade their unused or surplus quotas.

The independent International Climate Change Taskforce, co-chaired by former Labour minister Stephen Byers, has suggested fixing maximum global emissions at a level which will "only" raise average temperatures by two degrees this century (which many environmentalists see as now inevitable) and working back from there to deduce carbon cuts. It also calls on the formation of a "G8 plus" group, including India and China, to focus on climate change, and 25% of all energy provision to come from renewables by 2025. The UK has already committed to 20% by 2020.

Many campaigners would like to see new and more demanding legally-binding reduction targets emerge out of Montreal, but that appears unlikely.

Will there be any protests?

Saturday December 3 will see an International Day of Climate Protest in more than 30 countries, from Bangladesh to Venezuela, including, of course, Montreal, where a rally will march past the conference centre.

In London, a mass march will culminate outside in Grosvenor Square, outside the US embassy. A delegation of around 1,000 cyclists is expected to be the rally outside the Thames Flood Barrier

in Greenwich, to highlight the fact that it was designed to be raised once every six years, and is now being used around six times a year.

Climate change: It's now or never

In an open letter to delegates at the Montreal environmental summit, beginning today, campaigner Mark Lynas explains why action on climate change can no longer be stalled

Published: 28 November 2005

I'm scared. For 15 years I've watched international progress on climate change get slower and slower, even while the pace of global warming seems to get ever more rapid. With time running out for the global climate, your meeting in Montreal represents a last chance for action. Here are a few suggestions I would urge you to consider as you gather to debate the future of the planet.

2. Independent

BE AFRAID

As the politicians dither, whole nations and ecosystems are shifting from the "still time" file to the "too late" file as vital climatic tipping points are crossed. There's now a good chance that 2005 will beat 1998 as the warmest year on record, the high temperatures undeniably giving a boost to the devastating hurricanes that battered the US coast this summer. With northern polar sea ice also declining to record lows this year, it looks too as if some kind of polar tipping point has already been crossed, making further rapid Arctic warming unstoppable.

TWO DEGREES IS 'DANGEROUS'

Agree first principles. The 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, father to Kyoto, stated the need to avoid "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". No one made it clear what this might mean. Now is the time for you to agree on what constitutes "dangerous". In my opinion, this means raising the planet's temperature past two degrees above pre-industrial levels. In order to avoid crossing this critical threshold, you must agree to stabilise concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at 400 parts per million, giving us only a decade before time runs out.

Cross the two degrees threshold, and we'll likely lose the Greenland ice sheet - flooding coastal cities across the world - as well as coral reefs, the Amazon rainforest, and many of the world's major breadbaskets, as deserts sweep across continental interiors.

WE NEED GLOBAL EQUALITY

Global temperatures will rocket past the two degrees limit unless rapidly developing nations such as Brazil, India and China agree to their own emissions targets, just as industrialised nations have done for Kyoto's first phase (due to end in 2012). In order to get the developing world to come to the table, rich countries' governments must offer a reasonable deal. Poor countries must be able to grow as rich countries contract towards a common goal of per capita emissions equality between nations. This is the contraction and convergence principle, surely the basic starting point for any post-2012 framework.

BOYCOTT AMERICA

Having refused to ratify Kyoto, America will be officially exiled to the sidelines in Montreal, giving it much less power to subvert and undermine the negotiations than has been the case in past years. But expect to see representatives from the American delegation huddled in corners with the Chinese and Indians, gently urging them not to agree to European suggestions that it is now time for developing countries to consider taking on their own post-Kyoto targets.

Don't listen to them. Instead, give the Americans an ultimatum: either they agree to rejoin the Kyoto process and cut their own emissions or face ostracism from the world community. Countries that have taken on emissions cuts can't afford to see their efforts undermined by free-riders like the US, so it's time to consider economic and trade sanctions if the US won't play fair. This also goes for Australia, which follows America's lead on global warming.

COMPENSATE CLIMATE VICTIMS

Serious cash needs to be put aside for an adaptation fund to compensate countries and regions

left uninhabitable by global warming. This will include atoll nations such as Tuvalu, soon to be flooded by sea-level rise, and drought-stricken areas such as northern China, where hundreds of thousands of people are already environmental refugees.

If you had met Ye Yinxin, the only remaining inhabitant of what is now a crumbling ghost town in Gansu province, northern China, you would see the importance of this. I met Ye while researching my book *High Tide*. Ye's life is a solitary one of fetching brackish water for her few animals and trying to scratch a living from the sandy soil.

Spending all day alone in her abandoned village, she has plenty of time to remember the better years gone by, when neighbours would gather to swap stories - before the weather changed and drought reigned supreme. Minutes after I left her one-room, mud-brick house, a terrible dust storm turned day into twilight as blood-red clouds swept overhead. There's no compensation fund to pay Ye or her displaced fellow villagers for the climatic ravages they've already suffered.

Also in line for compensation will be water-stressed countries such as Peru. When I visited in 2002, I was armed with pictures of how the glaciers of the Andes had looked when my geologist father worked in them, in 1980. To my surprise and shock, entire glaciers have already disappeared, in the space of just two decades. Peru's glaciers aren't just beautiful to look at: they're crucial natural reservoirs keeping rivers running all year round to the arid Pacific coast where most of the country's population lives. Once the glaciers disappear from entire mountain ranges, millions of people face the loss of their freshwater supplies. This situation is replicated across Asia, where rivers originating in the Himalayas also face the loss of glacial-origin water.

PUT YOUR OWN HOUSES IN ORDER

The EU and other Kyoto-ratifying countries need to get their act together and ensure they actually meet the protocol's targets. It's no good being self-righteous about the Bush administration while doing precious little at home to cut emissions. The EU, Canada and Japan are on course to miss their targets.

Margaret Beckett announced recently, without a trace of shame, that Britain wouldn't meet its self-declared target of cutting carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by 2010. Then Tony Blair, the man who has done so much to put climate change on the international agenda, seemed to stab Kyoto in the back by questioning whether setting targets for greenhouse gas emissions is any longer the best way forward.

And as if to emphasise our Government's moral collapse on the climate change issue, the UK is now taking the EU to court in order to force it to allow an extra 20 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions from British industry. This is all the more disappointing, given that the UK has presidency of the EU at the moment and therefore leads the powerful European delegation. Unfortunately, it looks as if the tough and visionary leadership we need in Montreal may have to come from elsewhere.

LISTEN TO THE PROTESTS

Listen to the noise on the streets outside your tightly sealed conference centre and hotel rooms. All over the world people are mobilising to demand stronger action from governments on climate change. Rather than feeling scared and despairing about global warming, people are getting angry about the lack of progress we've seen over 15 years of lengthy negotiations.

Major demonstrations are planned everywhere from Istanbul to Moscow on 3 December. In London, thousands are expected to attend a Campaign Against Climate Change march, via Downing Street to the American Embassy, making it the biggest climate change demonstration ever on British soil.

The marchers will demand leadership from the politicians on what is increasingly acknowledged as being a survival challenge to the entire human species. The protesters will want to see action. Now is the time to deliver.

I'm scared. For 15 years I've watched international progress on climate change get slower and slower, even while the pace of global warming seems to get ever more rapid. With time running out."

Climate change: Nothing but hot air?

The UK EU presidency is failing to exercise global leadership on tackling climate change, argues Caroline Lucas MEP.

“Current EU president Tony Blair is fond of reminding us that he is exercising global leadership on tackling climate change. Whether he’s calling for technical solutions in New York, pledging to lead negotiations on new international targets at the G8 summit or calling for more EU cooperation on reducing emissions, the message is the same: the UK accepts the urgency of tackling the looming climate crisis and is leading efforts to combat it.

This week, world leaders gather in Montreal for the most significant talks on climate change since the Kyoto Protocol was adopted. The EU will be represented by the European Commission, MEPs and the UK, as current EU presidency holders. And all the indications are that we’ll hear the same message again.

The reality, however, couldn’t be much further from the rhetoric. Far from exercising global leadership on tackling climate change, the UK is manifestly failing on a number of counts.

Carbon dioxide emissions are rising, for the third consecutive year, and London is quietly but firmly backing away from its commitment to replace the Kyoto Protocol with a binding international treaty and towards the US position that new technology and voluntary agreements mediated by market forces will solve the problem.

Just this month, we have learned that the UK is planning to buy its way out of its commitments to reduce CO₂ by buying ‘emissions credits’ under the Kyoto Protocol’s carbon trading scheme.

But perhaps worst of all, the UK is failing to adopt measures already agreed at international level in a shameful attempt to shield industry from meeting the true economic costs of their activities.

The UK has, for example, failed to fully implement a whole raft of recent EU directives designed to tackle climate change, according to a report commissioned by the European Parliament’s Green group. ‘So much hot air’ examines the UK response to three EU directives designed to reduce CO₂ emissions, and finds it to be slow, patchy and incomplete.

Despite holding the EU presidency, Blair’s government has delayed implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, failed to set binding targets for energy demand reduction under the Energy Services Directive and failed to promote small-scale combined heating and power plants in line with the Cogeneration Directive.

The report also criticises London for attempting to undermine the EU emissions trading system by renegotiating (upwards) the previously agreed level of the UK’s CO₂ emissions: and there lies the rub.

Blair’s failure to implement measures to cut emissions is based on his belief that doing so will have a negative impact on the British economy and that climate change can and should be tackled without affecting the economy at all.

This is just not realistic. Most governments accept the need for reducing emissions by 60 per cent by 2050: but that figure, drawn from an International Panel on Climate Change report, was a global average.

To make cuts in an equitable way in recognition of the fact that we in the rich north who have disproportionately caused climate change have a disproportionate responsibility for addressing its problems, and to take into account more recent science, the EU will need to deliver cuts of between 80-90 per cent by 2050.

This will require nothing short of a revolution in the way we use and consume energy: the way we work and run our economy, the way we get around, the way we design and construct buildings and even the way we measure our very progress using the blunt instrument of GDP growth.

Massive investment in energy conservation and improved energy efficiency, switching to renewable energy sources and developing and implementing ‘green’ technology - though not through nuclear power, whose expense, long lead-in time, environmental and security risks hugely out-

weigh any potential contribution- are all vital components of such an energy revolution, but they won't happen all by themselves.

The first step to delivering them is the global adoption of legally binding targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions sufficiently.

The mechanism exists, in the Kyoto Protocol, for a binding international programme of tough targets to take over from the protocol in 2012, and this week's talks in Montreal provide a golden opportunity for Blair to deliver on his pledge to prioritise the fight against climate change during his G8 and EU presidencies by championing the cause of just such an agreement, in the framework of contraction and convergence based on per capita carbon emission shares.

But if Blair flinches in his commitment to international targets – as he has already begun to do – the UK presidency could mark the beginning of the end of international cooperation on tackling what he has acknowledged to be the greatest single threat we face.

Unfortunately, this is all too likely: the UK's failure to fully implement EU directives on climate change is rooted in the Blair government's belief that measures to tackle climate change must not be allowed to interfere with 'business as usual'.

The irony is that the measures we really need would provide so many economic and social benefits – less fuel poverty, more employment opportunities, stronger local communities, for example – that it would be in our national interest to pursue them even if it weren't necessary for the sake of meeting the climate change challenge.

The UK has promised to take strong action on climate change but has failed to deliver. How does Blair think he can possibly exercise global leadership on tackling climate change when he won't even implement those measures already agreed? It seems all his promises and fine words are little more than so much hot air.

This article originally appeared in the November 28 edition of Parliament Magazine.

Pls Ask yr MPs and Local Clrs. to support . . . Aubrey Meyer
Dec 01, 2005 06:21 PST

UK House of Commons

Early Day Motion [EDM] 1141

CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE - 29.11.2005

Challen, Colin

"That this House welcomes the presentation of the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill, which seeks to establish a clear, full-time framework for tackling climate change; notes that humankind has no choice but to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a sustainable level within a defined period; further notes that it is unlikely that any international framework will succeed if it is not based on the principle of equity through the equal distribution of emissions rights, and that any solution put forward which does not solve the problem of climate change faster than the problem is created is no solution at all; and calls upon members of parliaments around the world to put forward similar bills in their own legislatures."

Press Association story re the C&C Bill is at foot of this message.

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Norwich City Council passed a motion [29.11.2005] supporting a global framework to tackle Climate Change.

The framework, entitled "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) and developed by the London-based Global Commons Institute is based around the overall global emissions being reduced (contraction) at the same time as moves are made for every country eventually to have an equal allocation of emissions per person (convergence).

#### 1. Motion - Contraction and Convergence

Councillor Read to move:-

'Council notes:

1. that carbon emissions (using Government figures) have risen by 2.5% in the first half of 2005 to 162.4 Megatonnes per annum, and that the UK is now in very real danger of missing its target under the Kyoto Protocol, which requires emissions to be 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2012;

2. that the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change has warned that climate change could have potentially catastrophic effects worldwide - including in the UK - and that the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor has described climate change as 'a greater threat than global terrorism';

3. that Norwich City Council is committed, through its support for the C-Red (Carbon Reduction) initiative, to taking and supporting action to reduce carbon emissions in Norwich, and hence to reduce climate change.

Council believes:

1. that climate change is a very serious threat, both globally and to the Norwich community, as demonstrated by the risk of flooding in Norwich and other parts of Norfolk. Under current conditions, according to environment agency data, flooding can be 'expected' more than once a

century in some houses in Mancroft, Thorpe Hamlet, Lakenham and Wensum Wards as well as Carrow Road football ground. There is also a flood risk in Mile Cross, Eaton, University and Bowthorpe. This risk, according to most climate scientists, has potential to increase dramatically;

2. that the Government must commit itself to a method which allows the international community to reduce carbon emissions in a socially just way;

3. that the Contraction and Convergence Framework, promoted by the Global Commons Institute and supported by many MPs from across the Party spectrum, the all-party House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee and some local councils such as Oxford and Camden, is the best way of doing this.

Council therefore resolves:-

1. to call on Norwich's MPs to support the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill, that has just been introduced into the House of Commons by Colin Challen MP, as the best overall framework and vehicle available for achieving the CRed targets that Norwich City Council has committed itself.

2. to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment to ask the Government to commit the UK to supporting Contraction and Convergence and to write to the Global Commons Institute, declaring that Norwich City Council supports Contraction and Convergence.

The proposer, Green Party Councillor Rupert Read said,

"I am delighted that the Council is taking the issue of Climate Change seriously. C+C may seem distant from the everyday lives of the people of Norwich, but if action is not taken then we will see more and more freak weather conditions, economic crisis and serious flooding of the city and many of its houses and landmarks."

"By passing this motion, while the vital international climate conference of governments is going on at Montreal, Norwich has become the first Council in East Anglia to join a small but fast-growing group of local Councils in the UK who have shown leadership on this issue -- unlike the British government, which has not. It is important that the Council continues to do its bit, both practically and politically, to be a prime example of a local authority that takes this issue seriously and seeks to find carbon-reduction solutions."

The motion was passed without any votes against. However, some Libdem Councillors and the one Conservative Councillor refused to vote for the motion, abstaining instead. This is surprising, given that both Parties at a national level supposedly support C&C, and have it as part of their official policy platform.

Contact: R. Read, 07946 459066

The Press Association

November 23, 2005, Wednesday 05:42 AM Eastern Time

HOME NEWS

LANDMARK BILL ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO BE TABLED

Amanda Brown, PA Environment Correspondent

A Labour MP will tomorrow attempt to put more pressure on the Government in the fight to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Colin Challen (Morley and Rothwell), chairman of the All Party

Parliamentary Group on Climate Change, will launch the Climate Change

(Contraction and Convergence) Bill in the Commons.

He said it was the first instance in any parliament of the Contraction and Convergence framework being placed in a legislative format. The framework was devised by the Global Commons Institute for tackling climate change.

Contraction refers to the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a sustainable level, and convergence means that within the same timescale, emissions rights are distributed on an equal per capita basis.

This is the principle which says no individual has a greater right to carbon emissions than any other. Mr Challen said C&C was becoming the benchmark framework against which other proposals have to be measured.

His Bill comes on the eve of the Montreal COP 11 climate change talks.

He said: "The urgency of climate change is relentlessly bearing down on all of us, and we need to shake off the old way of doing things, which was all about tweaking the controls and hoping for the best. We need to change direction.

"I hope this Bill will help start a parliamentary movement, not just here but in parliaments around the world, which adds to the pressure on governments to move further faster.

"People from Kenya, the home of one of our speakers, and from other developing nations see that climate change could threaten any benefit that may get from the development agenda.

"They are not looking for our charity, but for us in the developed world to work with them to address what is now the greatest threat we all face, but which will hit them harder and earlier than it will us.

"Contraction and convergence is a comprehensive framework which has sufficient internal flexibility for us all to make real headway."

November 23, 2005

<http://www6.lexisnexis.com/publisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=1925&topicId=100002042&docId=l:330133330&start=10>

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C&C events Montreal, London, Cameroon Aubrey Meyer

Dec 02, 2005 05:57 PST

GCI's C&C Side Event

Friday, 02 December 2005,

19:30 - 21:00,

Kazan River

UNFCCC

COP-11 Montreal

"Contraction & Convergence - aligning national and global objectives"

1 Tim Larsen, GCI: Joined by Joshua Wairoto of the Kenyan Government present the Contraction & Convergence (C&C) negotiating framework.

[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC\\_Demo\(pc\).exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CC_Demo(pc).exe)

2 Finland Futures Research Centre:

detail the national CO2 implications for different countries under C&C.

3 Action for a Global Climate Community:

bridging the "North-South" divide with the architecture of C&C.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/MONTREAL.pdf>

Kenyan Government Side Event

Assisted by GCI

Saturday, 03 December 2005

"The Rhino is Charging – Climate Change, a threat to us all.

Post Kyoto - Africa's Priorities."

[http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/Kenya\\_Montreal.ppt](http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/Kenya_Montreal.ppt)

Lewis Cleverdon of GCI has this large C&C banner-image at London's Climate Justice march tomorrow Saturday.

[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CandC\\_Banner\\_G8.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CandC_Banner_G8.pdf)

Mark Lynas and friends display C&C posters on the march from Lincoln's-Inn Fields to Grosvenor Square. The image is the cover of the C&C booklets being distributed by Tim Larsen at COP-11.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/MONTREAL.pdf>

Minister Elliot Morley UK told the GLOBE Parliamentarians this week that

"The UK is the nearest of all countries to C&C".

Their big Montreal meeting next Tuesday has details here: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/GLOBE\\_COP\\_11.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/GLOBE_COP_11.pdf)

C&C is in the room; Anders Wijkmann chaired the European Parliament C&C motion this month.

C&C Conclusions of first African Conference For a Global Climate Community

Yaoundé Cameroon, October 24, 2005

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Yaounde\\_Final.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Yaounde_Final.pdf)

The first African conference on a Global Climate Community, held under the patronage of Mr. Hele Pierre, Minister for the Environment of Cameroon, concluded its work by adopting a resolution which called on Governments in west and central Africa to collaborate within the African Union and concert their policies with other developing countries to promote such a community together with willing developed countries on the basis of equal rights.

It invited the Government of Cameroon at the coming Montreal conference of the UNFCCC to propose immediate study of the Contraction and Convergence model as the basis for a long-term solution to the climate problem.

Stressing that climate change will be the biggest security threat to human life during this century, the resolution points out that millions of Africans already suffer terribly from its consequences through drought, famine and spreading deserts, while rising sea levels imperil millions more in coastal regions. Women, who carry core responsibility for family, food and water, are most at risk. To prevent catastrophic damage through rising temperatures cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions of over 60 per cent are needed by mid century.

A new global initiative is therefore urgently required. Given the refusal of the US Government to act, the resolution calls on other willing countries from north and south to lead the way by negotiating a Global Climate Community based on the principles of Contraction and Convergence: a commitment to cut global emissions to the level necessary to prevent climate catastrophe; convergence to equal emission entitlements for each world citizen on an agreed date; a global market in emission rights which will promote efficiency and transfer resources to developing countries with surplus entitlements to sell.

The resolution thus takes up and elaborates the policy already promoted by the Africa Group in 1997 and by the Government of India. In his presentation, Christopher Layton, Chairman of Action for a Global Climate Community which jointly sponsored the conference together ACAN - Association of Clubs of Friends of Nature - stressed that if developing countries pursue this goal, there are good prospects of a positive response from the European Union and other states that are implementing the Kyoto protocol. The US will follow, if others lead.

The resolution also established a new African Network for a Climate Community {ANCC} to communicate, share information and promote a joint campaign in the 12 countries represented at the conference and elsewhere in Africa.

The Yaounde resolution - African Conference Global Climate Community Climate change is the key global security issue of the century requiring urgent and responsible leadership by countries north and south to form a Global Climate Community within the UNFCCC based on equal rights.

Africa in particular is suffering terribly from climate change and global warming. Drought, famine and spreading deserts in Niger and other countries of the Sahel as well as southern Africa are already hitting millions of poor and vulnerable people in regions where 90 per cent of the population are engaged in agriculture and fishing. Rising sea levels could also devastate many densely populated coastal regions.

Women are particularly at risk because they carry core responsibilities for caring for children and family, fetching scarce water and fuel and tending the land, yet have limited access to economic resources.

At global level the scientific consensus is that emissions must be cut by more than 60 per cent by mid century to avoid catastrophic damage. Yet global emissions continue to rise. In this situation the conference calls on governments in West and Central Africa, with the support of non-governmental organisations, to urge and negotiate the creation of a global climate community based on:

- \*commitment to contract global GHG emissions to the level necessary to stabilise concentrations and consequently temperature and climate at an acceptable level.

- \* convergence of GHG emission entitlements to equal per person distribution within a specified time frame.

a market in tradable emission entitlements which will promote efficiency and transfer resources to developing countries with surplus entitlements to sell attainment of sustainable livelihoods and reduction of poverty through capacity building, international cooperation, and transfers of low carbon technology and adequate enabling resources institutions that ensure effective decisions, monitor and ensure compliance, manage the emissions market and respect democratic accountability and the rule of law.

To achieve this goal we urge African governments to collaborate within the African Union and regional organisations.

They should concert policies with other developing countries that have similar goals, with a view to a joint global initiative with major developed nations and regions, such as the EU, that are willing to act.

The urgent need for global action and the reluctance of key states, notably the US, to commit, means that willing states must take the lead and initiate joint action without waiting for the slowest. Such action could take the form of a "bubble" of enhanced cooperation within the broader framework of the UNFCCC. European experience has shown that a community which starts with a core of states ready and willing to take action and inspire other states to join them can create effective change. In due course an effective community will draw in all UN member states to participate in the global solution that is necessary.

To ensure protection of virgin forests, such as those of the Congo basin, crucial to the planet's climate, we call on African Governments, in concert with governments of the Amazon region and Asia to develop a separate proposal for bio- forest certificates, which would give the preservation of such assets a recognised financial value.

Even if successful joint action is taken in these ways to mitigate and slow the process of climate change, damage to Africa's vulnerable environment and people will inevitably be painful requiring difficult efforts of adaptation.

A major effort of education, information and explanation is required at all levels from policy makers to women planting crops and seeking water. Informed communities can draw on their own wisdom and knowledge to develop more resilient agricultural practices, such as more diverse and mixed crops and ways of storing water.

Adaptation can be helped now, under the Kyoto process, through the fund to assist least developed countries, while the Clean Development Mechanism is a tool which could be better used for instance for collaborative development of available renewable energy such as local solar power.



African Governments are urged to enact necessary legislation and decide and apply enforcement measures to ensure effective implementation of the UNFCCC. A more ambitious global solution is however vital now to arrest climate change, while the much larger incentives and resources potentially available within a global climate community are needed to adapt infrastructures, build capacities, and stimulate the clean investment, innovation and working practices of a sustainable way of life for Africa's people.

The conference resolves to establish a new African Network for a Climate Community (Reseau Africain pour une Communauté Climatique), as a means of communicating, informing and mobilising support for the necessary action set out in this resolution.

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Yaounde\\_Final.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Yaounde_Final.pdf)

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"C&C - Montreal and London. Aubrey Meyer

Dec 03, 2005 02:31 PST

COP-11 – 03 12 05

South African Jay Puckree at COP-11: -

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to chair this event hosted by the Global Commons Institute.

If we continue to expand our combustion of these fossil fuels, we face the real danger of run-away global warming. Run away global warming is clearly unacceptable and that is why we 10,000 odd delegates are here today in Montreal.

The absolute necessity to contract global carbon emissions raises the sticky but subsidiary question of who will get to burn that carbon. Will it be the developing countries of the "South"? Will it be the highly industrialised countries of the "North"? What claim will a country like my own, South Africa have to a global carbon budget?

It is my view that Contraction & Convergence as proposed by the Global Commons Institute provides us with a framework with which to negotiate these questions."

The Independent today

Climate change: 'Drastic measures required'

Published: 03 December 2005

<http://news.independent.co.uk/environment/article330865.ece>

"We must adopt the Contraction and Convergence principle, which holds that richer countries who have done more to create the problem should reduce emissions faster than developing nations. This allows them both to catch up and trade a surplus emissions allowance."

Caroline Lucas – Member European Parliament.

She and other eminent speakers will address the crowds assembled today in Grosvenor Square today.

Lewis Cleverdon [GCI] has organised this remarkable C&C banner-image: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CandC\\_Banner\\_G8.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CandC_Banner_G8.pdf)

C&C will be carried from Lincoln's Inn Fields to Grosvenor Square.

The image is similar to the cover of the 3K C&C booklets being distributed by Tim Helweg Larsen in Montreal COP-11.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/MONTREAL.pdf>

Tim shares a C&C platform in Montreal with the Kenyan Government this afternoon. Canada is 5 hours behind us so there is time to email images to Tim "Tim Helweg-Larsen" write-@gmail.com for display.

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Blair - C&C; the way ahead. Aubrey Meyer

Dec 05, 2005 03:44 PST

As People marched and speakers [Monbiot, Lucas, Baker, Jarman] called for C&C at weekend rallies in London and Montreal: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Climate\\_March.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Climate_March.pdf)

Charles Kennedy, Leader of the Liberal Democrats UK called for C&C in the Independent.

Failing still to resolve the equity dispute between the US and China, COP-11 shows deepening failure in the UN politics of climate change. This can now be measured as de facto genocide against the innocent third party victims of the already dangerous rates of climate change.

Tony Blair knows that C&C does resolve this argument within the structure of global limits that is the precondition of success. He can yet speak to this truth and should be vigorously supported when he does.

Kennedy.

"What could and should have been done differently? Firstly, tough new target for greenhouse gas emissions are now essential. Britain should be taking the lead in getting agreements.

Developing countries - especially China and India - must be encouraged to sign up to formal commitments of their own and to principles of contraction and convergence."

Published:

Independent

04 December 2005

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/commentators/article331000.ece>

"At the start of the year, the Prime Minister said that he would make the environment a centre-piece of his G8 and EU presidencies. We have been in the driving seat for the past six months, but what has been achieved? We haven't moved forwards. We're moving backwards.

What could and should have been done differently? Firstly, tough new target for greenhouse gas emissions are now essential. Britain should be taking the lead in getting agreements. Developing countries - especially China and India - must be encouraged to sign up to formal commitments of their own and to principles of contraction and convergence. We should have been working loudly, publicly and proactively to change international minds.

Secondly, Tony Blair had a golden opportunity to use his "special relationship" with George Bush to challenge the US President over climate change. Mr Blair has sacrificed a great deal of international credibility to be at the President's side, entangling us in a disastrous war in Iraq. The least he could do is to use that access to work on the President over environmental issues.

But the trouble is the twin aims of talking green and sticking by the President are conflicting. The contrast between the attempts to play down Mr Bush's reluctance to acknowledge the underlying causes of global warming and reliance on new, as yet undiscovered, technology to provide the answers and the Prime Minister's attempts to employ enough green rhetoric to buy off the clamour for recognition of the climate change problem and movement towards a solution, has been both uncomfortable and unproductive. Not for the first time, the Prime Minister has been saying different things to different people at the same time.

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"Ithaca awaits you Tony." Aubrey Meyer

Dec 07, 2005 07:39 PST

Global climate is already changing dangerously. This is an inevitable response to the greenhouse gas [ghg] emissions from fossil fuel burning raising the concentration of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. Global average temperature is going up and consequential damages are accelerating at twice the rate of economic growth. The potential for runaway climate change is there. In any normal cost-benefit-analysis this says that though economic growth provides the benefits, the rising damage costs can overwhelm them within this generation if we continue to let concentrations rise out of control. This offers us the opportunity to be simultaneously destroyed by the Scylla of growth and the Charybdis of damages. It is a global fate not even the Gods could devise. The insurers have been tracking this for decades and as the people who under-write the growth, they have good reason to ask where on earth are we going? To preserve posterity, we need a strong vessel. To make history, we need an Odysseus.

Since it was agreed in 1992, the legally-binding objective of the UNFCCC has been to stabilise these rising concentrations at a level that is still safe. Its principles are precaution and equity. The Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have met annually since it was ratified in to force in 1995. They are meeting again in Montreal this week for the eleventh so-called Conference of the Parties [COP-11]. The meeting is struggling to address the challenge of what will come next. Deepening failure is in the air as divisive runaway arguments continue to drag us all towards runaway rates of climate change.

Anticipating this, Tony Blair asked the question last month, "will it [COP-11] be another round of division or what we need: a sound, rational, science-based unity, which ensures the right legally-binding framework to incentivize sustainable development?"

The answer to this question was clear from the word go. Advised by the science, the precautionary objective of the UNFCCC requires that a global limit be set on rising ghg concentrations at a level that is safe and that the fossil fuel consumption still rationally possible under this limit must be globally shared on the basis of equity. The late Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC summed up the logic at the 9th COP in Milan in 2003 saying that global contraction and convergence (C&C) of future emission shares is "inevitably required" to achieve the objective of the UNFCCC. Knowing this, the Africa Group and others have advocated C&C since at least 1997. GCI has presented this model since 1990.

In a nutshell C&C means that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must reduce by 60 – 80% within a given time-frame [say 50 years] to stabilise the atmosphere at a safe level of ghg concentration, while tradable shares [emissions permits] in this contraction converge to equal shares per head globally at a rate faster than the overall contraction. This is the rational science-based unity the PM seeks. And, if convergence is accelerated relative to the rate of contraction, it minimizes the opportunity cost that climate change represents to the Developing Countries and provides valuable emissions permits to them as a tradable asset. They can sell these in their struggle for sustainable development

and against the endemic poverty now increasingly aggravated by climate trauma. As emissions are presently still closely correlated with income, a C&C deal pre-distributes majority permit-ownership of the future emissions budget to the global majority in developing countries. They lack capital while developed countries lack the markets for their new and clean technologies. So trading permits and technology in the framework-based market of C&C will be the first time in history that

economic efficiency and poetic justice become trade partners. If not marriage made in heaven, it incentivizes sustainable development and avoids the path to hell, so it is a deal none of us can refuse.

In the politics of climate change, the Kyoto Protocol is the equivalent of kerb-crawling. It is utterly inadequate and doesn't provide the legal framework we need. Indeed it barely slows the car to make the pick-up. It seems obvious to me that the Prime Minister understands this and has had the courage to speak to it. As chair of both the G-8 and the EU, he is tasked this year with stopping global climate chaos and worsening poverty particularly in Africa. His speech to the Lord Mayor's Banquet at the Guildhall in London on the 14th of November 2005 pointed at this deal: - "We urgently need a framework, with the necessary targets, sensitively and intelligently applied over the right time-frame that takes us beyond 2012. It can only happen if the US, China and India join with Europe, Japan and others to create such a framework." Charles Kennedy urged him last weekend saying, "Britain should be taking the lead in getting agreements. Developing countries - especially China and India - must be encouraged to sign up to formal commitments of their own and to principles of contraction and convergence." While Norman Baker and most speakers at the climate justice rally at the weekend called for this outside the US Embassy, Colin Challen MP introduced the C&C bill in parliament and the Kenyan Government re-opened the Africa Group's call for it in Montreal. The scene is being set.

There were people who formerly derided the Kyoto Protocol as unnecessary because there wasn't a climate problem. They now look incompetent as there obviously is one, "worse than weapons of mass destruction" as we often hear. There were people - sometimes the same people - who formerly derided the Kyoto Protocol as inadequate because it omitted formal emissions control in developing countries. While they have now won their largely tactical point, they still look foolish as they haven't thought through the framework of the global solution. And, while Scylla and Charybdis beckon, some of our top bureaucrats are out to lunch at the Washington Pew Centre saying the Convention's objective is 'aspirational' as the science and the politics are unclear.

For the fifteen years since the UNFCCC was ratified into force, such people built a house on the sands of refusing the US administration the right to make the obvious point that this global problem requires a global solution. Even when in July 1997 under Bill Clinton, the US Senate unanimously conceded the global equity point in the Byrd Hagel Resolution, the US were idiotically denounced for saying that developed countries would 'reduce' while developing countries would merely 'limit' their emissions. It was obvious to all sensible protagonists that there was no sustainable difference between C&C and the Byrd Hagel Resolution. Indeed members of the US Defence Department asked GCI to see if the Chinese and the Indians and the Africans would play the game this way, and we got them a result at COP-3. But Kyoto's kerb-crawlers effectively colluded with the climate change deniers [their favourite target for rage], insisting that the only permitted war was between their obviously inadequate Kyoto Protocol and the no-deal-at-all wanted by the climate change deniers. While both sides in this war claimed victory, all of us missed that C&C opportunity for globality. When Africa India and China called for C&C at COP-3 in Kyoto in December 1997 and the US gave this some support, this took Kyoto Protocol's contestants out of their comfortable war-zone of half truths into the whole truth and the new real-politik of climate change. So they campaigned against it and bequeathed the further rounds of division spoken against by Tony Blair, in preference to the science-based unity we so desperately need.

The blunt truth is there are no military solutions to climate change as it doesn't have an address. The deal needed is one that demonstrates we are committed to solving the problem faster than we are creating it. Kyoto obviously doesn't do this. The US reiterates the Byrd Hagel Resolution. 'Windmills versus nuclear' re-trivializes the issue. We have to make a deal based on limits, rights and conservation if we are to survive as a species and technology is useless without this.

This is the climate cross on which Mr Blair is now being crucified as he struggles to re-establish the obvious truth that this obviously global problem requires a global solution. Mr Blair knows we need this deal urgently and however controversial, he usually does what he believes to be right. Though his advisors carp, they too know and say privately that C&C is logical and right and ines-

capable. As the Archbishop of Canterbury observed, "C&C only seems Utopian if we don't honestly consider the alternatives."

At this critical moment in humanity's Odessey, C&C can steer us between growth and damages to Ithaca. Come on Tony, Cherie unpicks her tapestry nightly; - come home and make history now.

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C&C Negotiation Workshop COP-11 Aubrey Meyer

Dec 08, 2005 21:44 PST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GCI Press Release from Montreal Conference 08/12/2005.

Contraction & Convergence (C&C) framework to be modeled on final day of the UNFCCC conference.

On the final day of the UN Conference in Montreal the Global Commons Institute (GCI) will host a workshop where delegates will work together to model the negotiations, which would be needed to reach a unanimous resolution to work as a united planet to avert the consequences of climate change.

Delegates are invited to take roles as the country of their choice and use the contraction and convergence framework to decide two key figures; the stabilization level of atmospheric CO2 concentration and the date of convergence upon an equal per capita share of carbon permits. The workshop will take a positive but pragmatic approach. A time pressure will be applied and in order to promote the need to work together: not reaching a consensus will not be an option.

The workshop will take the following form:

1. Introductory Lecture by Tim Helweg-Larsen (GCI) on Climate Change and the C&C framework.
2. Negotiations The delegates will work as a model United Nations to answer the following questions:

a) What level of atmospheric Carbon Dioxide is considered to be safe? b) In what year should the distribution of carbon permits converge upon equal per capita shares?

3. Discussion An informal discussion will consider the practical advantages of contraction and convergence as a post 2012 framework.

The Global Commons Institute [GCI] is a London-based policy group that has been developing the C&C framework over the past decade. In the run up to the Montreal conference, UK Prime Minister Tony Blair said: -

"We need a sound, rational, science-based unity, which ensures the right legally-binding framework to incentivize sustainable development. We urgently need a framework, with the necessary targets, sensitively and intelligently applied over the right time-frame that takes us beyond 2012. It can only happen if the US, China and India join with Europe, Japan and others to create such a framework."

[30th October 2005]

The workshop will demonstrate that C&C, whilst clearly resulting in significant cuts in carbon emissions offers advantages to all types of countries whether they are developed or developing, oil-producing or otherwise. For this reason C&C is supported by a diverse range of groups, individuals and nations.

Notes for Editors

1: Tim Helweg-Larsen GCI Operations Director for COP11 is available for interview:

Tel. +44 (0)7941 751 929

Email. write-@gmail.com

2: Full details on the mechanics of C&C and the extent of supporters is available in GCI's brochure which is available at GCI's stand at the conference. For further information on the Contraction and Convergence model and the Global Commons Institute please go to [www.gci.org.uk](http://www.gci.org.uk)

3. The workshop will be in the MacKensie River room from 11am - 12.30 on Friday 9th December.



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Bill, not Byrd, is the Hare Brain. Aubrey Meyer

Dec 11, 2005 07:20 PST

In June 1997, Greenpeace proposed "The Carbon Logic" [William Hare] and used it to attack the 'Byrd Brained' Byrd-Hagel-Resolution of the US Senate. The deposited tonnes of coal on Capitol Hill to underline the insult.

This Hare-Brained behaviour illustrates the puerility underlying Kyoto's anti-US campaign.

GCI says that C&C and the Byrd Hagel Resolution are essentially the same coherent logic: -

[www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf)

GCI, not to mention the UNFCCC, says that some form of C&C is required by definition to achieve the UNFCCC objective and so avoid dangerous rates of climate change.

We also say that by contrast, the Greenpeace carbon-logic is now expeditiously ignored by them as their "Hare-Brained" campaign against the USA unfolds, and increasingly informs the growing institutional failure that lurks behind the "Polar Bears Hate George Bush" T-Shirts.

Greenpeace said in 1997 . . .

"To limit ecological damage, the carbon budget calculated by Greenpeace demonstrates that only approximately 150-270 billion tonnes of carbon may be emitted. If no action is taken to stop deforestation then only around 150 billion tonnes can be emitted."

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/T?&report=sr054&dbname=cp105&>

GCI notes that since 1997, the fossil fuel economy has emitted around 50

– 60 billion tonnes of carbon to the atmosphere in a growth pattern.

We also read that Greenpeace now says of the Montreal COP-11 outcome [2005], "We got just about everything we asked for," [Sawyer - sic] with 'Bill' Hare being presented as one of the world's 'leading environmentalists'.

GCI observes that Greenpeace either can't do simple arithmetic or that they accept that it is Bill not Byrd who is the Hare Brain.

The Montreal agreement results in the future global emissions path of 6 plus billion tonnes per annum and rising. This means that by around 2020, continuing at something near the present rate of annual global growth [2% p/a] 100 gigatonnes will have been emitted globally.

According to "The Carbon Logic" - emissions will then suddenly and magically just cease overnight.

Does anyone believe that? Of course not, and on present trends we'll be lucky not to repeat that integral of output for decades beyond that, triggering dangerous and even chaotic rates of climate change.

The Montreal outcome of COP-11 was negotiated by people who alarmingly know this, may of whom are actively warning of the Armageddon to come. The idea this outcome is 'progress' can only be construed as progress towards dangerous climate change. This continues apace and Greenpeace know this and their delighted view of this outcome is risible and even touched.

Both the political and ecological situation is worsening. The US China argument mediated by BH/C&C remains unaddressed, and the greenhouse gas emissions are growing faster than ever.

Moreover feedbacks loom. The historic pattern is that half of each year's emissions are retained in the atmosphere. The ppmv value of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in 1997 was 362 ppmv. At the end of 2005 it is 380, so the atmosphere appears to have retained 41 billion tonnes.

As each part per million of CO<sub>2</sub> weighs 2.13 billion tonnes, this shows that the fraction of atmospheric retention is increasing above its historic average of retention at 50%, strongly suggesting that feedback to the system as a whole is increasingly positive [thus reinforcing the concentration rise and therefore the warming trend].

We appear to be going into a death trap.



Airborne Fraction of Emissions Growing    Aubrey Meyer

Jan 10, 2006 03:33 PST

C&C urgently required to avert the remorseless rise in the atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub>.

In a context of the history and the future of human ghg emissions, this paper shows that because the fraction of each year's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions retained in the atmosphere seems now to be increasing, the need for the C&C basis at the UN climate negotiations is now more urgent than ever.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Fred.pdf>

C&C Bill in the House of Commons published next week.

Good summary of Montreal at: -

[http://www.channel4.com/science/microsites/S/science/nature/politics\\_of\\_carbon.html](http://www.channel4.com/science/microsites/S/science/nature/politics_of_carbon.html)

Good summary of 2005 at: -

[http://www.edie.net/news/news\\_story.asp?id=10930&channel=0](http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=10930&channel=0)

"Does C&C have the pull of the Casimir Effect and Music?"- RSA - music and climate change - lecture 16th February 2006: -

<http://www.rsa.org.uk/events/detail.asp?eventID=1788>

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&C Parliamentary Bill and Support Motion    Aubrey Meyer

Jan 17, 2006 04:04 PST

Please ask your MP and, if possible, your local council to endorse this Early Day Motion in support of the C&C Bill now before the UK House of Commons, and the bill itself.

The opportunity extends over this 2006 session of parliament [until the summer break].

The second reading of the bill is scheduled for July. Support helps this reading to occur.

EDM 1141

CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE APPROACH TO

CLIMATE CHANGE 29.11.2005

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=29500&SESSION=875>

Challen, Colin

"That this House welcomes the presentation of the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill, which seeks to establish a clear, full-time framework for tackling climate change; notes that humankind has no choice but to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a sustainable level within a defined period; further notes that it is unlikely that any international framework will succeed if it is not based on the principle of equity through the equal distribution of emissions rights, and that any solution put forward which does not solve the problem of climate change faster than the problem is created is no solution at all; and calls upon members of parliaments around the world to put forward similar bills in their own legislatures."

The "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/092/06092.i-i.html#j01>

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 – Interpretation:

In this Act -

"carbon emission rights" means rights to discharge greenhouse gases into the atmosphere;

"contraction and convergence" means —

(a) the stabilising of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at a safe and stable level, with planned progress towards that objective by an agreed date, and

(b) the equitable distribution of carbon emission rights among individual states or groups of

states, in proportion to their population, with planned progress towards that objective by an agreed date, as agreed in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992 ("UNFCCC");

"full-term contraction budget for global greenhouse gas emissions" and "contraction budget" mean an arrangement for the progressive reduction of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases to a safe and stable level over a defined period;

"greenhouse gases" means -

- (a) carbon dioxide,
- (b) methane,
- (c) nitrous oxide,
- (d) hydrofluorocarbons,
- (e) perfluorocarbons,
- (f) sulphur hexafluoride, and
- (g) any other gas which may be prescribed in regulations made by the Secretary of State;

"safe and stable level" means a maximum concentration of 450 million parts per volume, or such lower level as may be prescribed in regulations made by the Secretary of State.

## 2 Duty of Secretary of State

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to pursue a policy of combating global climate change in accordance with the principles of contraction and convergence.

## 3 Implementation of policy

In order to further the policy set out in section 2, the Secretary of State shall seek to secure international agreement on—

- (a) a safe and stable level of concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere;
- (b) a full-term contraction budget for global greenhouse gas emissions;
- (c) the distribution of the contraction budget among individual states or groups of states in the form of carbon emission rights in such a way that distribution in proportion to population is achieved before the end of the period to which the contraction budget applies, whether or not a population base-year has been agreed;
- (d) accelerating the rate of global convergence relative to the rate of global contraction in the contraction budget in its application to different regions of the world, whether developed or not;
- (e) the sale and purchase of carbon emission rights, both between and within individual states, in order to promote the development of, and investment in, technology which reduces carbon emissions to a minimum; and
- (f) the revision by the Conferences of Parties and Meetings of Parties to the UNFCCC of any agreed rates of contraction and convergence so as to take account of improvements in the scientific understanding of the dangers of climate change.

## 4 Report to Parliament

The Secretary of State shall in the course of each year lay before Parliament a report containing -

- (a) an assessment commissioned by him of the current state of global emissions of greenhouse gases;
- (b) a statement on the progress made in the previous year in negotiations towards implementing the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this Act;
- (c) his assessment of the efficacy of the instruments of domestic policy which are designed to give effect to the contraction budget; and
- (d) a statement on the progress made in the previous year towards the implementation of the contraction budget.

## 5 Regulations

- (1) Any power of the Secretary of State to make regulations under this Act is exercisable by statu-

tory instrument.

Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill

(2) Any regulations under this Act shall be laid before Parliament after being made and shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

6 Expenses

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament any expenditure incurred by a Minister of the Crown by virtue of this Act.

7 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Act 2006.

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UK Gov. Climate Report: - C&C Aubrey Meyer

Feb 01, 2006 11:26 PST

"Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change" [UK Gov. Feb. 2006]

Deep in the report . . .

"This section presents regional emission allowances that follow from the global emission pathways. We chose one out of many possible options for the international regime of differentiating future (post-2012) commitments: the Contraction & Convergence approach.

This approach is selected here, as it is a widely known and transparent approach despite concerns in regard to its political feasibility. The approach defines emission allowances on the basis of convergence of per capita emission allowances (starting after 2012) of all countries (including the USA)<sup>5</sup> in 2050 under a contracting global emissions pathway.

There are a number of reasons to assume that the US might join a post-2012 regime, whatever it may be called. Avoiding future disasters like the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina may play a part in this, as well as high oil prices and the motivation of becoming less dependent on foreign fossil fuel reserves."

Please support the C&C bill in the House of Commons: -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/092/2006092.htm>

and ask your MP to support the EDM that supports it: -

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=29500&SESSION=875>

Mixed message from Government yesterday included: -

"climate change is more serious than we previously said",

"<Avoiding> dangerous climate change" is the title of our new publication",

" $\pm$  400 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> ppmv [ $\pm$  10 years hence] is probably the atmospheric accumulation maximum under which we can hope to avoid dangerous rates of climate change; but we cannot hope for <less> than 550 ppmv" [Sir David King]

[If you are Jim Lovelock words to this effect], 'nuclear power does not avoid dangerous climate change, but it does establish a pocket of western civilization in the UK, where the lights remain on in an otherwise darkening world'.

Pro C&C Bill Editorial

"The human economy emits vast amounts of greenhouse gas by burning oil, coal and gas. The sharply increasing volume of these emissions is accumulating in the atmosphere, accelerating the rise in their atmospheric concentration. This traps more heat-energy from the sun and dangerous rates of climate change with devastating damages are in prospect. As Jim Lovelock suggested, failing to stem this trend means civilization may be completely overwhelmed during the decades ahead.

To avoid this we have to solve the problem faster than we create it. Globally, we have to achieve the goal of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed in 1992, by drastically cutting greenhouse emissions. The agreed objective of the UNFCCC is the sta-

bilisation of greenhouse gas concentration in the global atmosphere at a level that is 'safe'. These cuts – or the international emissions "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) [see below] – are required by definition. C&C is like turning off the taps to a bath that is about to overflow. Merely hoping to do this, or as bureaucrats say, being 'aspirational' about this, is deluded. In the analogy the atmosphere is the bath, the emissions are the taps and the impending overflow is what will wash civilization away unless we replace hope with C&C.

After fifteen years of aspirational politics, the taps are open wider than ever and the bath is nearly full. The global quarrel about who should turn off a tap first continues. The Kyoto Protocol mediates this by restricting some emissions measured in millions of tonnes, while ongoing global emissions accumulate in the atmosphere in billions of tonnes. The result is that concentrations, temperature and damages are now rising faster than ever. Worse, the atmosphere now appears to be retaining a larger fraction of each year's emissions than the historic average of 50% and this, due to failure of the natural sinks for the gases, seems set to increase. As we continue to accelerate the problem much faster than we act to resolve it, Kyoto is kerb-crawling and Jim's pessimism is justified. Some fatalists suggest we 'adapt' to the looming disaster. Others, who previously said there wasn't a problem, now say actually there is a problem, but not one we can do anything about.

Is there any comfort? Since the Second World Climate Conference in 1990, the US government has correctly said that the warming is a global problem and it requires a global solution. The only questions were, "how much warming how soon?" Some have vilified the US for requiring this 'globality' even though they were obviously right. When the US Senate supported this globality with equity in the Byrd Hagel Resolution in 1997, the Kyoto lobby wanted the US scalp and denounced them. This resolution argued that international emissions control would be shared equitably. But the Kyoto lobby insisted that the Protocol would gradually tie everyone in to the reconciliation with each other and the rational objective of the UNFCCC in time to avoid Jim's grim prognosis. This was nonsense.

It is not rational or even 'aspirational'. It is irrational and delusional. The rate at which the global 'we' are causing the problem now actually accelerates against the rate at which Kyoto responds to avoid it and 'Kyoto-2' already projects this deepening failure.

The 11th Conference of the Parties to the [COP-11] UNFCCC took place last December in Montreal to operationalise Kyoto and start exploring its second phase. But in mid November Tony Blair told the London Lord Mayor's dinner, "We urgently need a framework, with the necessary targets intelligently applied of the right time-frame that takes us beyond 2012. It can only happen if the US, China and India join with Europe and Japan and others to create such a framework". On the eve of COP-11 he asked, "will it be another round of division or the sound, rational, science-based unity, which ensures the right legally-binding framework to incentivise sustainable development."

He didn't get what he called for. At the end of two weeks defending the remnants of Kyoto, shameless statements were made claiming COP-11 as a 'triumph' because the US had given permission for Kyoto signatories to keep talking to each other while all the world's major polluters resisted any inclusion in this process.

This was like giving permission for apples to fall to the ground, wolves to howl at the moon and God to give up the Holy Ghost. Government and non-government organisations who issued these statements should look at their record. It was forgivable ten years ago, not now. If COP-11 was Kyoto's 'natural selection' in defence of the species against potential extinction by climate change, what was not shown was that we are collectively fit to – or going to -survive.

What shows that we are fit to survive, is the framework of a rational science-based unity called for by the Prime Minister. This means a concentration-target-based which – as the UNFCCC Secretariat, the US Senate and numerous others have recognized - is "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) as a matter of science and rationality: - [1] on the science side and subject to revision, future greenhouse gas emissions from human sources must be budgeted for the full-term at an overall rate that contracts globally, consistent with stabilising the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gas at a safe value and [2] the tradable shares in, or entitlements to, this obviously

valuable global equity are agreed on the principle of starting where nations are at and deliberately converging these shares to per capita equality globally by a date to be agreed well inside the contraction schedule.

The faster convergence is relative to contraction, the more this pre-distribution can settle the historic environmental debt to, and eradicate poverty in, poorer nations with low emissions. Unlike the Developed Countries, they have had no detectable impact on the atmosphere but climate change does have a very detectable impact on them.

Then within nations, and regions of nations [like the EU] and the global family of nations, we will all have share and the benefit of a rational and constitutional arrangement that is predicated on the same goal where the means to it, and the detail of it, are just that – a predictable outcome because what we get out is the result of what we put in.

Next to this framework Kyoto is and unpredictable and irrational patchwork. You can't mediate anything – especially including nuclear-versus-windmills 'energy policy' - as we don't know what we are planning for. Do you defend Holland or Bangladesh against sea-level-rise? How high do you build the Thames Barrier – a metre a decade?

23 Corporate Executives complained about this to the leaders of the G-8 last July. In a joint letter they told the governments to replace the Kyoto patchwork with a global concentration-target specific framework so the commercial sector could play its part.

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/WEF\\_Statement.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/WEF_Statement.pdf)

Institutions of the UK building industry specified that this was C&C

[www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/CIBSE.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/CIBSE.pdf)

and joined with numerous civil society organisations and eminent persons worldwide, the Churches, most UK political parties, several foreign governments and many local government councillors and MPs of all parties who want the C&C bill already before the House of Commons to be passed into law."

Please support the C&C bill in the House of Commons:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/092/2006092.htm>

and ask your MP to support the EDM that supports it:

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=29500&SESSION=875>

[aub-@gci.org.uk](mailto:aub-@gci.org.uk)

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The War on Error . . . Aubrey Meyer

Feb 04, 2006 04:45 PST

On Thursday Feb 2 06, Robert Newman, put a piece in The Guardian titled:

"It's capitalism or a habitable planet - you can't have both."

He argued that: - "Our economic system is unsustainable by its very nature. The only response to climate chaos and peak oil is major social change."

<http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0,,1700409,00.html>

False dichotomies lead to false choices and compound error.

Today, Saturday Feb 4, Guardian Letters carried two responses.

The first makes war on this error.

The second doesn't and so inevitably leads back to the world of error and the war on terror.

"Robert Newman says we have to start planning for a system of personal carbon rationing or domestic tradable quotas.

Agreed, but he also says we are caught between climate change and peak oil. Stated like this there is no escape: oil depletion and a certain degree of climate change are inevitable.

Assuming there is any choice left, we are caught between growth and climate damage. Here - just possibly - we might yet steer between them. To do this, we link personal carbon rationing and the



widely supported international scheme of carbon rationing known as contraction and convergence. C&C and DTQs are now the subject of private member's bills to parliament."

Colin Challen MP

Lab, Morley and Bothwell

Aubrey Meyer

Global Commons Institute

"Robert Newman is right to assert that climate change is a serious challenge, but he is wrong to assume that business is by definition bad for the environment. As Jonathon Porritt has pointed out: "Capitalism is now the only game in town." Trying to wish capitalism away will not work and not help either.

We simply will not succeed in cutting UK carbon emissions unless the business community, which has indeed been part of the problem - but so have we all - is part of the solution.

It is possible, indeed essential, to have both economic growth and a decent environment. A future based on either/or would be bleak indeed.

Peter Ainsworth MP

Shadow secretary of state for the environment, food & rural affairs

Please support the war on error by supporting the C&C and DTQ bills: -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/092/2006092.htm>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmbills/136/04136.1-i.html>

and ask your MP to support the EDM that supports it: -

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=29500&SESSION=875>

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Support Dave Hampton letters to Press Aubrey Meyer

Feb 04, 2006 07:14 PST

FOR UNITED CARBON WE STAND

Please - can you co-sign David Hampton's letter to the Guardian letters pages? [For Monday next].

email Dave at [da-@carboncoach.com](mailto:da-@carboncoach.com)

email them at [lett-@guardian.co.uk](mailto:lett-@guardian.co.uk)

Letter Text - for publication

FOR UNITED CARBON WE STAND

Recent displays of cross party unity on tackling climate change are significant and welcome developments, in the light of ever worsening climate warnings. All involved deserve recognition.

Strictly, only the Green party's policies will have the downward effect on greenhouse gases badly needed. Will David Cameron and the 276 MPs calling for united action now adopt those policies? I hope so.

Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing the 'coalition' in willing action. I trust all 276 MPs will join The All Party Parliamentary Group and its "25/5 Campaign" - A 25% reduction in personal CO2 footprint in five years. So far a total of 44 MPs have. These include Peter Ainsworth (Con) and Norman Baker (LibDem). These 44 are leading from the front - cutting their personal carbon before asking others to do so. Will David Cameron, Tony Blair, and the leaders of other main parties, stand and be (carbon) counted?

I trust the 276 MPs will also put their shoulder to the wheel and support both the Domestic Tradeable Quotas (Carbon Emissions) Bill and the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill. These excellent initiatives by Labour MP Colin Challen deserve full and total cross party support. Putting aside party differences, what we need right now is every man woman and child tackling global warming together.



Dave Hampton  
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M +44 (0) 7768 806 451  
E da-@carboncoach.com

You can also support his letter to the Independent

From: Dave Hampton - Carbon Coach

To: lett-@independent.co.uk

Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2006 2:15 PM

Subject: "Survival equals focus plus time"

Sir

If it were not so tragic, it would be funny, how quickly we humans (and our earth media) get distracted, from the business of saving ourselves from certain climate catastrophe. Woody Allen was attributed the remark "Comedy equals tragedy plus time." For our species now it is more a case of "Survival equals focus plus time".

Two weeks ago (Thursday 19th Jan) a 14 year old young lady, Isabelle Ellis-Cockcroft had a remarkable letter printed - as Independent letter of the day. For me it was the letter of the year. 'New generation is inheriting a world of climate chaos' said it all. She sees the future with clarity and her words will have stirred all true world leaders.

Instead of devoting our energies to analysis of differences, (race, creed, religion, opinion even) we could find common cause in healing our common Home. We have made our Earth ill. This is the only issue that currently need occupy us. Today's 'cartoon blasphemy' story will pass. The days are passing, and so will we, if we do not awaken to the reality that everyone shares the same air that we breathe, and that fossil addiction, unchecked, will soon unleash climate forces so destructive that no-one's God will save us.

Dave Hampton

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The War on Error - C&C at the RSA    Aubrey Meyer  
Feb 14, 2006 08:08 PST

Royal Society of Arts  
John Adam Street  
LONDON  
Thursday 16 February, 6pm  
The War on Error  
Contraction and Convergence:  
Global solution to climate change

Aubrey Meyer, Director,  
Global Commons Institute  
Chaired by Colin Challen MP  
Author of C&C Bill in House of Commons  
5.30pm Speakers reception  
6pm Welcome by Sir Paul Judge, RSA Chairman  
Introduction by chair-person Colin Challen  
6.10pm Aubrey Meyer presents  
6.55pm Audience Q&A  
7.25pm Lecture ends  
Vote of thanks by Colin Challen  
Vote of thanks and close (Sir Paul Judge)

7.30pm ENDS

8pm Speakers dinner with invited guests Discussion led by Sir Paul Judge

<http://www.rsa.org.uk/events/detail.asp?EventID=1788>

"In this RSA lecture, Aubrey Meyer will present the case for the global solution to global climate change known as "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C). C&C is an international "shrink-and-share arrangement" for the greenhouse gas emissions caused by human beings and now causing climate change.

In his lecture, noting that there are no military solutions to climate change, Meyer will make the case for the goal-specific framework of C&C that could stabilise the rising concentrations of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere and perhaps mediate the increasingly conflict-prone rush to global growth that drives this rise.

Aubrey Meyer spent most of his working life as a composer and string player in various orchestras around the world, before joining the UK Green Party in 1989 where he co-founded the Global Commons Institute and the C&C campaign, which he has run at and beyond the UN from that day to this.

Meyer's work has brought him many accolades, including the Schumacher Award in 2000 and the City of London life-time's achievement award in 2005, with a citation that read: "in recognition of an outstanding personal contribution to combating climate change at an international level".

Podcasts and audio downloads

[Click here](#) to listen to the live webcast on the night of the lecture.

Edited highlights will be available as an audio download (MP3 file) and as a podcast. [Click here](#) for more information.

Library Resources

John Barry and Gene E. Frankland (Eds.).

International encyclopedia of environmental politics. Routledge, 2002.

363.705 INT

William James Burroughs.

Climate change: a multidisciplinary approach. Cambridge University Press, 2001. 551.6 BUR

Graciela Chichilnisky and Geoffrey Heal (Eds.).

Environmental markets: equity and efficiency. Colombia University Press, 2000. 363.738 ENV

Mayer Hillman.

How we can save the planet. Penguin Books, 2004. 363.7 HIL

Aubrey Meyer.

Contraction and convergence: global solutions to climate change. Green Books. 2000, 363.738 MEY

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MP support for C&C EDM Please Aubrey Meyer

Feb 28, 2006 05:46 PST

Please ask your MP to add their support to Early Day Motion 1141. [See below].

The rate of climate change is increasingly severe and in response, this morning the British Army was put on alert to intervene in climate change related conflicts – as if they didn't have enough on their mess-tins:

<http://news.independent.co.uk/environment/article348196.ece>

[Response to Indi below].

EDM 1141

CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE 29.11.2005

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=29500&SESSION=875>

Challen, Colin

"That this House welcomes the presentation of the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill, which seeks to establish a clear, full-time framework for tackling climate change; notes that humankind has no choice but to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a sustainable level within a defined period; further notes that it is unlikely that any international framework will succeed if it is not based on the principle of equity through the equal distribution of emissions rights, and that any solution put forward which does not solve the problem of climate change faster than the problem is created is no solution at all; and calls upon members of parliaments around the world to put forward similar bills in their own legislatures."

Signatures

Conservative Party

Key, Robert

Labour Party

Abbott, Diane

Caton, Martin

Challen, Colin

Chaytor, David

Clapham, Michael

Corbyn, Jeremy

Cryer, Ann

Cunningham, Jim

Dean, Janet

Dismore, Andrew

Dowd, Jim

Drew, David

Etherington, Bill

Gibson, Ian

Godsiff, Roger

Hopkins, Kelvin

Hoyle, Lindsay

Jones, Lynne  
Lazarowicz, Mark  
Lloyd, Tony  
McCafferty, Chris  
Meale, Alan  
Short, Clare  
Simpson, Alan  
Soulsby, Peter  
Taylor, David  
Truswell, Paul  
Vis, Rudi  
Walley, Joan  
Williams, Betty

#### Liberal Democrats

Baker, Norman  
Breed, Colin  
George, Andrew  
Harvey, Nick  
Heath, David  
Hemming, John  
Hunter, Mark  
Lamb, Norman  
Leech, John  
Opik, Lembit  
Stunell, Andrew  
Webb, Steve

#### Plaid Cymru

Llwyd, Elfyn

#### Scottish National Party

Weir, Mike

“Is Alerting British Armed Services to mediate conflicts driven by climate change well-judged? Averting dangerous climate change itself is what’s needed, if the military are to remain relevant. The proposal to avert ‘climate-chaos’ by having the UK cuts its emissions locally by 3% a year is, like the Kyoto Protocol, wholly inadequate.

To stabilise the rising concentration of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere a global full-term contraction of emissions and the international convergence to equal per capita shares of this is needed in short order.

This Contraction and Convergence - or C&C - is the ‘rational science-based unity’ called for by the Prime Minister, is the basis of the cross-party unity in parliament supported by most political parties in the UK and has significant international support.

As the Independent has taken to telling the truth about the climate problem, let us now establish reconciliation with this C&C answer as soon as possible.”

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

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Time Flannery "C&C to Face Emergency" Aubrey Meyer

Mar 08, 2006 01:18 PST

"When facing a grave emergency, it's best to be single-minded."

TIM FLANNERY of THE WEATHER MAKERS on C&C

Book Launch St Paul's Cathedra London 06 02 2006

Accompanied by David Attenborough and Claire Foster

"Because of the differing capacities of rich and poor, and of human versus natural systems to adapt to climate change, some in the environmental movement are characterising adaptation as having acquired 'a genocidal meaning'.

By this they mean that a cosseted, wealthy few may survive climate change by retreating to some refuge, but the vast majority will inevitably perish, as will the bulk of Earth's species and ecosystems.

English environmental politician Aubrey Meyer pointed out how this matter is being discussed at the highest levels. Economists who participated in the IPCC discussions stated that doing anything serious about climate change was too expensive to be worthwhile, leading in Meyer's view to 'the effective murder of members of the world's poorer populations', and whose lives by the economists' estimates were worth only a fifteenth that of a rich person.

I agree with Meyer that adaptation of this sort is genocide, and attempted Gaia-cide as well. For this reason I believe that our efforts must be put into avoiding the change in the first place.

Looking further ahead, there is a democratic, transparent and simple form of international agreement that might one day replace Kyoto. Known as Contraction and Convergence (C&C), it has been championed by UK politician Aubrey Meyer for over a decade.

In some ways C&C is an ultra-democratic variant of the Kyoto Protocol, for at its heart is the simple idea that the only equitable way to reduce emissions is to grant every human being an equal 'right to pollute' with greenhouse gases. As with Kyoto, this right could be traded, though under C&C the volume of trade is likely to be far larger than under Kyoto.

In order to understand why, let us look at Americans as an example. Americans emit three times more CO<sub>2</sub> per person per year, than Europeans, and over a hundred times more than the citizens of the least developed countries. Under C&C, the citizens of the developed countries would need to buy, from the world's poor, sufficient carbon credits to cover their emissions. The trade would take place on a country-to-country basis (rather than individual-to-individual) and would represent a massive wealth transfer. The spur to reduce emissions that this represents is enormous, and this is the 'convergence' part of the equation, for it will force the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of all citizens, regardless of wealth, to converge.

As the point on which they are converging is far lower than that of today, it also represents a great contraction in total emissions.

In Meyer's view, C&C begins with three steps:

- 1) Reach an international agreement on a 'cap' on CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere.
- 2) Estimate how quickly emissions need to be cut back to reach that target.
- 3) Estimate the total 'carbon budget' that steps 1 + 2 give us, and divide that budget among the world's population on a per capita basis.

As with Kyoto, this process would necessitate the creation of a carbon currency which Meyer calls the Ebcus, and a pre-distribution of Ebcus, he argues, could be used to fund clean technology and clear international debts. And there is no reason why sometime in the future the Kyoto Protocol could not take up the principal innovations of C&C. Indeed, according to Meyer, a number of parties to the Kyoto agreement approve of the model.

C&C represents a far greater departure from business as usual than does Kyoto. It is strong medicine for a dire malaise, and as with all strong medicine there are potential side effects. One is that the scheme might eventually do away with world poverty and the north-south divide. Not all aspects of the proposal should displease the conservatives, for by including every human being in existence under its umbrella it obliterates concern about 'free riders' in the developing world that exists under Kyoto.

Among its potential downsides is the initial cost to industrialised countries. It is also possible that some developing nations may equate population size with wealth transfer and thus decline to act on family planning programs. No such scheme, however, is without flaws, and this one at least is on the table and has received some support.

Some may see hidden agendas at work in C&C, which raises one great potential pitfall on the road to climatic stability: the propensity for groups to hitch their ideological bandwagon to the push for sustainability. The nuclear lobby is already doing this, but so too is the 'less is more' lobby, who believe that humans must reduce their overall consumption if sustainability is ever to be achieved. Both arguments have their merits, but they derive from an ideological base that has the potential to alienate many people, without whose efforts the climate change war will be lost.

When facing a grave emergency, it's best to be single-minded.

There are only two points that still need to be made. The very worst thing for citizens of the developed world to do would be to sit on their hands until something like C&C is adopted. Action is needed now, and the only responsible thing you, as a concerned individual, can do is to reduce your own emissions as far and as quickly as possible.

Finally, government is unlikely to do anything unless people demand it. To stiffen the resolve of your government in respect to climate change, you must put the issue at the top of your agenda when it comes time to vote. As Alfred Russel Wallace said over a century ago, 'Vote for no one who says "it can't be done". Vote only for those who declare "It shall be done".' And don't just ask your politician what their position is. Ask them what they, personally, are doing to reduce their own emissions."

## SHARING GOD'S PLANET – ANGLICAN SYNOD

### Contraction and Convergence

16. Synod is recommended to support a qualitatively different approach to global warming suggested originally by the Global Commons Institute - that of 'contraction and convergence'. This proposal is a call to the whole human family to realise its common home is our planet and to work together to achieve the necessary target of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions by something of the order of 60% by 2050. It does so by proposing a sharing out of the 'right' to emit such gases between nations in relation to the size of their population rather than the size of their economies (convergence), such that the sum of all nations' greenhouse gas emissions is within the amount that the planet can sustain (which will need to be contracted to 60% less than current emissions) by 2050. In the industrialised world, the amount of carbon emission is already way above what would be permitted within this framework; in other, less industrially developed countries, emissions fall far short of what they might emit. Industrially developed countries would be permitted to 'purchase' unused carbon and gas quota from less developed countries, thus both aiding their environmentally friendly development and introducing an incentive to the more industrialised countries to reduce their emissions over time.

17. The contraction and convergence model is a new paradigm, which challenges current paradigms of economic growth and development. It requires an international acceptance of the limitations of human consumption - not a restriction on any kind of growth, but only on that which goes beyond what is necessary for human flourishing. Economies can grow until they are strong; then they should be sustained within reasonable limits. As nature works within limits, so too should the human family. Recent studies of the causes of human happiness have found that people were happiest in societies where the highest paid individuals received no more than five times the lowest paid. 'Contraction and convergence' offers a framework of thinking that decouples economic growth from growth in the use of resources. Traditional economic indicators of progress such as



GDP can be replaced by broader indicators including those that measure wellbeing of people and planet.

18. The principles underlying the basic concept of 'contraction and convergence' are simple; its practical outworking will not be as straightforward and it is recognised that hard decisions and careful compromises will be needed. One reason that some developing countries dislike 'contraction and convergence' is that it writes off the richer world's carbon debt. The richer third of the world, it is argued, became rich through its use of oil and there will never be a level global economic playing field unless the balance sheet is itself levelled out. A 'no-regrets' policy effectively freezes the richer world's economic domination. There are suggested principles for a framework of 'contraction and convergence' that takes historic emissions into account. However it unfolds, the basic concept offers a way forward for the long term.

19. Operation Noah, a campaign organised by Christian Ecology Link on behalf of Churches' Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), involves individuals asking government to support contraction and convergence, while at the same time switching to green energy, as an individual demonstration of solidarity with the cause.

20. Although the Synod debate does not focus on energy policy, Synod needs to be aware that the question of future energy sources is a matter of urgent concern and debate. The assertion that carbon emissions need to be reduced drastically to a level that the earth can sustain has to be accompanied by practical suggestions as to how this can be done.

21. In addition to the slow but increasing co-operation of governments to reduce carbon dioxide emission there is much interest in looking at alternatives, none of which is incompatible. All have advantages but none is without its difficulties. Broadly and at the risk of over simplification there are five main alternatives. First, removing CO<sub>2</sub> from industrial processes can contribute to a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. But much further research is needed to improve performance and application.

22. Second, increased energy efficiency will reduce energy use and thus less production of carbon. But if this is to happen on the necessary scale it will need measures which are politically difficult and likely to be unpopular such as a high-energy or carbon tax. A national approach that echoes 'contraction and convergence' is that of Domestic Trading Quotas.

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Camden - "C&C's the way." Aubrey Meyer

Mar 09, 2006 14:56 PST

Excellent Climate Action Plan from London's Camden Council.

C&C led, charged with political will and practical action points.<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/CamdenClimateActionPlan.pdf>

Answers the UK Prime Minister's global call for a "rational, science based unity." Well done Camden. This is mitigation/prevention right under the nose of the ever-more directionless dither in Whitehall.

As the UK rattles sabres at Iran for wanting nuclear power, DEFRA and the Ministry of DEFENCE prepare to send the British Army to mediate unmitigated climate change impacts, resource-scarcity and conflicts-arising in Africa and else/verywhere!

And at this very moment, 20 million deaths are now UK media-projected this year alone in the Horn of Africa and down to Kenya from prolonged drought and famine, emissions-driven by climate change.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/famine/story/0,,1725978,00.html>

At this rate, the COP-12 meeting of the UN Climate Treaty in Nairobi in November this year is going to be like visiting a cemetery.

Surely it would be ethical and more sensible, even cheaper, to prevent the problem with "the rational scienc-based unity we so urgently need."

[Blair].

Trying to 'acclimatise' to and globally police the growing chaos of continued emissions from the economics of genocide, takes us into James Lovelock's scenario of total breakdown.

Camden.

"Recognising the limitations of our powers and resources, and other obstacles, to wider emission reductions, we will join with others to lobby national government and other relevant bodies to put in place stronger measures, and we will support the principle of contraction and convergence.

Contraction & convergence Contraction and Convergence is a global climate-policy framework, proposed to the United Nations since 1990 by the Global Commons Institute. The core of the idea of contraction & convergence is to set an appropriate level to which greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere will be allowed to rise, and then allocate globally the right to emit carbon on a per capita basis."

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UK MP on C&C & Stern Review Aubrey Meyer

Mar 14, 2006 03:40 PST

See article below by UK MP Colin Challen on C&C and Stern Report of Climate Change Economics to UK Government You can make your views known to this review [by this Friday 17 03 2006] through this link: -

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/Independent\\_Reviews/stern\\_review\\_economics\\_climate\\_change/sternreview\\_index.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/Independent_Reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/sternreview_index.cfm)

Please ask your MP to back EDM 1141

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=29500&SESSION=875>

in support of the C&C Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/092/2006092.htm>

Situation increasingly critical - CO2 rising faster than ever: -

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4803460.stm>

The Mauna Loa CO2 Observatory Site is back on-lin: -

<http://www.mlo.noaa.gov/LiveData/FDataCCG.htm>

UK research on climate change - Colin Challen

"I have to confess that much of the detailed content of Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change, the large volume published earlier this year as a result of the Exeter climate change scientific conference held last year, is beyond my grasp. But it seems that for any expert sceptics left – and there aren't many – a thorough read of this book would be a good use of their time. The UK's contribution during its G8 presidency has propelled our understanding of climate change to new levels, and sadly as more research is carried out the word 'avoiding' in the title of the Exeter book looks increasingly like it should be replaced by 'meeting.'

Another UK research project will prove equally as compelling. Sir Nick Stern's Review of the Economic Impacts of Climate Change should bring the cold scientific evidence into the domain of the increasingly hot politics of climate change. There is little likelihood that Stern will be able to avoid the conclusion that the costs of mitigating climate change will turn out to be much less over time than the costs of dealing with its impacts. A thorough economic study of that equation would be very welcome indeed, but still may not be enough to inspire the kind of immediate political response this challenge poses. His report should lead to a new school of climate change economic science, as opposed to economics led by the old, all-powerful exponential growth fallacy we still labour under.

None of this is welcome. Sir David King has made it clear how unwelcome the scientific evidence of climate change is in political circles, because whilst he would prefer us to limit CO2 emissions to something nearer to where we are now, hovering around 400ppmv, he publicly describes 550ppmv as 'politically realistic.' The uncertainties of climate change may allow some room for manoeuvre, but since those uncertainties could cut both ways, e.g. with feedback effects, the precautionary

principle should have all the more adherents.

My fear is that in respect of climate change we will be researched to death – the death of the lot of us. The Exeter conference surely punched the final nail into the sinking coffin of the climate change debate, and must now lead to determined, urgent action. The death toll is beginning to mount, not just the 150,000 who died in the 2003 European heatwave, but now the projected tens of millions in Africa who face drought and famine ascribed to climate change.

As we learn more about climate change, the story (somebody prove me wrong, please) will only get worse. Let us learn therefore how to turn our knowledge as best we can to our advantage – it must secure us a clear, rational and logical framework – called Contraction and Convergence. This was foreshadowed in the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at Rio in 1992. Just about everybody signed up to it, including the United States, and since then just about everybody has run away from its full consequences, although this madlong rush was briefly interrupted by a trip and a strained ankle in Kyoto five years later.

Thanks to Exeter, anytime someone says 'we need more time' we need simply ask over and over again, 'but what does the research tell you?'"

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Climate and Waste - C&C    Aubrey Meyer

Mar 20, 2006 04:26 PST

ACM Conference

Waste, Climate Change and C&C

London Zoo

Thursday 27 April 2005.

ACM Waste Management Plc is to hold the UK's first waste management and climate change conference.

[1] The potentially catastrophic effects of global climate change

[2] the positive effects of good waste management

[3] Government's latest waste legislation

[4] How good waste management practice offers direct benefits

[5] The negative effects already created by climate change

[5] "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C), the only real, global solution will be presented.

Speakers include: -

Barry Bolton CEO ACM Waste Management, "The threat of irreversible global climate change and its potentially catastrophic effect on the planet is something that concerns me very deeply;

Anton Van Santen from Defra's waste strategy team who will give an update on the latest findings of the waste strategy review 2005 and its impact on businesses;

Dirk Hazel Chief Executive of the ESA who will provide an industry perspective;

Professor Georgina Mace from ZSL who will outline the effects of climate change on animals and their habitats;

Aubrey Meyer, one of the world's leading experts on climate change, who will introduce the principles of Contraction and Convergence (C&C);

C&C forms the heart of a new climate change bill that is to be presented to the House of Commons in the summer and is in many peoples opinion the only realistic global solution to the problem.

In the light of growing interest, terms for entities, inter alia in the commercial sector, to display the C&C logo as a badge of commitment to the solution is under review at this time.

For more information about ACM Waste Management Plc or to receive an invitation to the event call: 0208 344 3064, email gre-@acmplc.com or visit [www.acmplc.com](http://www.acmplc.com) .

For further information, please contact:

ACM Waste Management Plc

Mollison Avenue

Brimsdown

Enfield

Middlesex

EN3 7NE

United Kingdom

Tel: 08700777555

Fax: 02088040166

Email: gre-@acmplc.com

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/ACM.pdf>

[http://www.edie.net/news/news\\_story.asp?id=11201&channel=0](http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=11201&channel=0)

[http://www.fmonline.co.uk/news\\_581.htm](http://www.fmonline.co.uk/news_581.htm)

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"Can We Do Enough Soon Enough?" Aubrey Meyer

Mar 22, 2006 11:52 PST

Can We Do Enough Soon Enough?

Chancellor Gordon Brown - Budget Speech Today 22 03 06

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget\\_06/bud\\_bud06\\_speech.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_06/bud_bud06_speech.cfm)

"With 98 per cent of emissions occurring outside Britain, climate change is a global issue which demands global solutions. So our first ambition must be a long-term international framework."

The Corporations called on Mr Blair for a "An inclusive Concentration-Target based Framework on Common Metrics" - many institutions now say this is C&C.

Mr Brown goes on, "And I can tell the house that at the heart of this is our plan to strengthen and extend beyond 2012, the EU emissions trading scheme. The developed world has a responsibility to help developing economies meet their energy needs in an environmentally sustainable way."

But then he says this: -

"So at the World Bank meetings in April, the Secretary of State for International Development and I will propose a World Bank facility— a \$20 billion – fund for developing economies to invest in alternative sources of energy and greater energy efficiency."

We cannot out-run climate change. When Tim Flannery agrees that <the economics of genocide> is the problem, the test of this is synthesizing that figure [\$20 Billion] with these crisis trends and cost-factors: -

[1] Just Hurricane Katrina's uninsured economic impact on New Orleans from last year is now put at \$100 billion and corporate consultants are urgently advocating C&C: devastating report at -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/LLOYDS1b.pdf>

[2] There is an attempted 'government/corporate-consensus' around the 550 ppmv stabilization-target emerging which [assuming stabilization could be 'controlled' at that value] is five or six decades away with a global-climate-damage slope accelerating all the way there [damages are going at twice the rate of growth, so on paper this bankrupts the global economy - see link above].

[3] Corporate advisors are interested in exploring what the ethical obligations of consuming customers, business and governments are for these impacts. There is - privately - frank admission that the polluter pays principal is not working and that it has morphed to mean is that a polluter pays either another polluter to pollute less, or to pay somebody to offset pollution and that it does not mean 'compensate' those who are most impacted.

[4] 20 million persons are projected to die this year alone, from the Horn of Africa down to Kenya, in climate change induced drought and famine.

Hard as it is to cope with, this is an emergency. We know that - to coin a phrase - 'Auschwitz is next door.' If you think that language is too strong, the advice from industry professionals is to "spell it out."

"Songs without words are not enough."

A C&C letter has been drafted by a former MP and Chair of GLOBE to Tony Blair for current MPs to co-sign and this will be circulated soon for more extra-parliamentary signatures. In the judgement of many C&C is the rational science based unity Mr Blair has called for.

[http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/RSA\\_C&C\\_G-8\\_Quotes.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/RSA_C&C_G-8_Quotes.pdf)

In the words of the current chair of GLOBE – the parliamentarians' network – "C&C is the only game in town."

But - "Can we do enough soon enough?"

[http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/RSA\\_Occasional\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/RSA_Occasional_Paper.pdf)

For many, tragically, it is already too late.

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BBC - "The Rich are now Killing the Poor" Aubrey Meyer

Mar 24, 2006 08:46 PST

This morning on BBC Radio 4 "Today" Programme [With an eye on the Climate Killing fields of Africa this year]

Climate Change Campaigners argue

"The Rich are now Killing the Poor"

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/listenagain/>

BBC Journalist Roger Harrabin retrieved the DFID submission to the Climate Review of Sir Nicholas Stern under the Freedom of Information

Act.

The main points are repeated in moderated form here: -

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4839834.stm>

The world's weather has become more extreme.

The poorest people in the world in Asia and Africa will be worst hit by climate change, a UK government report says.

It says droughts and floods fuelled partly by carbon emissions from countries such as the UK will hurt the same people targeted by overseas aid.

The report was obtained by BBC News under the Freedom of Information Act.

It says emissions are making natural disasters worse and warns that rising sea levels could undo more than half the development work in Bangladesh.

The internal report at the Department for International Development reveals the depth of concern shared by officials about climate change.

Rising seas

It warns that the cost of rising greenhouse gas emissions will fall predominantly on the poorest people who will be unable to cope.

Cross reference this with the budget.

Gordon Brown says in the budget speech: -

"With 98 per cent of emissions occurring outside Britain, climate change is a global issue which demands global solutions. So our first ambition must be a long-term international framework."

Note; "first ambition"! – struggling with a little incredulity here. Twenty years arguing the case for this [aka C&C] it is an advance. But its one that implies the yellow-emissions-peril from Chinese

growth more than the 'responsibility' referred to below

"And I can tell the house that at the heart of this is our plan to strengthen and extend beyond 2012, the EU emissions trading scheme."

This is hardly by definition an international framework, let-alone a 'long-term' one. But if it is, what is it please? Twenty years of saying "if it isn't C&C what is it?" is still the unanswered question.

"The developed world has a responsibility to help developing economies meet their energy needs in an environmentally sustainable way."

This seems caring. But is Brown's caring Green? We in the UK don't exactly have a record of being honest on the real issue here. It is simply that if we aren't and don't solve the emissions challenge globally [C&C], we're all going to be progressively devastated.

GCI shares a platform with Gordon Brown at the RIBA Conference in Venice in October. Cold Truths on the Table Now. [Details later].

Meantime, Hilary Benn's speech "Development Beyond Aid" seems to search for, but not find, the way through.

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/development/story/0,,1717128,00.html>

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DFID points to Stern Review    Aubrey Meyer

Mar 24, 2006 09:41 PST

Here are the DFID [UK Government Department for International Development] slides to Stern Climate Change Review.

[http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/DFID\\_Stern\\_Review.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/DFID_Stern_Review.pdf)

DFID point out that "they are slides - not as suggested by the BBC "a report" - and part of the early planning stages of policy development."

DFID's "Points for Stern Review to Consider"

Response requires both mitigation and adaptation –range of short & long term options

1 What are the necessary preconditions for a successful future framework?

2 TARGET/DATE: Define aim & timescale: i.e. a target to stabilise GHG concentrations at a safe (economically affordable) level by a specific date.

3 ALLOCATION: Need global participation through national targets, consistent with the global limit. [What is this if not C&C?]

4 MARKET/FISCAL: Financial mechanisms to generate resources for technology development & transfer.

5 MAINSTREAMING: CC risks factored into policy and investment decisions -active risk mitigation.

6 Inform UK position

7 Frameworks/Approach

Conclusions?

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Co-Sign Letter to Independent.    Aubrey Meyer

Mar 26, 2006 02:44 PST

On Saturday Morning 25 03 2006, the Independent ran a story on the global CO2 issue.

The story presented DFID's submission to the UK Government's "Stern Review" of climate change as "a specially commissioned report" with much shocking content - global death by CO2.

DFID's submission is now in the public domain as a result of the Freedom of Information Act having been used. This is welcome.

However, what would also be welcome, is for the Independent to report on the policy framework proposed by DFID.

The letter to the Independent [see below] does this - please consider adding your name to this



letter if you agree with it as the paper is interested in publishing it.

confirm asap to aubrey-@btinternet.com

FOR PUBLICATION

"It is good that the Independent story on DFID's submission to the Stern Review re-emphasizes the lethal nature of global climate change. The BBC reported this horror as the emissions of the "rich killing the poor" with climate change, with which point it is hard to disagree.

But the Independent should also report DFID's response to this problem. DFID's submission clearly state the "necessary preconditions for a successful future framework" to deal with this as [1] "a target to stabilise GHG concentrations at a safe level by a specific date" and [2] "global participation through the allocation of national targets [emissions budgets], consistent with the global limit."

Chancellor Gordon Brown says "the Government's number one ambition is a global solution, a long-term international framework" and many submissions to the Stern Review advocate this rationale as the Contraction and Convergence [C&C] model - or converging to equal per person sharing of the global emissions available under this concentration limit.

Millions of deaths due to unmitigated climate change projected in Africa for this year alone. The Independent can help governments to deal with this by upholding C&C as the best of their efforts and also reporting on the efforts of MPs to turn C&C into law.

Without this, you seem to offer only horror, guilt and doom."

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

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Indy carries Challen's C&C Challenge Aubrey Meyer

Mar 27, 2006 15:49 PST

DFID's 'Secret' Climate Memo Seems to Have Really Stirred the System.

Thank you for the many signatures of support for the letter circulated yesterday re the Independent and DFID's memo. They came from far and wide.

The reason given today that the letter would not be published in the paper today was that there was too much support for it. [Figure that out].

Maybe the Stern truth-telling 'op-ed' from Colin Challen [below] in the paper helps understand this unexpected development.

Do please keep sending your support though. It will all be passed on and it may help the Independent stay with this defence of the future . . . and that's got to be better than, "it is all too late".

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/commentators/article354051.ece>

Colin Challen:

We must think the unthinkable, and take voters with us

Published: 28 March 2006

"Climate change means that business as usual is dead. It means that economic growth as usual is dead. But the politics of economic growth and business as usual live on.

What needs to change to bring about a political tipping point? What is stopping us from taking the radical path we need to follow today if we are to avoid dangerous climate change tomorrow?

We are imprisoned by our political Hippocratic oath: we will deliver unto the electorate more goodies than anybody else. Such an oath was only ever achievable by increasing our despoliation of the world's resources. Our economic model is not so different in the cold light of day to that of the Third Reich - which knew it could only expand by grabbing what it needed from its neighbours.

Genocide followed. Now there is a case to answer that genocide is once again an apt description of how we are pursuing business as usual, wilfully ignoring the consequences for the poorest people in the world. The DfID submission to the Stern Review on the economics of climate change

makes it clear that climate change will do untold damage to the life chances of millions of people. To accept responsibility is not merely to say "sorry". Too often saying sorry seemed to be enough, like saying we're sorry for the slave trade. Rarely do such apologies come with compensation. But the strength of our relationship with climate change is that it gives us the power to change - it is not the past, it is the future. We can discharge our responsibilities by changing our behaviour. This will only be worthwhile if we can measure the impact of our policies within an overall framework which allocates responsibilities fairly and sustainably. This was indeed the assessment at the heart of the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), that so many countries including the US signed up to.

We know that we need to reduce our carbon emissions so that we arrive at a safe concentration in the atmosphere - perhaps 450 parts per million. We also know that without developing countries being part of a global agreement, it won't work. The US Senate rejected Kyoto because it wasn't inclusive enough. The UNFCCC spoke of equity. DfID told Stern that the "mitigation of greenhouse gases poses a fundamental equity problem".

The answer is convergence - we should aim to contract our emissions while converging to a per-capita basis of shared emissions rights. If our framework is disciplined by science, and not what is simply the current economic model, we may be able to break the Faustian pact we have entered into before it ends in tears.

Contraction and convergence at the domestic level could be addressed by introducing tradable carbon rations. A national carbon budget would be set each year, with year-on-year reductions, and equal per capita quotas would be issued annually - perhaps starting at around 10 tons or 10,000 "carbon units" each. For those who didn't use all their units, they could sell their surplus to those more profligate. Such an approach would stimulate investment in both energy reduction and alternatives.

These policies are a radical departure from business as usual. But since none of the mechanisms we currently have in place are solving the problem faster than it is being created, we must look to forging a new consensus which can think the unthinkable - and take the electorate along with it."

Colin Challen is the Labour MP for Morley and Rothwell, Leeds

Mike McCarthy announces Indy's Support for All-Party Climate Group Review

"Four senior ministers will, this morning, make one of the most embarrassing admissions of the Labour Government's nine years in office - that the official policy for fighting climate change has failed.

Yet, as they do so, a group of MPs will offer a different way forward in the struggle to combat global warming, one which they think is the only alternative. It will mean turning established principles of British economic life upside down. It will mean sacrifices from everyone. Therefore, they say, it will have to be taken out of politics.

In The Independent today, their leader, Colin Challen, the chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group, sets out the case for abandoning the "business as usual" pursuit of economic growth, which has been the basis of Western economic policy for two hundred years. Instead, he says, we must concentrate our efforts on putting a limit on the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from power stations and motor vehicles that are causing the atmosphere to warm.

To do this, Mr Challen and his colleagues believe, carbon will have to be rationed, for companies, individuals and, eventually, for countries. And only a full cross-party consensus would allow such a departure to be implemented without being destroyed by the political process.

Today, the group announces a climate change inquiry, inviting evidence from any interested parties, and readers of The Independent are invited to join in the debate. We will forward your responses to the committee.

The idea represents a radical rethink. Today the case for it will be dramatically illustrated as the Government admits that its Climate Change Programme Review, on which it has spent more than a year, will not deliver its key global warming target - to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 20 per cent less than 1990 levels by 2010.

This has been Labour's flagship green policy for more than a decade and the Environment Secretary Margaret Beckett, the Trade and Industry Secretary Alan Johnson, the Transport Secretary Alistair Darling and the Minister of Communities and Local Government David Milliband will explain why the target still seems elusive.

There have been arguments between Mrs Beckett's department, which led on the Review, and the DTI, over restrictions on industry to cut back on CO<sub>2</sub>. Mrs Beckett said at the weekend that the Government was "certainly not abandoning that target" and the review would "move us very much in the right direction".

But, she added: "We did postpone publishing the review because we hoped we could draw the strands together, but it just hasn't been possible to do that."

Yet the failure holds no mysteries for Mr Challen, Labour MP for Morley and Rothwell. He points out that the Government's policies, which are well-meant, are indeed lowering the carbon intensity of the economy. But the phenomenon of economic growth means that there are more and more plants, and the cuts are swamped by the growth. It is that growth which must be addressed.

"No amount of economic growth is going to pay for the cost of the damage caused by a new and unstable climate," he said.

He says that the pursuit of growth, which essentially has not changed since Victorian times, is misleading and the terms need to be redefined. Instead, we need a different policy which looks at how much carbon we can afford to emit. Some scientists think we should stabilise global atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations at between 450-550 parts per million to avoid dangerous climate change. Concentrations currently stand at just more than 380ppm.

"Domestically, we will need to introduce carbon rationing," he said. "Individuals would get an allowance each year, which would gradually come down."

Internationally, he would like the system, formalised in the policy known as Contraction and Convergence, developed by Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute. That would cut emissions of carbon-rich countries, while allowing those of carbon-poor countries to rise, until everyone has the same quota.

Mr Challen says the approach needs to be based on "actuality" - just how much carbon can we afford to emit before climate change brings us disaster?

But because such moves would require sacrifice on the part of individuals, a cross-party consensus would be essential to obviate the pursuit of short-term political advantage.

The beginnings of such a consensus have been outlined, with the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and minority parties now willing to work together.

But Mr Challen and his colleagues are looking for something more fundamental that would take in the radical new way forward. "We have to create the political space to address it," he said.

In his evidence to the committee's forthcoming inquiry, Mr Challen will propose the formation of a cross-party commission to look at climate change policies.

Promises kept and promises broken

#### GLOBAL WARMING

THEY PROMISED: "We will lead the fight against global warming, through our target of a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2010."

WHAT HAPPENED: Carbon emissions are 3 per cent higher than they were in 1997.

VERDICT: Promise not kept

#### INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

THEY PROMISED: "We will push environmental concerns higher up the international agenda."

WHAT HAPPENED: Global warming was a major feature of last year's G8 summit, hosted by Tony Blair, and the UK is on course to keep targets set at the Kyoto summit in 1997.

VERDICT: Promise kept

## TRANSPORT

THEY PROMISED: "An effective and integrated transport policy."

WHAT HAPPENED: Traffic has gone up 11 per cent since 1997 while it became 11 per cent more expensive to travel by bus, and rail journeys went up 4 per cent.

VERDICT: Promise broken

## GREEN TAXES

THEY PROMISED: "Just as work should be encouraged through the tax system, environmental pollution should be discouraged."

WHAT HAPPENED: Fuel duty, climate change levy, landfill tax etc. rose to 3.6 per cent of national income in 1999 and 2000. Then Gordon Brown froze fuel duty and road tax, and froze the climate change levy.

VERDICT: Promise not kept

## NUCLEAR POWER

THEY PROMISED: "We see no economic case for the building of new nuclear power stations."

WHAT HAPPENED: Tony Blair ordered a review of energy policy last autumn, which is likely to conclude that new nuclear power stations are needed.

VERDICT: Promise soon to be broken

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C&C; - fun, fundamentals and the zoo Aubrey Meyer

Mar 31, 2006 00:08 PST

UK 'All Party Climate Group' in Parliament

First Inquiry - call for evidence

Fundamentals

"Is cross-party consensus on climate change possible or desirable?"

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/commentators/article354051.ece>

Evidence is sought from any one who wishes to submit it.

The closing date is 9th May 2006.

Full details here: - [http://www.gci.org.uk/events/All\\_Party\\_Enquiry.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/All_Party_Enquiry.pdf)

Calls for a party political consensus on climate change reflect the view that climate change is 'too big' for partisan dispute, and that whilst party differences continue the public will be sent mixed or conflicting signals about how they should react.

Another view is that unless there is a dynamic political debate, ineffective policies may be allowed to go unchallenged, and that complacency may replace a sense of urgency.

In other countries there are examples of cross-party working. In Denmark, both government and opposition parties signed a formal agreement on energy conservation. In Finland, normal party divisions were overridden by a free vote in parliament on whether or not to build a fifth nuclear power station.

This inquiry, the first to be undertaken by the APPCCG asks whether political parties could and should work more closely together on their approach to climate change, and seeks to identify the possible scope and limitations of a consensus approach.

Call for evidence

Evidence may be sent to: -

[colinch-@parliament.uk](mailto:colinch-@parliament.uk) or posted to

Colin Challen MP,

APPCCG Chair,

House of Commons,

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Please mark your envelope "APPCCG Inquiry".

The evidence will be assessed by three independent assessors.

The results of the Inquiry will be discussed at a future APPCCG meeting and published by July, 2006.

To assist publication, evidence should preferably be sent in electronic form, but hard copy alone is acceptable.

Putting the Fun in the Fundamentals

Putting the fun into fundamentals, Dave [hands-on] Hampton has started

"Come Off It Day"

Check out [www.comeoffit.org.uk](http://www.comeoffit.org.uk)

Tuesday 4 April is

Come Off It day

In just a few days you will have the chance to take part in Come Off It day.

Originally aimed at just the UK, word has spread to the USA and beyond. A large number of people will let their fingers do the talking, by switching to low-energy light bulbs and switching off unnecessary appliances, so helping to reduce energy demand.

The number of supporters is growing very rapidly. Please spread the word. If we are lucky the day will become a small symbol of hope: that we are not powerless.

There's no need to go without – the whole point is to see the cumulative effect of millions of small actions. Go with it – people power is one helluva turn on.

To do even more, join those who are going to harness children's boundless energy in order to promote the day further and wider still. Encourage your local school to talk about Come Off It day in an assembly. The children can then spread the word and tell their parents all about Come Off It day too!

Dave's Press Release at: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Come\\_Off\\_It\\_Day\\_040406.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Come_Off_It_Day_040406.pdf)

Fun with Fundamentals at the Zoo . . . !

[http://www.edie.net/news/news\\_story.asp?id=11257&channel=0](http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=11257&channel=0)

News Release

A TIME TO SAVE - How businesses can save money and the planet (30 March 2006)

The UK's first waste & climate change conference.

THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2006 -THE PRINCE ALBERT SUITE, LONDON ZOO, REGENT'S PARK, LONDON NW1.

10.00AM - 3.00PM

LIMITED PLACES - BOOK NOW - CALL LAURA HARTE ON: 0208 344 3064

SPEAKERS: Colin Challen (MP), Anton Van Santen (Defra), Aubrey Meyer (GCI), Dirk Hazell (ESA), Barry Bolton (ACM), Professor Georgina Mace (ZSL).

Businesses must have a healthy environment if they are to have a healthy business.

Averting irreversible global climate change is the biggest challenge that mankind has ever faced. It is already having a negative impact on UK businesses.

ACM Waste Management Plc is holding the UK's first waste and climate change conference to outline the true cost of climate change to businesses. The event will outline simple measures, such as improved waste management practices, that can be implemented now to reduce your costs and your contribution towards global warming.

It will also give businesses the chance to hear about the government's latest strategies to tackle waste and climate change and learn how good waste management practices can offer direct ben-



efits to both businesses and the environment.

The event will also illustrate the effect that climate change is already creating and outline what is widely believed to be the only real global solution to the problem - the climate change Contraction and Convergence bill which is due to be read in parliament on 14 July 2006.

THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2007 - PRINCE ALBERT SUITE, LONDON ZOO, NW1.

10.00AM - 3.00PM

Limited places available - this is a non-profit event.

For further details log on to [www.acmplc.com](http://www.acmplc.com).

Email Laura Harte on: [lha-@acmplc.com](mailto:lha-@acmplc.com)

or call: 0208 344 3064

For further information please email ACM Waste Management plc

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EAC & SDC "C&C, eye-to-eye" Aubrey Meyer

Apr 04, 2006 06:32 PDT

CLIMATE ECONOMICS

This is useful because of convergence on correct reasoning.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT COMMITTEE (EAC) AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

COMMISSION (SDC) SEE EYE-TO-EYE ON THE REASONS FOR THE NECESSITY OF C&C

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmenvaud/882/882.pdf>

EAC

15. The Environmental Audit Committee has invited views on "the adequacy of conventional economic analysis . . . as a means of evaluating the long-term environmental impacts of climate change." Without reiterating our view on other aspects of the climate change issue, we focus here specifically on the question of economic analysis.

16. The Commission believes it is important to bear in mind the deep differences between two different approaches which are often considered together:

(i) The approach taken in the Kyoto Protocol - and taken further in "contraction and convergence" proposals. This begins from the effects of climate change, data and forecasts about the climate, and data and forecasts about the composition of the atmosphere. On this basis, this approach proposes limits to allowable carbon emissions. There is within this framework scope for the application of market mechanisms to the allocation of carbon emissions, as in trading schemes for emissions permits. The market is here seen as a mechanism to deliver total figures (either separate national totals or ideally global totals) which are derived from natural science, and to a greater ("convergence") or lesser ("Kyoto") extent, also considerations of international equity.

(ii) In contrast there are also approaches to the economics of climate change which begin from the market and then attempt to derive theoretically ideal prices from the valuation of the costs of climate change and possible measures to abate it, and then seek to draw policy conclusions on that basis.

17. There are three serious deficiencies with this second approach:

(i) It is methodologically not only complex and requiring a great deal of data, but also involves many assumptions, estimates, and decisions about what factors to include and which to exclude, which virtually arbitrary. The consequence is that this approach generates very wide ranges of estimates for the same thing, such as how much it is worth investing in abatement measures per tonne of carbon.

(ii) The total "acceptable" levels of emissions and concentrations derived from this approach are not necessarily sustainable, being based on the valuations made (such as "willingness to pay") by members of existing generations on the basis of the general population's current assumptions, rather than on the basis of consideration of the interests of both existing and future generations, using the best quality scientific information available.



(iii) There is insufficient commitment within the methodology to the principle of international equity.

For example, studies which value damage done by abatement measures and damage done by climate change, in order to compare the two, have found that relatively small amounts of damage to sectors of the US economy caused by abatement measures count for more in money terms than the devastation of Bangladesh (which may be the outcome of climate change). This is because the USA has a far higher GDP than Bangladesh, and energy-intensive US manufacturing counts for far more in money terms than Bangladeshi agriculture. It is of course possible—as some studies do—to derive completely different valuations and policy conclusions on the basis of adjusting the methodology to allow for some degree of equity, but such “corrections” to the calculations tend to reinforce objection (i) because of their frequently arbitrary nature, even though making them is preferable to not making them.

#### CLIMATE ECONOMICS

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmenvaud/882/882we12.htm>

#### SDC

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18. The economics of climate change raises some generic difficulties about the application of conventional economic analysis to long-term global environmental problems. Some of these are to do with the valuation of long-term costs and benefits. Others are to do with the development of appropriate accounting frameworks.

19. On the question of valuation, data have been collected by environmental economists to show that consumers value, for example, living near to a park or away from aircraft noise. These studies suggest that monetary values can be given to these preferences, and that these values are sometimes implicitly “internalised”, for example in the housing market. It does not follow, however, that the same analytical techniques can be applied to environmental issues which are much more long-term, large-scale, dependent for their analysis on complex scientific data (rather than simply consumer preferences), and raising questions of international and inter-generational equity. There is every reason to believe that different techniques and different approaches to valuation will be required, and this has in fact been recognised in the approaches taken by the IPCC and the negotiators of the Kyoto Protocol.

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It has associations . . . but you don't have to make them . . . Aubrey Meyer

Apr 06, 2006 04:29 PDT

Polluta Continua . . . .

Climate damages continue to grow at twice the rate of the economy [Swiss Re data].

Described as the ‘economics of genocide’ by Tim Flannery in his new book, the New Scientist draws attention this week to a paper on “ecological foot-printing and bio capacity” by Geoffrey P Hammond.

[Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the International Centre for the Environment (ICE) at the University of Bath UK].

See: - [http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Hammond\\_National\\_Footprints.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Hammond_National_Footprints.pdf)

Issue 2546 of New Scientist magazine, 08 April 2006, page 8 [below or]

<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=mg19025464.000>

New Scientist quotes Hammond as suggesting that ‘bio-capacity’ should be used to mitigate ‘utopian’ C&C. New Scientist tactfully quotes only an expurgated fraction of the GCI response to the argument.

‘The Hammond plan is naive and dangerous. “While appearing to be helpful and reasonable, it would be another means for the rich to bully the poor”.’

My original response reflected the content of Colin Challen’s editorial in the Independent last Tuesday along the lines that ‘ecological foot-print does not deter pollution’s link to the economic jack-boot’ of growth at any cost.

[The actual response sent in but not published is set out below].

This sits uncomfortably with comment from Klaus Toepfer this week. The former director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is quoted in this UN news story [link just below] that suggests that Africans are largely the cause of their own globally warmed misfortunes.

“Drought is a natural climatic phenomenon, but what has dramatically changed in recent decades is the ability of nature to supply essential services like water and moisture during hard times, because so much of nature’s water and rain-supplying services have been damaged, destroyed or cleared.”

Did he really say this?

[http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=52190&SelectRegion=East\\_Africa,%20Horn\\_of\\_Afri](http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=52190&SelectRegion=East_Africa,%20Horn_of_Afri)

ca&SelectCountry=EAST%20AND%20HORN%20OF%20AFRICA

Professor Hammond revisits an area of argument with no meaningful advance. He does not engage with the problem which is the climate-economics of genocide, where we continue to value uneconomic growth at 3% higher than the damages and death by CO2 induced global climate change, rising at 6% p.a. for the last forty years.

Hammond suggests that C&C should be modified to accommodate the "bio-capacity" of nations, or calculations based on the biologically active land-area of nations that would be set against their industrial emissions. Imagine what this does to drought and famine-struck Africa - [see/hear movie]. When GCI looked at this sort of argument first in 1991, we discovered a striking inverse symmetry between the US and China. These two countries have roughly the same total land area but precisely opposite 200-year accumulations of people and industrial CO2 pollution.

Since 1800 China had accumulated: -

16 billion tonnes of carbon from industrial CO2 to the atmosphere [CO2 added up over time] and 68 billion 'people-years' [people added up over time]

Since 1800 the US had accumulated: -

68 billion tonnes of carbon from industrial CO2 to the atmosphere [CO2 added up over time] and 16 billion 'people-years' [people added up over time]

The point is that while we the people come and go [we are re-cycled on average three score years and ten] the CO2 pollution goes on and on and as sinks fail, it stays up in the atmosphere raising concentrations, temperature, damages etc, inter alia destroying 'bio-capacity' in Africa.

There is a great danger that 'eradicating poverty' defaults to eradicating the poor. There are those who say – disgracefully - that "they'll just have to fend for themselves".

Here is an elegy on this . . . played live at the RSA. As RSA said, "it has associations but you don't have to make them."

[http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Climatechange\\_Africa.mov](http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Climatechange_Africa.mov)  
[please - not for re-circulation at this time].

Here are The Kenyan Government Slides to COP-12: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/Kenya\\_Montreal.ppt](http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/Kenya_Montreal.ppt)

New world order of polluters

08 April 2006

From New Scientist Print Edition.

Fred Pearce

What's your footprint?

"SHOULD big countries with a small population be allowed to produce more pollution than smaller ones with more people? Two provocative studies on measuring national "ecological footprints" say they should, and the argument could soon be deployed in talks on a successor to the Kyoto protocol on climate change.

Their rationale is that large countries have more natural vegetation to absorb pollution, and more fields and forests to provide natural resources for the world. So they should be entitled to a larger ecological footprint than small, densely populated countries. That would be good news for the US, Australia, Canada, Russia and Brazil, but not so good for Japan, most European countries, China and India.

The proposal is likely to anger many environmentalists but, one author suggests, might be the only way to drag the US, which refused to sign up to Kyoto, into talks on emissions reductions. Last week British prime minister Tony Blair, while visiting New Zealand, called for a "new framework" to break what he describes as a deadlock in post-Kyoto negotiations.

The idea of measuring the ecological footprint of nations has become

increasingly popular as a way of holding countries to account for their environmental impacts. The footprint is an estimate of the land used to sustain a population. Its main components are land directly built on; the fields, forests and mines employed at home and abroad to meet consumer needs; and the notional amount of land needed to absorb pollutants like carbon dioxide.

International emissions league tables are usually drawn up on the basis of each nation's total footprint divided by its population. This puts the super-consuming US at the top, with almost 10 hectares of land needed to supply each American. Australia is close behind, requiring almost 8 hectares per citizen. Western European states and Japan require between 5 and 6, China less than 2 and India around 1 hectare.

The environment group WWF, which has pioneered footprint analysis, calculated two years ago that the total human footprint is 20 per cent greater than the planet's biological capacity. This "overshoot", it said, was causing mass extinctions and a build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Now footprint analyst Geoff Hammond of the University of Bath, UK, writing in the UN journal Natural Resources Forum (vol 30, p 27), has compared the ecological footprints and biocapacity of individual nations. He suggests that countries with more biocapacity than their footprint are the good guys, irrespective of how large their footprint is. Those that overshoot their biocapacity are the villains.

A similar exercise was published in March by Redefining Progress, an organisation based in Oakland, California, devoted to ecological footprint analysis. "When a population's footprint is smaller than available biocapacity, it is sustainable," says its author, Jason Venetoulis.

"There would be huge anger at the suggestion that the US and Bangladesh are equally to blame for global warming". The new focus dramatically changes the ecological league tables. Australia and Canada have two of the largest footprints in the world, but by Hammond's reckoning that's OK as their biocapacities are even larger. The US's huge footprint is almost balanced by its large biocapacity, whereas Japan, with a per capita footprint half that of the US, has an overshoot of seven times the magnitude. Bangladesh, with one of the world's smallest footprints but an even smaller biocapacity, overshoots by the same margin as the US.

Hammond says his work's most immediate relevance could be to negotiations on greenhouse gas emissions. The proposal that till now has led the field, known as "contraction and convergence", would require national emissions to converge on a figure proportional to each country's population. In effect, it would set a global target for each nation's per capita carbon footprint. The scheme, which is the brainchild of Aubrey Meyer of the UK-based Global Commons Institute, has gained backing from the UK's Royal Commission for Environmental Pollution and the German government's Advisory Council on Global Change.

Hammond dismisses this formula as utopian, "given the reluctance of the US to take even modest steps to reduce emissions", and suggests his scheme might stand a better chance. "Living within national biocapacities might be something the US could eventually accept," he says.

Under the Kyoto protocol, countries are already allowed to offset their emissions with carbon absorbed by purpose-built "carbon sink" forests. The Hammond formula would go further, allowing them effectively to use the absorption by their entire landscapes to offset emissions.

There would, however, be huge anger at the unfairness of suggesting that, for instance, the US and Bangladesh were equally to blame for global warming. "I don't believe that biocapacity would be a reasonable basis for a post-Kyoto framework," says Jonathan Loh, who runs WWF's footprint analysis, as it would produce vastly different targets for countries of very similar wealth.

Meanwhile, Meyer condemns the Hammond plan as naive and dangerous. "While appearing to be helpful and reasonable, it would be another means for the rich to bully the poor."

From issue 2546 of New Scientist magazine, 08 April 2006, page 8

<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=mg19025464.000>

Hammond

Recently, the Royal Commission for Environmental Pollution in the UK (RCEP, 2000) has advocated a target of a 60% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050, and perhaps 80% by 2100, in order to stabilize global warming at an acceptable level.

They support a strategy of 'contraction and convergence' whereby the GHG emission quotas of nations converge to the same per capita level, and then all quotas would contract at the same rate to a sustainable target some time in the 22nd century.

On that timeline, many of the other environmental effects that contribute to global and national footprints will have come to the fore. In the transitional — or 'contraction' — phase, quotas for the developed countries would fall, while those of poorer developing nations would rise with economic wealth and, hopefully, well-being thereby removing 'grandfather rights'.

Whatever the fate of the Kyoto process in the short term, following its entry into force amongst Annex 1 nations after ratification by the Russian Federation early in 2005, an effective successor regime will need to be negotiated in order to equitably share the future burden of climate change mitigation.

A mechanism for an international exchange of views between the major energy consuming nations was agreed at the G8 Gleneagles Summit in July 2005 (to be known as the 'Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development'). It would embrace both representatives of the G8 industrialized countries and of developing nations, such as China and India.

In parallel, a new Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate was established later that month with six founding partners: Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and the USA. This regional group represents over half the world's economy, population, energy use, and GHG emissions. It seeks to transfer clean, more efficient technologies, build technical capacity, and reduce the carbon intensities of countries around the Asia-Pacific rim. But it does not envisage legally-binding GHG emission reduction targets of the sort incorporated into the Kyoto Protocol, and against which progress could be monitored.

Each of these international exchanges will be in addition to the ongoing negotiations within the ambit of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Insights derived from environmental foot-printing discussed here, such as the need for humanity — and, more debatably, individual countries — to live within bio-capacity constraints, may aid the post-Kyoto negotiations that will ultimately need to take place amongst all major nations and geo-economic groupings on the planet, the interdependent 'crew' of 'Spaceship Earth'.

Such insights may put into perspective future GHG burden-sharing arrangements between the wealthy nations of the northern hemisphere and the populous countries in the South. This could be achieved by including national biocapacity-related constraints within a modified 'contraction and convergence' quota allocation scheme.

GCI letter to NSC re Bio-Capacity/Hammond

"C&C is deeply simple and to the point. It is science-based and constitutional and so it works. It keeps consensus politics possible by structuring the short time-space left in which to define human survival with principle.

If the complexity of 'bio-capacity' is to be relevant it will be a function of - not an alternative to - the deep simplicity of C&C."

Foot-print [Loh and Wackernagel] apparently leads to 'bio-capacity, which as "bio-capacity" is fine as a life-style idea or ambition but Loh in fact rejects this method as I am glad now to see your article reflects.

'Bio-Capacity' is politically arbitrary as: -

1. It is effectively impossible to define [what is this? fertility - just babies per straight couple per unit-time? neg-entropy? trees per air-mile to second house in Ibiza?]
2. So it has - at least for me - insuperable measurement problems, [too many assumptions on too many frontiers] which even [could they hypothetically be overcome] . . . still misses the point as it . . .



3. Avoids all engagement with the status quo where 'economic growth' at 3% p.a. is prioritised ahead of damages at 6% p.a. aka the 'economics of genocide'.
4. 'Bio-capacity' builders are welcome to do what they do, but when they say it is a [presumably a 'more-effective' [?]] "alternative to C&C", I see the negotiations at the UNFCCC reverting to more-babies-versus-more-SUVs, mediated by environmentalist and diplomatic quangocrats continuing to make their livings out of the un-resolvable complexity of how other people are dying.

This shallow-water feeding does indeed still actually annoy me. "The depth of disregard in all this" is the phrase that still rings in my ears . . .

C&C is C&C - it is defined, measured, flexible, numerate, practical, engaged, a target-specific communicable device etc . . . waffle-busting [check-mate] and who knows, it may fail for that very reason.

However the waffle has already failed. The problem is accelerating and Lovelock is now openly preaching the every-man-[with-a-nuke]-for-himself and the depth of his disregard is also a product of this failure to confront the economics of genocide.

He/they are welcome to preach this and take the consequences. These certainly will include what at least he fails to mention, namely that his 'nukistan' enclaves for survivors will be over-run by all the consequences of un-prevented global heating just like everything else – the New Atlantis – lights courtesy of Sellafield.

I don't subscribe to violence - the politics of physical confrontation - however, I do subscribe to the politics of debate and fundamentals with agreement where possible and using this to confront error and feeble argument.

Just as well you didn't publish this.

Aubrey

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C&C and Shell Head to Head at the EDGE Aubrey Meyer

Apr 11, 2006 23:57 PDT

Invitation to: -

Number 3 of the EDGE Energy Debates – supply, demand and balance: -

"Balance living within our means."

I am writing to invite you to join us for the third of three linked energy debates - balance - is growth even an option?

6pm on 3 May 2006

The Institution of Civil Engineers,  
1 Great George Street, London W1.

[could be lively]

The speakers are: -

Aubrey Meyer, Director of the Global Commons Institute

Lord Oxburgh, Former Chairman of Shell Transport and Trading

The Chairman is: -

Prof Peter Guthrie, Professor of Engineering, University of Cambridge

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/EDGE\\_balance\\_debate\\_invite.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/EDGE_balance_debate_invite.pdf)

In the previous debates we have looked at how resources - oil, uranium and atmosphere are finite (although we do not seem to have taken on board the fact that we don't have the atmosphere to burn the oil that is left).

We have also looked at what needs to be done: the 60% cuts in CO2 emission targets still seem impossibly far away; meanwhile the goalposts have shifted and 90-100% cuts are now seen as being much more realistic.

When we started these energy debates last year the CO2 atmospheric content was 380 ppm. Now



it is 381 ppm. The upper limit of 400 ppm, agreed at the 2005 Exeter Conference, is getting ever nearer and we still seem to be in denial.

This debate is about asking whether energy is the problem or is it our assumptions and expectations about growth. How can we achieve a new balance and live within our means.

Edge debates take the form of short presentations from the speakers—5-10 minutes—to give ample time to discuss the issues from the floor. At the end of the debate, we will be looking for action points that we can take forward.

The Edge is an inter-institutional ginger group involving: -

Institute of Civil Engineers [ICE],

Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers [CIBSE],

Royal Institute of British Architects [RIBA] and

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors [RICS].

The Edge Debates are sponsored by the Carbon Trust in order to promote inter-disciplinary co-operation between architects and engineers. We are dedicated to changing our industry through intellectual debate, political lobbying and inter-institutional working and would be delighted if you could join us. Our debates are finished by 8.30pm although more informal conversation, aided by wine, usually continues for another half an hour.

Enquiries to: -

Adam Poole

The EDGE

ad-@engineeringrelations.com

Gustav Speth's "Worlds Apart" reviewed by Paul Anderson Warwick University

[http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Worlds\\_Apart\\_review.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Worlds_Apart_review.pdf)

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Easter Funnies . . . . Aubrey Meyer

Apr 16, 2006 09:25 PDT

Sunday April 16, 2006

Leader

The Observer

"Four ways Mr Cameron can save the world"

" . . . on the international stage, the Conservative party must back tougher carbon trading targets and the principle of 'contraction and convergence' as an international framework to reduce emissions. This means national per capita carbon quotas based on recent consumption. In the short term, richer nations would have to buy 'allocations' from less developed countries; in the long term, everybody would have the same allowance."

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/leaders/story/0,,1754799,00.html>

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/conservatives/comment/0,,1754938,00.html>

You can post comments on the Observer website.

[Full Leader Text Below].

Che sera sera . . . .

The future is C&C

Truly broadly madly deeply . . . .

Diversity was never this rich - rib-crackers of the world unite

[World Going to Pot . . . . Who'd be serious at a time like this?]

1 UK Observer, Today [16 04 2006]

2 Energy Ireland Conference, June;

3 RIBA Conference Venice; Gore, Brown, GCI, October;

4 Performance Studies International, Queen Mary, Uni London, June;

5 Brisbane Festival Gorbachev of GCI, July;

6. ACM Waste Management 27th April;

7. The EDGE debate 3rd May 18.00 at ICE;

8. C&C to Stop Climate Chaos, Action for a Global Climate Community 18th May;

9. C&C for Campaign Against Climate Change, 3rd June LSE;

10. Earth First;

11. Courtesy of Claudio Martini, President Tuscany;

12. Interview with Brazilian media;

13. Article Spanish daily press;

14, Interview with German Media; Man with Three Legged Dog;

15. "OK Aubrey, I'm going to back away very, very slowly"

16. Tim Flannery's book bounds and astounds up the best-seller lists.

Energy Ireland 2006

19-20 June 2006

Burlington Hotel, Dublin

Irish Energy Policy and Priorities

Noel Dempsey TD, Minister for Communications, Marine & Natural Resources

Energy and the Climate Change Challenge

Chairman: David Taylor, Chief Executive

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IRELAND

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Contraction and Convergence:

A Framework for Tackling Climate Change

Aubrey Meyer,

Director,

GLOBAL COMMONS INSTITUTE

Climate Change: How We Can Save the Planet

Mayer Hillman,

Senior Fellow Emeritus

POLICY STUDIES INSTITUTE

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Energy\\_Ireland\\_2006.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Energy_Ireland_2006.pdf)

Unusual C&C session included at Royal Institute of British Architects  
[RIBA] Conference October, 2006 Venice – with Gordon Brown, Norman  
Foster, Al Gore

09.30 Welcome from Jack Pringle – RIBA President

The Chair will invite each of the speakers to make a short presentation, then he will initiate debate around the topic: - Architecture and the future: the impact of a no-growth economy and planning for climate change.

Speakers: -

Massimo Cacciari, Mayor of Venice;  
Aubrey Meyer, Director of the Global Commons Institute;  
Jaime Lerner, architect and former Mayor of Curitiba;  
Sarah Wigglesworth, architect;

Chaired by Jon Snow  
broadcaster & RIBA Honorary Fellow (2006)  
<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/RIBA.pdf>

Artist-Activist John Jordan writes: -

"I've been asked to curate part of the 2006 Performance Studies International (PSI) conference taking place in London, Queen Mary, University of London, between the 14th and the 18th of June. PSI is an enormous annual gathering of academics, artists and activists and this year's theme is human rights and Performance. I will be hosting four 2 hour workshops events in the Manifesto Room part of PSI entitled - "While Rome Burns - the question of performance at the end of the world?"

The workshops will explore the role of activist art practices within context of climate change, ecological breakdown and the human rights consequences of a global collapse of contemporary civilisation.

Really great ideas and great line-up brewing . . . .

Watch this space.

<http://www.psi12.qmul.ac.uk>

C&C at Brisbane Festival  
with Mikhail Gorbachev of GCI [that's Green Cross International]  
July 2006 – details to be announced.

"Yes" to the friend from Earth First who writes, "please come to the large 'climate change' camp that will take place somewhere in England between 26 August and 4 September. It will be a discussion of the problems and demonstration of 'the solutions' and direct actions we can take to ameliorate Climate Change. I am exceedingly keen that everyone who comes to the camp has a good chance to learn about C&C. Please come to the camp and run talks/workshops?"

Observer Leader

"There are many good reasons for David Cameron to travel to the Arctic this week to learn more about global warming. First-hand experience makes politicians more sympathetic to appeals for

research funding and policy action when necessary. Standing by a shrinking glacier will memorably identify Mr Cameron and his party with global warming, an important consideration when he inevitably confronts opposition from industrialists, motorists and other more sceptical interests. And the picturesque publicity will add to growing public acceptance of the need for action on global warming.

However, to justify the money and attention (and 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide generated by the flights), Mr Cameron must follow the trip by coming up with serious, comprehensive and properly funded policies, even if they are controversial. Eventually, such policies must be specific but for now, the Tory leader should ally himself to four broad ideas.

First, and most easily, Mr Cameron is ideally placed to promote the idea that tackling global warming does not need to be about self-denial; there are exciting opportunities to boost innovation and competitiveness and to create jobs.

Second, he should be honest about tough choices, in every aspect of our lives. People might have to travel less or pay a bit more for food. Recycling and loft-lagging are not enough; people need to be encouraged to look at the impact on global warming of every aspect of their lives.

Third, on the international stage, the Conservative party must back tougher carbon trading targets and the principle of 'contraction and convergence' as an international framework to reduce emissions. This means national per capita carbon quotas based on recent consumption. In the short term, richer nations would have to buy 'allocations' from less developed countries; in the long term, everybody would have the same allowance.

Finally, Mr Cameron should adopt his predecessor's idea that tackling global warming must be removed from party politics through an independent commission with annual targets agreed by all major parties.

By the time Mr Cameron flies home, all the main political parties in Britain will have publicly allied themselves to the belief that global warming is a serious threat. That alone makes it easier to do something about it."

In musica si paria di contrazioni e convergence.

Al clima manca - un direttore d'orchestra

di Aubrey Meyer

For and translated by

The Honourable Claudio Martini

President, Tosacana Italia

San Rossore 2004

"Io sono un musicista. E la musica è una cultura meravigliosa. Lo sapete bene in Italia: così tanta parte della musica occidentale è figlia del Rinascimento italiano. La musica è un'arte precisa, attenta. Soprattutto quando si suona insieme ad altre persone. Precisione e attenzione occorrono anche quando si affrontano le questioni del cambiamento climatico, per comprenderne appieno caratteristiche e tempi. In musica si dice «suonare a tempo», cioè in sintonia con gli altri musicisti. Lo spartito che abbiamo davanti è fra i più complessi: troppo grande l'asimmetria dei consumi fra i Paesi sviluppati e i Paesi in via di sviluppo; troppo vasto questo squilibrio soprattutto di fronte alla minaccia dei cambiamenti climatici e dei danni che questo

mutamento sta già provocando.

Nel 1990 sono andato alle Nazioni Unite. Già ero preoccupato delle minacce rappresentate dai cambiamenti climatici. Non sapevo come rispondere alle domande pressanti dei miei figli. Non sapevo cosa dire quando mi chiedevano se, per loro, vi sarebbe stato o meno un futuro. A quel tempo risposi semplicemente che mi sarei impegnato per «fare qualcosa».

In musica si parla di contrazioni e convergenza.

Le quantità di CO<sub>2</sub> emesse da tutti i Paesi provengono da fonti industriali, dalla combustione del petrolio, del carbone o del gas. Il Comitato intergovernativo sui cambiamenti climatici ha chiaramente spiegato che è necessaria una drastica riduzione delle emissioni globali dell'ordine del 60-80% solo per poter assestare le concentrazioni di CO<sub>2</sub> nell'atmosfera a un livello del 70 più alto di quelli pre-industriali. È sempre una soglia molto pericolosa, ma comunque inferiore a quella che attualmente viene considerata «stabile».

Io dirigo il Global Commons Institute. Noi abbiamo proposto alle Nazioni Unite un programma molto semplice per fronteggiare il riscaldamento globale. E, come in musica, lo abbiamo chiamato contrazioni e convergenza.

La totalità delle emissioni di gas-serra nel periodo fra la metà dell'Ottocento e il 2000 è un macigno di carbonio, formato dalle emissioni di CO<sub>2</sub>, che pesa circa 220 gigatonnellate. L'atmosfera trattiene circa la metà delle emissioni di anidride carbonica. L'altra metà torna nella biosfera. La velocità della concentrazione sospesa nella nostra aria è destinata ad aumentare in maniera sempre più pericolosa.

Cosa è possibile fare per invertire questa tendenza? I musicisti di un'orchestra accettano, con disciplina, punti di riferimento condivisi. Tutti accordiamo gli strumenti sul la. Una nota di 440 cicli al secondo. Ascoltare un'orchestra che accorda i suoi strumenti è bellissimo: i musicisti escono dalla sala prove cercando di trovare una nota comune, un suono comune. Lo possiamo fare anche per il clima. Noi suggeriamo un'intesa su 450 parti per milione di CO<sub>2</sub>: abbiamo cioè bisogno di una grande capacità di contrazione. Il rapporto fra emissioni e concentrazione di anidride carbonica è diretto e immediato: la concentrazione è un accumulo di emissioni. Se vogliamo stabilizzare una concentrazione nell'atmosfera, sarà necessaria una imponente

contrazione.

Il mondo è squilibrato. Il Nord sviluppato ha prodotto, finora, l'80% delle emissioni. Il Sud del mondo è responsabile del restante 20%. La produzione di anidride carbonica è strettamente correlata al Pil. Mi viene spontaneo dire che chi si è arricchito ha provocato il grande guaio dei cambiamenti climatici. Non ce lo possiamo dimenticare: perché dobbiamo pur dare una risposta a chi, nei Paesi poveri, dice che il mondo ricco ha contratto un [il] debito profondo nei confronti del futuro dell'umanità. Un debito grande verso i Paesi in via di sviluppo che, con ragione, ci domandano: «Quando tocca a noi? Quando, verrà il nostro turno di godere dei vantaggi dello sviluppo?» Non possiamo permetterci di rispondere in maniera negativa: andremmo incontro a un disastro insostenibile.

Paesi industrializzati e Paesi in via di sviluppo devono avvicinarsi l'uno all'altro. Abbiamo bisogno, cioè, di convergenza. Abbiamo bisogno di accordarci su un punto: le emissioni globali pro capite devono diminuire durante il processo di contrazione. Ma il debito storico del Nord del mondo ci impedisce di accelerarne la velocità. I Paesi poveri devono avere le loro possibilità di sviluppo mentre noi, Paesi industrializzati, dobbiamo mettere a punto un meccanismo attraverso il quale finanziare questo sviluppo del Sud. Se saremo virtuosi potremo anche essere capaci di rendere meno drastica la velocità della contrazione. Questo è nella sua essenzialità il programma di contrazione e concentrazione. Gravissimo è il dramma del riscaldamento globale. Sta crescendo in maniera esponenziale: almeno quattro volte. Più velocemente rispetto a quanto stiamo facendo per affrontarlo. Stiamo perdendo tempo. E non ne abbiamo più: non è più una questione di anni, ma di ore.

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DELFIN COLOME.

Editorial about C&C in Spanish Press

COINCIDIMOS en una reunion internacional sobre medio ambiente, convocada para desatascar el Protocolo de Kyoto sobre emisiones de CO2 que los EE.UU. - desde sus absurdas posturas" unilateralistas- se empenan en boicotear.

Vestido de negro de pies a cabeza y peinando una larga coleta cenicienta, destaca visiblemente entre los trajeados diplomaticos y funcionarios internacionales.

Es Aubrey Meyer, un músico convertido a la ecología que ha formulado una

teoria que puede alterar muchos paradigmas medioambientales.

Hasta 1989, toco como Violinista profesional en diversas orquestas europeas, mientras se dedicaba a la composicion. Cuando le encargaron la partitura de un musical sobre el ecologista brasileno Chico Mendes asesinado en acto de servicio, Meyer sintio que debia comprometerse con los "Verdes" y fundo en Londres, un grupo de investigacion - Global Commons Institute - que atino en dar con la atractiv teoria de la "concentracion y conyergencia".

Su planteamiento es muy simple: cada habitante del planeta tendria derecho a emitir per capitala las misma candtidad de CO2 y se asignaria una cuota a cada pais de acuerdo con su poblacion, hasta alcanzar la cifra que el clima puede tolerar sin riesgos.

Aubrey sostiene que concibiui esa teoria desde la musica, estructurandola - en los graficos que le sirven de apoyo - como una perfecta cadencia musical, con andamiaje armonico, linea melodica y pulsion ritmica.

Y lo sorprendente esque la formula esta recibiendo el apoyo oficial de un buen numero de paisesde la comunidad internacional, industrializados y en vias de desarrollo en la medida en que supone en conceptp tan innovador como dinamizador, que puede sacar al maltrecho Protocolo de su atasco actual.

Para mis adentros, pienso que los musicos hemos simo modelicos a la hora de pergenar consensos internacionales: vease' si no el exito que supuso de la ISO , adoptanda eI La a 440, para la afinacion de nuestros instrumentos.

No es tan raro, pues, que podamos echarles una mano a los diplomaticos cuando quedan atrapados es callejones sin salida.

Como la hace Aubrey Meyer, violinista y compositor.

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Interview with Brazilian media

Robot translation below [rib crackers . . . ]

Há treze anos, quando leu nos jornais as reportagens sobre o assassinato de Chico Mendes, o violinista sul-africano Aubrey Meyer nem sequer sabia o que era exatamente um ecologista. Fascinado com o tema, deixou de lado as partituras e resolveu estudar o assunto e acabou afinando um novo

discurso. Percebeu que o aquecimento global e as mudanças climáticas eram um grande problema e não descansou até conseguir orquestrar uma solução. Criada por ele há dez anos, a teoria da “Contração e Convergência” propõe que todos os países alcancem a mesma taxa de emissão por habitante. Por isso, algumas nações precisariam “contrair” a liberação de poluentes até atingir o ponto de equilíbrio. Enquanto, isso os países industrializados poderão comprar títulos de emissão dos países que estão abaixo da média.

Apesar de parecer uma idéia sensata, é o tipo de restrição que os Estados Unidos não costumam apoiar. Foi por isso que o presidente americano George W. Bush se negou a assinar o Protocolo de Kyoto, que definia metas de redução das emissões. Sem os garranchos de Bush no documento, o samba ficou atravessado e soluções continuam a ser procuradas. O conceito de “Contração e Convergência” é uma das candidatas ao trono. As idéias de Meyer estão no livro “Contraction & Convergence”, lançado em fevereiro nos Estados Unidos, e já conseguiram o apoio do Parlamento Europeu e dos governos da China e da Índia. Mas também irritou os economistas. Em conversa com o no., ele explica as razões dessa resistência e nega ser um comunista. “Sou apenas um músico”.

O que diz sua teoria de “Contração e Convergência”(C&C)?

Aubrey Meyer - Ela diz que as emissões devem diminuir mundialmente, mas que a divisão da tarefa deve ser justa. Os defensores do C&C acreditam que essa decisão tem de ser política também. O International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) diz que temos que fazer um corte de 60% nas emissões dos gases responsáveis pelo efeito estufa para parar o aquecimento global. Com esse dado, fiz alguns cálculos simples. Para atingir o objetivo do IPCC, temos de que ter uma média de 0,4 toneladas de carbono por pessoa por ano. Essa é a parte da contração. Hoje algumas nações emitem 20 vezes mais do que isso por pessoa. Os EUA, por exemplo, emitem 5,2 toneladas por pessoa, a Inglaterra 2,6 e a Índia 0,2. Isso quer dizer que a Índia pode dobrar sua emissão enquanto os EUA tem de baixá-la em mais de 90%. Obviamente nenhuma nação será capaz de fazer isso imediatamente, mas a beleza do modelo é que ele permite aos países negociar “papéis da emissão”. Eles farão com que os países com baixa taxa de emissão por pessoa tenham um extra de papéis enquanto os países com excesso de emissão tenham uma falta deles. Os que tem papéis excedentes os venderão e darão mais tempo àqueles que tem falta do papel para diminuir suas emissões.

E por que um músico entra na área da política de aquecimento global?

Meyer - Foi por acaso. Quando estava na escola na África do Sul nas décadas de 50 e 60 tinha aulas de música e comecei a tocar violino. Em 1970 fui para Londres para continuar meus estudos em composição musical e para trabalhar como músico de orquestra. Nos 15 anos seguintes, toquei em várias orquestras em Londres, Irlanda do Norte, Portugal e África do Sul, e terminei por voltar a Londres em 1980 para me juntar à Filarmônica de Londres como violinista.

Nessa época também escrevia música. Fiz algumas peças para pequenas orquestras de câmara e outras para companhias de dança em Cape Town e Londres. Eles tiveram muito sucesso e decidi escrever um musical, mas não encontrava um tema. Finalmente em 1988 li uma história no jornal Observer sobre o assassinato do ecologista brasileiro Chico Mendez. Não sabia o que era um ecologista e na minha ignorância não entendia porque alguém iria querer matar um colecionador de borboletas. Em três meses, percebi que o aquecimento global estava causando uma mudança no clima. Em 1989, me juntei ao Partido Verde Inglês e com três amigos e formei o Global Commons Institute um instituto feito para defender os recursos do planeta que são divididos por todos nós, como as florestas e a atmosfera. Rapidamente o GCI começou a pensar no que ficaria conhecido mundialmente como "Contração e Convergência" (C&C) e de 1990 em diante levei essas idéias para as negociações sobre mudança no clima global nas Nações Unidas. Hoje me dedico exclusivamente à isso.

E por que um músico e não um cientista teve essa idéia?

Meyer – Muito cientistas chegaram perto dessa idéia. Talvez tenha sido necessário um músico para produzi-la, pois a idéia não é cientificamente usual. Ela tem regras, mas também tem harmonia, ritmo e forma. Nós, músicos, gastamos muito tempo em repetição e variação

Os cientistas gostaram da sua teoria?

Meyer - Eles fazem um esforço para se manterem calmos e neutros no seu julgamento. Muitos deles acreditam que a C&C responde diretamente ao que os cientistas afirmam ser a situação atual. Mas muitos outros se identificam conosco também do ponto de visto moral e lógico.

Alguns economistas se irritaram com suas idéias...

Meyer - Eles me irritaram também. As análises produzidas pelos economistas do mainstream diz que o problema é insolúvel, que é muito caro salvar o planeta. A mudança do clima não é um problema econômico, é um problema organizacional relacionado com a proteção da nossa atmosfera. Parece que não é suficiente para eles acenar com a cabeça e dizer aos cientistas: "obrigado, agora vamos dizer a vocês como o mundo

funciona”.

Equal tem sido a reação dos governos?

Meyer - Muito boa. O Parlamento Europeu passou resoluções a seu favor com vários ministros endossando-o publicamente. Os governos da Índia e da China e de vários países africanos apoiaram também e alguns senadores americanos também falaram em apoiá-lo. Há uma lista completa de quem apoia o C&C online

E os ambientalistas?

Meyer - Vários deles na África do Sul, no Sul e Sudeste da Ásia e América Latina apoiaram seriamente. Algumas dos grupos do mainstream ainda não se convenceram da idéia, mas acredito que isso irá acontecer. No começo do ano que vem haverá uma grande conferência de clima da Organizações Não-Governamentais ligadas à Nações Unidas em que as idéias da C&C serão consolidadas.

O presidente americano George W. Bush é um oponente do Protocolo de Kyoto. Como o C&C é visto pelo governo dos EUA?

Meyer - A mudança de clima ameaça e danifica a economia americana como qualquer outra do planeta. As objeções dele ao Protocolo de Kyoto são muito devido à falta de participação dos países em desenvolvimento. O C&C resolve esse problema e os EUA sabem disso. Quando os países do Sul levaram essa argumentação nas negociações será somente uma questão de tempo antes que os EUA se juntem ao C&C.

E você gostava de ciência quando era jovem?

Meyer - Estudei física e química na escola, mas não fui muito bem. Gastei muito tempo tocando e fora da escola fazendo montanhismo e navegando em pequenos barcos. Além disso fui criado do lado branco da África do Sul e não via realmente como tinha uma vida privilegiada.

Isso afetou sua visão da política de clima?

Meyer - Quando fui para a universidade para estudar música em 1963, a situação política na África do Sul tinha ficado clara para mim e nada poderia explicar a loucura que era a política de discriminação racial contra 80% da população. Em um certo momento, o Apartheid parecia global. Os esforços locais de Chico Mendes para proteger os interesses das pessoas da região e sua defesa da ecologia na Amazônia acabaram em

tragédia pessoal para ele. Pessoas em todo o mundo se mostraram emocionadas com sua morte. Talvez isso reflita uma percepção crescente das pessoas de que havia uma história maior por trás do caso Chico Mendes. Minha visão é que o capitalismo industrial demonstra de forma crescente a segunda lei da termodinâmica. Ela diz que em um sistema fechado (a Terra) a tendência da energia é ficar cada vez mais disponível com a passagem do tempo. No nosso sistema de economia global, isso aparece na crescente dissipação dos recursos naturais e à destruição dos sistemas vivos. O crescimento do marketing faz com que tudo tenha um preço e possa ser trocado por dinheiro. O problema é que, cedo ou tarde, não somente os recursos físicos, mas a vida e os sistemas vivos serão descartáveis com o crescimento na necessidade de lucro no curto prazo apesar das conseqüências óbvias no longo prazo como a mudança no clima global.

Algumas vezes, você tem sido chamado de comunista. Por quê?

Meyer - Boa pergunta. Sou apenas um músico.

There are thirteen years, when I read us newspapers the reportings about the murder of Chico Mendes, the south violinist Aubrey Meyer not even knew he was what exactly an ecologist. Fascinated with him fear, he left of side the scores and he resolved he study the matter and he finished makeing thin a news talk. He perceived that the global heating and the climatic changes were a big problem and did not rest until obtain orchestrate a solution. Created by him there are ten years, the theory from the "Contraction and Convergence" propõe that all of the countries achieve to same rate of emission by inhabitant. By that, some nations would be necessary "contract" the liberation of pollutants until reach the point of equilibrium. While, that the countries industrializados will be able to buy titles of emission of the countries that are below on average.

Despite of it look a sensible idea, is the kind of restraint that the United States not costumam support. It went by that that the American president George W. Bush was denied it sign the Protocol of Kyoto, that defined goals of reduction of the emissions. Without the garranchos of Bush in the document, the samba stayed stuck and solutions continue it to be found. The concept of "Contraction and Convergence" is an of the candidates to the throne. The ideas of Meyer are in the book "Contraction & Convergence", thrown in February in the United States, and already they obtained the support of the European Parliament and of the governments from the China and from the India. But also it irritated the economists. In it converses with the in the., he explains the reasons of that resistance and he denies he be a communist. "I am barely a musician".

What says the theory of "Contraction and Convergence"(C&C)?

Aubrey Meyer - She says that the emissions should diminish world, but that the division from the task should be fair. The defenders of the C&C believe that that decision should be politics also. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that we have to do a cut of 60% in the emissions of the gases responsible by the effect greenhouse to stop the global heating. With that fact, I did some simple calculations. To reach the objective of the IPCC, we have to have a medium one of 0,4 tons of carbon by person yearly. That it is to part from the contraction. Today some nations emit 20 times more than that by person. The U.S.A., by example, they emit 5,2 tons by person, the England 2,6 and the India 0,2. That want say that the India can fold its emission while the U.S.A. lower-read in more of 90%. Obviously no nation will be capable of do that immediately, but the beauty of the model is that he permits to the countries he negotiate "papers from the emission". They will do with that the countries with emission rate decrease by person have a while papers extra the countries with excess of emission have an absence of them. The that has excess papers they will sell them and they will give longer to those that has absence of the paper to diminish its emissions.

And by that a musician enters in the area from the global politics of heating?

Meyer - he Went by chance. When he was in the school in the Africa of the South in the decades of 50 and 60 he had classes of music and begin he touch it violin. In 1970 I went for London to continue my studies in composition musical and for he work like musician of orchestra. In the 15 following years, I touch in several orchestras in London, Ireland of the North, Portugal and Africa of the South, and I ended by he come back to London in 1980 to myself join to the Filarmônica of London as violinist. In that epoch also he wrote music. I did some pieces for small orchestras of chamber and other for companies of dance in Cape Town and London. They had a lot success and I decided write a musical, but did not find a fear. Finally in 1988 I read a history in the newspaper Observer about the murder of the Brazilian ecologist Chico Mendez. Did not it know was what an ecologist and in my ignorance did not understand because someone would go want to kill a collector of butterflies. In three months, I perceived that the global heating was causing a change in the climate. In 1989, I joined myself to the Green Departure English and with three friends and I formed the Global one Commons Institute an institute I do to defend the resorts of the planet that they are divided by everybody we, as the forests and the



atmosphere. Quick the GCI began think it of what would stay acquaintance world as "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) and of 1990 forward I led those ideas for the negotiations about change in the global climate in the United Nations. Today I dedicate myself exclusively to the that.

And by that a musician and not a scientist had that idea?

Meyer – a lot scientistas they arrived nearby that idea. Perhaps have been necessary a musician for produced-read, therefore the idea is not científicamente usual. She has rules, but also he has harmony, rhythm and form. We, musicians, we spend a long time in repetition and variation

The scientists liked to theirs theory?

Meyer - They do an effort to itself will maintain calm and neutral in the their judgment. Many of them they believe that to C&C answers straightly to what the scientists affirm be the present situation. But many others they are identified us also of the logical and moral point of visa.

Some economists were irritated with theirs ideas..

Meyer - They irritated me also. The analyses produced by the economists of the mainstream says that the problem is insoluble that is very costly save the planet. The change of the climate is not an economic problem, is a problem organizacional related with the protection from our atmosphere. It looks that is not sufficient to they wave with the head and say the scientists: "obliged, now we go say you as the world functions".

Equal has been the reaction of the governments?

Meyer - Very good. The European Parliament passed resolutions to its favor with several ministers endorsing him publicly. The governments from the India and from the China and of several African countries they supported also and some American senators also spoke in supports-read. There is a complete list whose lean to the C&C online

And the ambientalistas?

Meyer - Several of them in the Africa of the South, in the South and Southeast from the Asia and America Latin they supported seriously. Some of the groups of the mainstream still they were not convinced from

the idea, but I believe that that will go happen. In the beginning of the year that comes will have a big conference of climate from the Not-Governmental Organizations connections to the United Nations in that the ideas from the C&C will be consolidated.

The American president George W. Bush is an opponent of the Protocol of Kyoto. As the C&C he is seen by the government of the U.S.A.?

Meyer - THE change of climate threatens and damages the American as any economy another one of the planet. The objections of him to the Protocol of Kyoto are a lot due to the absence of participation of the countries in development. The C&C resolves that problem and the U.S.A. they know about that. When the countries of the South led that argument in the negotiations will be only a question of time before the U.S.A. join to the C&C.

And you liked science when was young?

Meyer - I Studied physics and chemistry in the school, but I went not very well. I spent a long time touching and outside from the school doing montanhismo and sailing in small boats. Beyond that I was created of interest blank from the Africa of the South and does not saw really as had a life privileged.

That affected sweats vision from the politics of climate?

Meyer - When I went for the university to study music in 1963, the political situation in the Africa of the South had stayed clear for myself and would nothing be able to explain the insanity that was the racial politics of discrimination against 80% from the population. In a certain moment, the Apartheid looked global. The efforts localities of Chico Mendes to protect the interests of the persons from the region and theirs defense from the ecology in the Amazonia they finished in personal tragedy for him. Persons in everybody were shown excited with theirs death. Perhaps that reflect a growing perception of the persons of that there was a bigger history behind the case Chico Mendes. My vision is that the industrial capitalism shows of growing form the Monday law from the thermodynamics. It says that in a system closed (the Land) the tendency from the energy is stayed more and more available with the passage of the time. In our global system of economy, that appears in the growing dissipation of the natural resorts and to the destruction of the alive systems.

The growth of the marketing does with that everything have a price and can be changed by money. The problem is that, early or afternoon, not

only the physical resorts, but the life and the alive systems will be  
you discarded with the growth in the need of profit in the short term  
despite of the obvious consequences in the long term as the change in  
the global climate.

Sometimes, you has been called of communist. Why?

Meyer - Good question. I am barely a musician.

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Der Klimaretter
Von Mark van Huisseling

Er opferte seine Karriere als Violinist und kämpft gegen die
zerstörerische Erwärmung der Atmosphäre – mit Aussicht auf Erfolg:
Aubrey Meyers Theorie findet immer mehr Zuspruch, auch auf dem
Umweltgipfel in Bonn

Anzeige

Die Adresse des Global Commons Institute macht stutzig: Walthamstow,
Ostlondon. Sitzt das Institut, das einen weltweit beachteten Vorschlag
ausarbeitete, wie sich die Erderwärmung verringern liesse, tatsächlich
in der Schlafvorstadt, zehn Kilometer ausserhalb des Zentrums? Liesse
sich die Welthandelsorganisation (WTO) in Carouge statt Genf nieder?
Oder der Weltpostverein in Bümpliz statt Bern?

Von der U-Bahn-Endstation geht's zu Fuss vorbei am Islam Book Shop, an
der Pizzeria Mondragone und der chemischen Reinigung Deep Clean. Das
zweistöckige Reihenhäuschen an der Ravenswood Road hat keine
Messingplakette, kein Namensschild, keine Klingel. Ein Mann mit
Pferdeschwanz und definiertem Bizeps öffnet die Türe. Er streckt die
Hand aus: «Aubrey Meyer – willkommen im GCI!» Er ist nicht der Hauswart,
sondern der Leiter des Global Commons Institute.

Bevor er uns Platz in der Wohnküche anbietet, «der einzige Ort, wo wir
uns setzen können, wir sind eben erst eingezogen», schiesst er los: Hohe
amerikanische Militärs hätten soeben in Grossbritannien ihre
Verteidigungsdoktrin vorgestellt, das Protokoll landete auf seinem
Schreibtisch – «Dominanz des gesamten Spektrums; globale militärische
Überlegenheit zu Land, im Wasser, in der Luft, im Äther und im
Weltraum». Nächstes Thema: Son of Star Wars, Präsident George Bushs
Raketenschutzschild im All. Rascher Vorlauf zum Kioto-Protokoll, dem
Abkommen der Vereinten Nationen, das die Industrieländer zur

Verringerung ihrer Produktion von Treibhausgasen verpflichtet und das Bush nicht einhalten will – trotz seines Wahlversprechens, den CO₂-Ausstoss zu reglementieren...

Modell für Fairness

Bevor er den Bogen schlagen kann («Das Versiegen der Ölquellen lässt sich nicht mit Bomben aufhalten»), raucht dem Zuhörer der Kopf. Dem Leser wohl auch. Doch Meyer verbrachte die vergangenen dreizehn Jahre damit, Menschen zu überzeugen. Meist solche, die nicht zuhören, geschweige denn zustimmen mochten – Politiker oder Funktionäre, die eben den Saal einer UN- oder Minister-Konferenz verlassen hatten und raschestmöglich in den Fond einer wartenden Limousine schlüpfen wollten. Auf den dreissig, vierzig Metern bis zur Rücksitzbank gehörten sie Meyer – also lernte der 54-Jährige, seine Botschaft im Nebenherhetzen rüberzubringen. Diese Woche tut er es in Bonn, wo Gespräche auf höchster Ebene stattfinden, wie das Kioto-Protokoll vielleicht doch noch fortgeschrieben werden könnte – Lebensversicherungen kalt zu verkaufen, ist dagegen etwas für Weicheier.

Inzwischen sitzen wir am Küchentisch und würden Meyer jede Lebensversicherung abkaufen. Er präsentiert Katastrophenszenarien, anschaulich mit bunten Computergrafiken, aufgepeppt durch Fachausdrücke, zusätzlich kompliziert durch Abkürzungen: «Lockstep von CO₂ und BIP», «ppmv – parts per million by volume» – alles unklar? Kein Zweifel, der Mann hat eine Botschaft: Wenn wir den Ausstoss von Kohlendioxid (CO₂), das beim Verbrennen fossiler Brennstoffe, also etwa Öl, entsteht, nicht drosseln, geht die Welt unter. Buchstäblich. Erst schlagen die Wellen über den Malediven zusammen, dann spülen sie Bangladesch weg, und schliesslich nehmen sie Manhattan. Das ist unbestritten, zumindest unter der denkenden Mehrheit. Uneinigkeit herrscht über das Wann.

Meyer hat ein Modell, das diese Entwicklung verhindern könnte. Salopp ausgedrückt einen Plan zur Rettung der Welt. Doch den will er, scheint es, nicht darlegen. Stattdessen holt er tief Luft, um in die nächste Modellrechnung einzutauchen. «Mister Meyer, please, erklären Sie uns doch einfach Ihr Modell.» Er verstummt, lehnt sich zurück – und lacht aus voller Brust: «Wie bitte, Sie wollen meine These kennen lernen und nicht zerfetzen?» Die Theorie heisst «Contraction & Convergence», etwa Verkürzung und Annäherung.

Verkürzung bedeutet, der Ausstoss von CO₂ soll weltweit absolut zurückgehen, statt bloss weniger zu wachsen, wie das Kioto-Abkommen es vorsieht. Zum Beispiel auf 0,4 Tonnen pro Kopf und Jahr. Dieser Wert läge sechzig Prozent unter dem heutigen Niveau. Dadurch könnte die CO₂-Konzentration in der Atmosphäre auf siebzig Prozent über dem

vorindustriellen Wert stabilisiert werden. Und die Durchschnittstemperatur der Erdoberfläche würde bis Ende dieses Jahrhunderts um weniger als zwei Grad Celsius ansteigen. Während sie über fünf Grad zulegen würde, nähme die Kohlendioxid-Produktion unvermindert zu. Gegenwärtig produziert ein Amerikaner 5,2 Tonnen, ein Brite 2,6, ein Schweizer 1,4, ein Chinese 0,6 und ein Inder 0,2 Tonnen Kohlendioxid pro Jahr.

Nun der Annäherungsteil des Modells: In Zukunft, zum Beispiel ab 2030, soll jedes Land so viel CO₂ ausstossen, wie ihm auf Grund seiner Einwohnerzahl zusteht. Für absorbierende Wälder gibt's einen Bonus, und Staaten, die ihr Kontingent nicht ausschöpfen, dürfen den unbenutzten Teil verkaufen. «Das ist fair», sagt Meyer. Im Gegensatz zum Kioto-Protokoll, das von einer Veränderung des heutigen Ausstosses ausgeht, also die Grösse der Volkswirtschaft als Massstab nimmt; Kioto erlaubt Amerikanern oder Schweizern, die Atmosphäre auch in Zukunft x-mal so stark zu verschmutzen wie Inder oder Chinesen, weil sie sie bereits in der Vergangenheit stärker verschmutzt haben. «Das ist unlogisch und unfair», findet Meyer.

Der Laie gewinnt die Profis

Überlassen wir die Fragen «Ist die Welt fair?» und «Scheren sich die Mächtigen um Logik?» den Philosophen. Stattdessen: Weshalb kommt das von einem Berufsmusiker? Weshalb zeichnet ein wissenschaftlicher Laie einen Plan, wie die Welt überleben könnte? Einen Plan, der – ein grosses, aber zutreffendes Wort – gerecht ist. Wissenschaftlich so stichhaltig, dass Michael Grubb, einer der angesehensten Klimaforscher Grossbritanniens, ihn abkupfern und unter eigenem Namen publizieren wollte? Einen Plan, dessen langfristige Umsetzungskosten voraussichtlich niedriger sind als die Kosten, die Rückversicherungsfirmen für zukünftige Umweltkatastrophen budgetieren?

Meyer sagt, ihn hätte es gepackt, als er Ende der achtziger Jahre an einem Musical über Chico Mendes, den ermordeten brasilianischen Regenwald-Aktivist, arbeitete. Kann sein. Kann aber auch sein, dass das die Buchklappentext-Variante ist. Meyer ist Überzeugungstäter. Einer, der das Sätzchen «Man müsste etwas tun» mit «Ich muss etwas tun» übersetzt.

Er sieht zwar nicht aus wie ein Fanatiker, ihm fehlt der Schlangenblick des Schlaflosen. Getrieben ist er dennoch. Nicht verbissen, aber beharrlich; kein Sturzbach, sondern ein Strom. Seine Karriere als Violinist – erste Geige in Belfast, Lissabon und Kapstadt – opferte er der Mission. Ebenso seine materielle Sicherheit – und seine Familie.

Meyers Frau verlangte die Scheidung, «sie ertrug es nicht mehr, ohne Einkommen zu leben», sagt er, «und ich kann es ihr nicht verübeln».

Ein Leben, das nach einem Hollywood-Film schreit – wo ist Oliver Stone, wenn man ihn braucht? Meyer erzählt die Geschichte vom Top-EU-Bürokraten, der in seiner, Meyers, Sache den Lobby-Bemühungen der Amerikaner trotzte und eines Tages aus dem Verkehr gezogen wurde. Nachdem auf einer Dienstreise in seinem Gepäck im Flughafen Charles de Gaulle Drogen und Pornografie «gefunden» wurden...

Vielleicht wäre Oliver Stone der falsche Regisseur, trotz Verschwörungstheorie. Denn Meyers Geschichte entwickelt sich in Richtung Happy End: Er hat eine neue Partnerin. Sie verdient ein regelmässiges Einkommen. Er ist zwar immer noch auf Gönnerbeiträge angewiesen, aber die fliessen heute ein bisschen üppiger. Zusammen reicht's für ein bescheidenes, aber hübsches Häuschen.

Für ihn indes ungleich wichtiger: Seine Contraction & Convergence-Theorie wird von immer mehr ernst zu nehmenden Institutionen und Personen anerkannt, teilweise zur Verwirklichung empfohlen – etwa vom Europäischen Parlament; von den Regierungen von China und Indien; Michael Meacher und Jan Pronk, dem britischen respektive niederländischen Umweltminister; Klaus Töpfer, Direktor des Umweltprogrammes der Vereinten Nationen. Selbst die Vereinigung britischer Versicherungen stützt sich bei Schätzungen über zukünftige Schäden als Folge von Klimaveränderungen auf Prognosen Meyers, des ehemaligen Kommunisten und Mitglieds der Grünen Partei.

«Wollen Sie das Kioto-Abkommen hintertreiben?», fragte ihn ein BBC-Korrespondent. «Machen Sie Witze», antwortete Meyer, «ich bin ein Laien-Wissenschaftler, der mit einem Assistenten und einem Hund in einem Häuschen in Ostlondon sitzt.» Das hat er natürlich nicht gesagt, sondern: «Kioto ist Plan A. Wir brauchen Plan B. Unabhängig davon, ob Plan A umgesetzt werden kann oder nicht – und Plan B ist Contraction & Convergence.»

Nicht schlecht für einen Laien-Wissenschaftler, der mit einem Assistenten und einem Hund in einem Häuschen in Ostlondon sitzt.

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NEW SCIENTIST AND THE AUBREY MEYER MUSICAL ZEN METHOD

Blog commentary by John A.  
[Rib-crackers of the world unite].



Something caught my eye that I couldn't resist replying to. In the article in New Scientist you quoted (HYPERLINK <http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn8448> <http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn8448>):

Many environmental groups were pleased with the outcomes. Steve Sawyer of Greenpeace International called the meeting "historic" and said it had delivered "just about everything" the pressure group wanted.

But others were more sceptical, saying the meeting had done nothing more than agree to keep talking. They point out that the US signed up for talks only after a clause was added stipulating that the dialogue "will not open any negotiations leading to new commitments". For many, this made the dialogue pointless.

"In Kyoto in 1997, Greenpeace argued that the world could emit at most another 270 billion tonnes of carbon before we hit dangerous and even chaotic rates of climate change. Since then we have travelled a quarter of the way to that figure," points out Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute in London, UK. "This agreement does not change anything, so to call it a triumph is crazy. We are still on a one-way trip to disaster."

As a admirer of Orwell, I appreciate the twisting of language like the use of "sceptical" to mean "disbelieving because its not pessimistic enough"

I have a little more information about this Aubrey Meyer.

I've just recently wasted some money on Amazon. I bought a book on the basis of an Amazon Recommendation because I genuinely wanted to find out what this particular doctrine meant.

The book is called

"Contraction & Convergence - The Global Solution to Climate Change"

by Aubrey Meyer. The Amazon reviews are equally glowing.

See HYPERLINK

[n.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/1870098943/qid%3D1129561222/202-7936326-7902210](http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/1870098943/qid%3D1129561222/202-7936326-7902210)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/1870098943/qid%3D1129561222/202-7936326-7902210>

Here is the first three paragraphs of the Author's Note:

I've never anything other than a musician. How I ended up devising a global policy concept at UN climate negotiations for the last ten years is a bit of a mystery to me. [JA - you're not the only one] But a clue is that both writing and playing music are largely about wholeness and the principled distribution of 'effort' or practice. Responding to the climate challenge seems much like writing or playing music, where balance on the axes of reason and feeling, time and space, can only come from internal consistency. If practice is unprincipled there is no coordination and there is discord. When it is principled, there is balance, harmony and union. Perhaps all life aspires to the condition of music.

Ten years ago, I was feeling crushed and frightened by the realisation that humanity's pollution was destroying the future by changing the global climate. A sympathetic friend told me I wasn't being 'Zen' enough. I didn't know what he meant, had a good laugh and decided he must be right.

So I went to the UN just as the negotiations began to create the climate convention. There I discovered tensions between Taoists, Marxists, economists, musicians and other human beings. This was only just funny enough, often enough; to rescue me from the powerlessness and despair that otherwise captures those who are not Zen enough at the UN, or anywhere else. 'Being Zen' probably means caring, but enough to grasp reality by letting go of 'duality'....

OK Aubrey, I'm going to back away very, very slowly....

The book is full of Aubrey's beliefs on Taoism and Zen Buddhism with complicated diagrams on greenhouse emissions that, to my amateur scientific eye, look pretty unreadable, interspersed with Taoist pictograms and exhortations on Zen and New Age spirituality. On these occasions, you've got to wonder if the reviewers on Amazon are reading the same book, or smoking something that isn't from the tobaccoists and reading Aubrey's aura remotely.

Now it appears that Aubrey is speaking on behalf of the "Global Commons Institute", the well known environmentalist group and jazz combo. It's truly an amazing academic path that Aubrey has managed to get himself quoted as an environmental authority in "New Scientist". Clearly the publishers have expanded the definition of scientist quite a lot more than the Oxford English Dictionary takes account of.

So for all you budding scientists out there, the message is clear: Don't sweat the math stuff with all of that hard grind of calculus and

statistics.

Use the "Aubrey Meyer Musical Zen Method". All you have to do is learn your instrument and turn up at the UN.

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Features Features Archives

The Weather Makers

By terry glavin

Publish Date: 13-Apr-2006

Tim Flannery, author of *The Weather Makers*, believes that citizens need to make lifestyle choices to cut back greenhouse-gas-emission levels.

If you've ever been troubled by the grim global-warming scenarios that have been bubbling at the margins of serious public attention all these years, there's good news: you don't have to wait any longer to see whether or not there's really anything to it all.

The future is here now.

The Canadian winter that just ended was the warmest on record. Last year in Greenland, where the summers are now milder than they've been in 100,000 years, glaciers shed an amount of water into arctic seas more than twice the annual flow of the Nile River, tripling the yearly loss of Greenland's glaciers from 10 years ago. There are robins on Baffin Island now, and the people of Pangnirtung are seeing thunder and rain for the first time and walruses, on melting ice floes, are starving to death.

If you drive from Vancouver to Williams Lake, you will have the privilege of travelling to the epicentre of a thing no human being has ever witnessed. It's the largest insect infestation in the history of North America's great forests. British Columbia's mountain pine beetles, without cold winters to stop them, have just devoured their way across a landscape roughly the size of the United Kingdom.

On the drive to Williams Lake, you will find yourself following the Fraser River, where millions of salmon are now routinely dying on their homeward migrations in lethally warm water. In six of the past 15 years, river temperatures have exceeded the fatal 18°C threshold. Two years ago, in Fraser tributaries such as the Nicola and the Clearwater rivers, summer temperatures were already exceeding 25°C.

Everything is different now, everywhere. Our winters are now 4°C warmer than they were a century ago, and up and down the B.C. coast, cedars are dying. There is more rain, but not in the summer, so the cedars are literally dying of thirst. Sea levels are rising faster than at any time in 3,000 years, and the sand bluffs on the beach at the northeastern tip of Graham Island, in the Queen Charlotte Islands, are eroding at a pace of about 12 metres a year.

The Pacific Ocean itself is getting warmer. Measurements at the Race Rocks lighthouse near Victoria show an annual average rise in temperature of 1°C since 1921, which doesn't sound like much until you remember that it's only 10°C in the other direction that separates us from the deep freeze of the Ice Age. The ocean, absorbing increasing volumes of carbon dioxide, is becoming more acidic, too, inhibiting the production of plankton, the basis of all life in the sea.

Everything is changing. There are mackerel swimming where the salmon once were, and Humboldt squid from Chile are now a frequent sight off Vancouver Island. Roughly a million Cassin's auklets returned to Triangle Island to pair up and nest last year, but the small fish the birds rely on were gone, and not one chick is known to have survived. Hake were seen as far north as the Queen Charlotte Islands, and there were Hawaiian moonfish north of there.

In the Rocky Mountains, the glaciers that have always fed the great prairie rivers, the Athabasca,

the Saskatchewan and the Bow, are receding, and the diminished rivers are thinning even more as they traverse a drought-wracked landscape where another historic event occurred about 18 months ago. That was when Canada's oil industry finally surpassed Saudi Arabia to become the primary supplier of fossil fuels to the United States.

Around the same time, the administration of President George W. Bush, himself an oil man, adopted a strict policy of censorship to see to it that no federal official, not even James Hanson, head of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, would candidly and honestly explain all those grim global-warming scenarios.

It had been Hanson's habit to be very clear that the shrinking of Greenland's glaciers and the increased atmospheric loading of carbon dioxide, as well as the growing acidity of the world's oceans, are all part of a story that begins with the burning of fossil fuels. Hanson had begun to warn that without a major reduction in these "greenhouse gas" emissions, the planet would soon pass a "tipping point" of sorts, where there will be no turning back.

Like the silenced Hanson, the Australian paleontologist Tim Flannery is convinced that humanity is crossing a tipping point in climate change, and the consequences are likely to be horrific. Unlike Hanson, Flannery is not easily made to shut up.

In his just-released *The Weather Makers: How We Are Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth* (HarperCollins, \$34.95), Flannery presents a panoramic view of the intricate mechanisms of global climate, the geophysical feedback loops that drive it, and the impact humanity is having on the way all these things work.

The book is a tour de force of plain-language science writing. The first thing to understand is that it really is already too late to stop global warming because the damage has been done, Flannery explains. The great challenge we face is the work of seeing to it that we don't make matters worse. The only realistic goal now is to slow the rate of global warming and keep the planet's temperature down, just enough, so as to prevent the deaths of billions of people owing to global droughts, desertification, massive crop failures, and resultant starvation.

The things we need to do are not all that hard to figure out. The tools to do the work are already available, and among those tools are nuclear power, geothermal power, wind and tidal power, energy efficiency, and money—lots of it. Trillions of dollars, for starters. Personal "lifestyle choices" and voluntary, individual actions, like getting out from behind the wheels of SUVs and driving hybrid-fuel vehicles instead, can make an enormous contribution.

The main thing is we have to start now. Right now.

Flannery is currently touring North America with his book, and I caught up to him by telephone the other day in the Barbados and got an exclusive interview for the *Georgia Straight*. We hadn't spoken in almost four years. That was after he'd just finished his last book, *The Eternal Frontier*, which offered an idealistic view that North Americans were capable of shifting to a more sustainable way of life. Back then, I was struck by his optimism. These days, he's just as hopeful, although sober in the knowledge of just how dire things have become in such a short time. And he wasn't sure, when he started *Weather Makers*, whether he could sustain any optimism at all.

"I got pretty depressed," Flannery said. "It is pretty awful. But I got so relieved when I started to see what the solutions might be.

"We're very close to the edge," he added, "but we just have to push.

What the Bush administration has been especially adamant in censoring is the research U.S. federal scientists have been doing in the area of "impacts and response strategies". And it's that kind of research that brings us straight back again to the strange events unfolding in British Columbia.

If you want to know whether or not, say, Richmond's dikes can be expected to withstand an anticipated sea-level rise of perhaps a metre, you turn to a federal agency known as the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation and Research Network (C-CIARN), which concentrates on precisely the types of climate-change impacts and response strategies the White House doesn't want to hear about.

And if you were to ask such questions of Robin Sydneysmith, C-CIARN's B.C. coordinator, as I did

the other day, this is the answer you would get: "I'm not supposed to talk to you."

The day before I telephoned him, Sydneysmith had just been advised that the entire C-CIARN program—and even the drop-in-the-bucket "one tonne challenge" initiative, designed to convince individual Canadians to voluntarily pitch in to reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions—had been suspended, on the order of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Everything is up in the air, Sydneysmith said. The word from Ottawa was that things were in a "holding pattern".

Harper, it needs to be remembered, is the Alberta oil-patch Republican and Bush acolyte who vociferously opposed the Kyoto Accord—the international treaty requiring signatory countries to scale back their emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse-gas emissions in an effort to staunch the global-warming hemorrhage.

Harper has long insisted that Ottawa should not interfere with Alberta's oil industry, which drives the economy of his political base, which is, in turn, roaring along a growth trajectory that's expected to push Canada to a point 44 percent above its permitted Kyoto levels within the next five years.

Harper has also insisted that Canada will not meet its Kyoto commitments, but shortly after winning the election he vowed that even so, Canada would still, somehow, work within the Kyoto treaty, all the while developing a "made in Canada" solution to the climate-change problem.

It was by this hypocrisy that C-CIARN was cast into its limbo, even though it was a central feature in what was already a "made in Canada" solution, and even though C-CIARN wasn't even concerned with any "controversial" assessments of the role that fossil fuels play in the disassembly of the planet's fragile climate systems. In these ways, Canada is being dragged back from an emerging position of leadership in the global struggle to control greenhouse gases, and everything is simply ambiguous again, and shrouded in dispute, and irredeemably politicized. And it is precisely this murky state of affairs that has kept global warming at the margins of serious public attention for so long.

"Every time we have something stupid, like the political developments in Canada, it's a real step backwards," Flannery told me. "It's crazy. It can't go on. But we have to have a real determination to win. We've just got to keep pushing."

So here's how we do that.

By all means, hold all politicians accountable by the commitment they're willing to show in the global-warming fight, but don't wait for government, Flannery says. And don't wait for industry. Start doing it yourself.

That might be one of the more surprising of Flannery's findings in *The Weather Makers*. It's his argument that no solutions will emerge without harnessing the thing that worked so diligently to create the problem in the first place, "the melee of buyers and sellers known as the market".

Forget knocking a few percentage points from 1990 greenhouse-gas emission levels. It's a bit late for that, Flannery writes. What's needed, to avoid calamity of apocalyptic proportions, is a 70-percent reduction in current emission levels. Daunting as it sounds, most of us could incorporate that target into our own lifestyle choices, voluntarily, without much noticing it.

It's especially easy if you drive an SUV: just switch to a hybrid-fuel vehicle and that's 70 percent right there. If everyone who has the means to do this kind of thing actually did it, they'd save nine of every 10 endangered species, besides.

There is also the power of working people, Flannery points out. If you can make major contributions to the war on greenhouse gases as a consumer, just think what you might be able to accomplish in the workplace.

Economic trends have their tipping points too, Flannery notes. When renewable-energy technologies start taking off, like computer technology did about 25 years ago, a whole new horizon of possibility opens up. Simple economies of scale will bring the prices of these technologies down, which would, in turn, give China, for instance, a cheaper and cleaner alternative to coal.

There are also such market-oriented solutions as British politician Aubrey Meyer's "contraction and convergence" proposition, which involves securing a global agreement on the acceptable limit on atmospheric carbon-dioxide concentrations, including an agreement on how fast emissions need to be cut back to stay within that limit. The budget is then allocated as a "carbon currency", on a per-capita basis, to the citizens of the world. Governments could then buy, sell, and trade between themselves. Anyone who wants to pollute has to pay.

During our conversation, Flannery insisted that he wasn't being purposefully optimistic just to hold onto the audience for his book, or for these ideas. "There is that temptation," he said. "But, no. I really am cautiously optimistic."

One thing that is justifiably encouraging is that the alleged "debate" about whether or not global warming is occurring, and whether fossil fuels are significantly contributing to the phenomenon, is finally over. On the basics, the scientific consensus is overwhelming. Previously dismissive politicians are recanting, now that the vast majority of people in the industrialized world are making it clear that they're ready for bold steps to tackle the problem.

Even in Flannery's native Australia, one of the handful of countries that refused to be among the 160-plus nations that have signed Kyoto, the government now admits it was wrong about global warming, thanks at least partly to Flannery. And British Prime Minister Tony Blair has effusively praised Flannery's book.

Time magazine recently declared global warming and its causes to be obvious and undeniable facts. National Geographic has devoted extraordinary resources to explaining the phenomenon to its readers. Mainstream American news organizations are becoming more vigilant in exposing the duplicity of White House policy on the matter. There is now such a preponderance of evidence of massive climate-related disruption that journalists don't have to do much of anything, except get out of the way so the stories can tell themselves.

That is what Elizabeth Kolbert set out to do in a series of articles for the venerable New Yorker magazine, which she compiled and elaborated upon for her newly released book, *Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change* (Bloomsbury U.K., \$29.95).

Although Flannery's special gift is in making complex scientific matters understandable, and he is properly concerned with laying out solutions to the problem, Kolbert is a master narrator whose method was to write dispatches from the front lines of climate change, letting the facts speak for themselves.

Kolbert travelled to Fairbanks, Alaska, where houses are disappearing into the ground as the permafrost melts away underneath them. In England, she traced the subtle but persistent shifts in climate regimes by following the northward expansion of the range of certain butterflies. Rather than just take notes while some scientist explains that atmospheric carbon dioxide is at higher levels now than it has been in 325,000 years, Kolbert takes the time to explain the rigorous scientific detective work behind the finding.

But the chapter in *Field Notes* that will make you want to put the book down and go for a long walk, if only to overcome a powerful desire to put your fist through a wall, is the chapter titled "The Day After Kyoto". This is where Kolbert writes about the public-relations liars and oil-industry bullies and congressional cowards who crippled the ability of the United States government to respond properly to the global-warming crisis when American leadership was needed most.

Americans generate about a quarter of the world's greenhouse gases, and they continue to do so, unencumbered by the restraint of international covenant. This is mainly because the American people—and many legislators who should know better—were lied to about Kyoto. They allowed themselves to be convinced that Kyoto provided an unfair "free ride" to countries such as India and China by not binding those countries to greenhouse-gas limits in Kyoto's first phase.

Now that the United States is the world's biggest Kyoto free rider, India and China are less likely to sign on to Kyoto's next round.

It's true that Canada's emissions growth has exceeded that of the United States, but that's also partly because of all the oil we're drilling to keep the Americans happy—an obligation in the free-

trade commitments we've foolishly given them. But that in itself is a pitiful excuse, now that we also have an openly anti-Kyoto prime minister. China intends to build 150 new coal-fired generating stations in the next five years and another 168 new ones during the following decade. And much of that coal is expected to come from Canada.

"If China and India aren't brought in, we'll be in big trouble," Flannery noted. "We must do something, something to show our bona fides. It's really hard to see another way out."

But the worst of it is the moral cowardice among politicians who won't show leadership and aren't prepared to make any economic "sacrifice" and refuse to take action so long as there's someone else, somewhere, who is also refusing.

"The opponents of action on climate change live in a moral vacuum," Flannery said. "It's a horrible, unsustainable world. People call it realpolitik. Well, that's bullshit. It's just plain immoral. It's about greed and money.

"It's a bleak universe they live in."

Tim Flannery will participate in a public lecture at John Oliver secondary school on Monday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. Call 604-822-5676 or visit ubc.ca/talkofthetown/ for more information.

Vote Brown, Turn Turtle. Aubrey Meyer

Apr 20, 2006 16:17 PDT

Reuters, "Gordon Brown [today at the UN] suggests boosting existing measures to cut carbon emissions, for example, extending the European Emissions Trading scheme, with the ultimate goal of setting up a global carbon trading system."

Without a realistic concentration target, this is just unfettered 'carbitrage' and 'market-mysticism'. You cannot globally trade without a global cap. This is hand-waving and it compounds the economics of genocide where more people in Africa die as damages continue to outpace growth. Ignoring this progressively dissipates our ability to be truthful or accountable about the damages being caused by climate change.

Why has Brown fluffed his royal-box opportunity at the UN to face this and begin to resolve the interrupted climax of the UN climate negotiation in Kyoto? - COP-3 December 1997: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3_Transcript.pdf

The developing countries clearly required "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) as the pre-condition of them being part of the global carbon trading system.

The Africa Group reference is here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/AFRICA_GROUP.pdf

The Kyoto climax quotes are here and below: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3_Transcript.pdf

The formal C&C statement is here: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

Brown correctly argues that climate change is partly to blame for some of the humanitarian crises suffered by the developing world and that rich countries must work together to tackle the underlying cause as financial aid is just a short-term solution. "We will need the cooperation of all countries with significant energy needs and emission levels if we are going to tackle the global challenge of climate change comprehensively and cost effectively."

But he completely avoids a concentration target, the fundamental requirement of any global agreement. Here is the speech; it is a belly-flop that will have us go belly-up: -

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2006/press_31_06.cfm

Why is there no concentration target? The reason is that without one, the blame game of not-me-dot-gov continues where nothing is countable and no-one is accouable.

For all the visionary stuff, there isn't a concentration target. Though business and DFID and many

other have been practically praying for this target, Brown's total omission of any reference to this issue, consolidates the danger that his global carbon market takes us deeper into the wilderness, of higher concentrations and temperature and endemically accelerating damages.

Brown just doesn't engage with this. Why? He just says concentrations are up by 30%. Even this is error. Inside benchmark ghg doubling, a jump from 280 to 380 ppmv is 40% and the rate of increase is accelerating as the airborne fraction of emission increases.

All Brown does is to quote the totally discredited and outdated IPCC 1994/5 Second Assessment figure from Pearce Nordhaus et al, that pegged climate-damages at 2.5% of GDP at 2.5 degrees Celsius. This is actually dishonest as well as incompetent. It asserts that economic growth outpaces the growth of climate-damages and will continue so to do. This nonsense is widely discredited, including in the insurance industry, whose data clearly show that damages have been rising at twice the rate of growth for the last forty years. So growth does not equate, as Brown would have us believe, equate to the solution. In fact you can now speculate that, since climate change is deemed by this government to be worse than terrorism, the glorifying of growth is a crime that is worse than glorifying terrorism. What we need are the numbers that validate the case for growth? They are not provided as they don't exist.

Sadly, nor does charity solve this problem either and this Brown acknowledges. In tune with his overtly stated charitable anxieties about Africa, today OXFAM launches its biggest ever appeal for money to help this year's victims of rising concentrations in mid-Africa. It is rich in concern and rightly so. But the grim truth is that as the primary analysis is wrong – that economic growth can outpace climate damage - the diagnosis is too, and the prognosis and prescriptions attached to this have no chance of helping things to come right. If this damage growth continues to unfold just at the current rate, economic development will become increasingly unsustainable and funding will be inexorably filtered by the demands of global triage and create, not sustainable development, but the separate development envisioned by Jim Lovelock. This takes towards global apartheid.

Sadly, the polluter pays principal doesn't prevent the problem either. A distinguished BP source noted this week that, "The polluter pays principal is not working - what it has morphed to mean is that a polluter pays either another polluter to pollute less, or to pay somebody to offset pollution. What it does not mean is 'compensate' those who are most impacted."

The all-party parliamentary group chairman Colin Challen MP has called for 'actuality'. What is needed is an analysis that takes C&C in its entirety as read and then lays out rates of change that are consistent with the realisation that growth cannot outpace the rate of climate change, that we must solve this problem faster than we are creating it.

And while BP don't yet agree with this "100%", what they do say is, "C&C helps greatly, as it is inclusive and makes clear what needs to be achieved. Without such a shared model - there will not be the necessary relationships that create the new and exciting possibilities, and the trust for shared action."

COP-3 December 1997

The transcript that follows: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3_Transcript.pdf

is the debate about emissions trading that happened in the early hours of December 11th 1997. In a nutshell the US insisted that emissions trading be made part of the Kyoto Protocol. The Developing Countries – led by the Africa Group, India and China – insisted that the quid-pro-quo had to be equal per capita-based "Contraction and Convergence" [C&C]. The US characterised C&C as a 'future basis', the UK did nothing.

THE AFRICA GROUP

" we do support the amendment that is proposed by the distinguished delegation from India, and just to emphasise the point of the issues that still need a lot of clarification would like to propose in that paragraph the inclusion, after "entitlements" that is the proposal by the delegation of India, the following wording; after "entitlements, the global ceiling date and time for contrac-

tion and convergence of global emissions because we do think that you cannot talk about trading if there are not entitlements, also there is a question of contraction and convergence of global emissions that comes into play when you talk about the issue of equity . . . "

CHAIRMAN:

"I thank you very much . . . May I ask again the distinguished delegate of the USA if they have another suggestion to propose in connection with the proposals made by the distinguished delegate of India He does . . ."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

" . . . It does seem to us that the proposals by for example India and perhaps by others who speak to Contraction and Convergence are elements for the future, elements perhaps for a next agreement that we may ultimately all seek to engage in . . . "

Vote Blue - Get Sick Aubrey Meyer

Apr 21, 2006 14:24 PDT

David Cameron has made his big climate speech [from the London borough of Norway].

He is a personable performer.

Trouble is he trips over all the shabby advice from his green lobbyists.

He may be young. That's not a sin but folly

He is quite a smart guy.

Why is he listening to them?

His big principle is for "International partnership".

CAMERON

"Climate change is a global phenomenon. We need global co-operation to tackle it."

GCI

Go on. This truism has been unavoidable for the last twenty years.

CAMERON

"The EU accounts for 14% of the world's carbon emissions; the US accounts for around a quarter and China and India for around 18%."

GCI

Confusion straight away: the problem is cumulative emissions not current emissions. His are not cumulative figures, they are just current annual figures.

Apart from alienating the Chinese et al, this is a fundamental error and makes the next remark wholly vacuous: -

CAMERON

"I believe it's clear and fair that all those who contribute to the problem should contribute proportionately to the solution."

GCI

Proportionate to what? Proportionate without clarifying the issue of current versus cumulative emissions is worse than meaningless. It causes further confusion. This really betrays a dependence on the incompetent and evasive 'advice' with which the environmental lobbyists, ["let's smash the fossil fuel industry] led by Greenpeace, have misdirected the UNFCCC negotiations for the last two decades.

CAMERON

"But since there is such strong evidence that the problem is getting worse, it is equally clear, and fair to say that the actions taken to date have been inadequate."

GCI

The 'inadequate action' is more a function of the confused and evasive advice than a failure to appreciate the evidence. It was obvious from the word go that a 'global strategy' was required.

CAMERON

"That is not a reason for giving up; it's a reason for trying harder."

GCI

True, but again does 'trying harder' mean getting rid of the confused advice? There is no point in trying at all if this step is not taken. Confused advisors give confused advice with the result that there is confusion.

CAMERON

"While the need for international action underlines the difficulty of achieving progress, it also points to the opportunity."

GCI

Yes. Get rid of the confused advisors.

CAMERON

"It's become fashionable in certain circles to dismiss the Kyoto agreement. That's a mistake. Kyoto provides a model for international partnership on climate change, and we should build on it. Its achievements may be modest so far, but it is extraordinary that it exists at all."

GCI

What? More amazing than topless weather girls on Moscow TV.

CAMERON

"We now need to intensify the search for an effective, equitable international agreement to succeed the current Kyoto targets from 2012."

GCI

Mr Cameron claims [below] to have consensus with the Liberal Democrats the Scottish and Welsh Nationalists. These parties found "an effective, equitable international agreement to succeed the current Kyoto targets from 2012" in the form of C&C long ago. It is in all their manifestos. How can Mr Cameron claim a consensus with them if he is still looking for this "effective, equitable international agreement to succeed the current Kyoto targets from 2012"?

CAMERON

"This should include setting binding targets for the developed world, whilst encouraging China, India, (both of them parties to Kyoto) and other rapidly developing nations to adopt lower carbon pathways to growth."

GCI

Ah – here's the rub. We want India and China 'in' the agreement but without binding targets. So Mr Cameron then goes straight on to say . .

CAMERON

"Binding targets are crucial. They are the essential foundation for emissions trading systems, providing the certainty and stability for markets to drive the implementation of low-carbon technologies in an economically efficient way."

GCI

Cuckoo . . . that's China 'in' or ur 'out' . . . ?

CAMERON

"So I think it's time we challenged our Prime Minister to spell out clearly his intentions in this area."

GCI

This takes the biscuit . . .

CAMERON

"Tony Blair speaks as if Kyoto expires in 2012. It doesn't: 2012 is simply the end of the first round of Kyoto targets."

GCI

Blair has his faults. Failure to realize this is not of them.

CAMERON

"And we need to know from Tony Blair – and perhaps more importantly, Gordon Brown - what his strategy is for the future."

GCI

Sins of youth: – failing to realize how stupid your contradictions make you sound. Gordon Brown may not have strategy and even in Cameron's eyes be stupid with it.

But the measure of his youthful folly is failing to realize how trivial and impertinent this sounds, coming as-it-does from someone who demonstrably fails to have a strategy yet behaves as if he does, from which pulpit he requires surrender from Gordon Brown because he doesn't have a strategy either.

CAMERON

"Are they committed to a clear and transparent international framework for carbon emissions?"

GCI

You couldn't make it up.

CAMERON

"Are they committed to binding targets?"

GCI

Seriously . . .

CAMERON

"And are they committed to a level playing field internationally, with absolute caps on emissions?"

GCI

Folie de grandeur meets Donald de foie Duck . . .

CAMERON

"Without these commitments, the British Government's credibility on climate change will always be in doubt."

GCI

Quack quack.

How did this virgin manage to have so many miscarriages in just 400 words?

Vote Blue get sick

Ming - you' better do better than this.

Will it be "Ming Kong"? C&C Thursday . . . Aubrey Meyer

Apr 25, 2006 09:36 PDT

Open Goal C&C Opportunity This Week for Liberal Democrats

The solution to climate change - "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C)

This Thursday Ming Campbell will give a speech at the Tyndall Centre on climate change and what to do about it. His party, if you believe the manifesto, is committed to C&C along the Welsh Nationalists, the Scottish Nationalists, the Greens and sundry others [see below].

Chris Huhne [Norman Baker's LD Env Speaker replacement has just confirmed to Colin Challen MP chair of the all-party climate group in parliament] that the LDs are solidly behind C&C.

Will it be C&C and "Ming Kong" Thursday, or just more rhetoric?

What is correct and urgently necessary is to put the political process on notice about the key point of "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) - namely that it is the past/future integral of emissions that stabilises the atmosphere.

C&C proceeds from there. This alone raises the issue 'above politics' . . . [as the political parties claim they now intend to do] . . .

This - C&C - is the headline issue, stabilising greenhouse gas concentration level in the atmosphere at a safe level is the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - the UNFCCC say C&C is "inevitably required to achieve it."

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

If it is Mong-Kong and he clearly sets out the case for C&C, it helps provide a corrective to the recent climate failings in the Cameron-Brown "I am the greenest of them all" contest.

These two politicians claim to raise climate change above party politics but are sinking ever more deeply into it, slagging each other off while totally avoiding the headline issue.

As Ron Oxburgh [ex-Shell CEO] said last week at supper, "I don't trust politicians!" BP come back on that saying, "that's exactly why we need the framework!" "C&C helps greatly, as it is inclusive and makes clear what needs to be achieved. Without such a shared model - there will not be the necessary relationships that create the new and exciting possibilities, and the trust for shared action."

Last weekend but one the Observer leader wrote helpfully advising Mr Cameron to get behind the all-party consensus for "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C).

Last week-end Andrew Rawnsley came back on Messrs Brown and Cameron taking them to task asking that they try and understand that we can't have our planet and eat it. Brilliant piece . . .

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1759445,00.html>

This shift in emphasis is very important. It is useful because Mr Cameron's error is to focus merely on 'a response proportionate to current emissions', when a response proportionate the past/future integral of emissions that stabilises the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gas at a safe value is what is required. Mr Brown also errs as he avoids this issue. They both grandstand, but frankly Cameron wins the photo-op even if he has gone to the dogs to do it.

C&C enjoys much support now and is the only conceivable basis on how to raise climate change above party politics [many references below]. I don't see how the LDs can avoid it.

[Colin Challen's Bill awaits them all . . .!].

Cheers

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

Phone 0208 520 4742

BP [!] "C&C helps greatly, as it is inclusive and makes clear what needs to be achieved. Without such a shared model - there will not be the necessary relationships that create the new and exciting possibilities, and the trust for shared action."

There is already a C&C bill in parliament: -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/092/2006092.htm>

with cross party support: -

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=29500&SESSION=875>

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=27350&SESSION=873>

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=27080&SESSION=873>

The following C&C information and support items are in the post to you at the address above: -

The first item [transparent and blue steel-back binding] contains: -

1. C&C slides with conspicuous support [includes most UK political party manifestos, corporations and the faith sector]: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/RSA_C&C_G-8_Quotes.pdf

2. DFID Slides submission to the Stern Review

http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/DFID_Stern_Review.pdf

3. Key Kenya Government C&C Slides COP-11 Montreal 12 005

http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/Kenya_Montreal.ppt

4. The Africa Group of Nations support for C&C since before COP-3 1997 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/AFRICA_GROUP.pdf

5. The transcript of COP-3 Kyoto [C&C in principle agreed at climax]: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3_Transcript.pdf

3. The GCI Montreal C&C Booklet 13 languages + some A-team/B-team support

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/MONTREAL.pdf>

4. Urgency Briefing – “Can we do Enough Soon Enough

History and Future Airborne Fraction of Emissions Increasing”

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/RSA_Occasional_Paper.pdf

5. Not enclosed is an archive with a 15 year history of this campaign: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/Mega_Doc_1989_2004.pdf

Ming Campbell Climate Speech Aubrey Meyer

Apr 27, 2006 05:00 PDT

Good Speech

Well Done.

“ . . . international change requires moral leadership at the highest level. Leadership internationally is best achieved through setting an example and maintaining the high ground. If Britain can demonstrate the advantages of a low carbon economy, we can lead the debate on how to control climate change.

But instead of leading, this government has been going backwards not forwards on climate change. And the Conservatives are complicit. They both speak of a need to ‘search for’ a new framework to control emissions after the current round of Kyoto targets runs out in 2012.

There is no need to look very far. There is a framework in place which has the support of the European Parliament, and of many other countries.

It is called Contraction and Convergence, and the Lib Dems have been speaking about it since 2001.

Sir David King, the Government Chief Scientist, said in a recent report that 550 parts per million of CO2 in the atmosphere was too much, and that we would reach that level by 2050 if we continue as we are.

International agreement should start with what is an acceptable amount of emissions, what is an acceptable amount of climate change. It should not start – as Kyoto did – with what is ‘acceptable’ to governments.

There is a finite amount of emissions that the world can take before 2050. We have to share out pollution judiciously, and ultimately, equally. Relative targets linked to GDP or how much a country feels it can reduce are not only unworkable, but our grandchildren may well view such political weakness criminal. There must be an absolute ceiling on emissions from which an international agreement works back.

International, and by extension, national targets are a necessary part of measuring and monitoring change. Accepting that we are using more than our fair share of carbon while actively seeking to reduce it is the starting point for a sensible international conversation about national emissions budgeting.

And cutting emissions now in fact would increase our bargaining power with other nations over the next few years as the world seeks agreement.”

Please now back the C&C Bill in the House of Commons: -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/092/2006092.htm>

Full Speech

Climate change is about the security, liberty and prosperity of the human race.

It is about the human rights of our children and grandchildren; it is about their right to live in a habitable planet.

Here at the Tyndall Centre you have done much to contribute to the world's understanding about the reality of climate change. But the time to debate whether or not greenhouse gases actually have a greenhouse effect is over.

Climate change is happening.

The Gulf Stream is weakening. Within 20 years it could miss the UK completely.

The Jakobshavn glacier in Greenland is now moving towards the sea at the rate of 113 feet a year instead of the normal speed of one foot a year. This one glacier alone is thought to be responsible for 3 per cent of the annual rise in sea levels.

The Coast of Norfolk, 20 miles from here is at risk with every point rise in the North Sea.

We are at a crucial moment in history. Global warming is now. We have a window of opportunity within which we can affect the course of climate change. In ten years it may be too late.

Climate change is the greatest moral challenge to politicians and to people of our age.

It requires urgent action now. Not in the future, not when technology becomes available or when political parties have finished their inter-necine battles on the issue.

We are now faced with two tasks:

Halting its progress. And mitigating its effects.

The recent interest by leading politicians in the issue of climate change in the UK is welcome, if perhaps overdue.

The Tory party and Gordon Brown's Treasury are late converts to the cause.

It is easy to make speeches warning of disaster and extolling the benefits for business of saving energy and saving money.

But it is much harder to change the behaviour of companies and individuals, and to negotiate international agreements binding other countries to targets.

Every political party in the UK is agreed that we must cut our carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050.

But no party leader has seriously considered what measures are needed to meet those targets.

The stark fact is that emissions in the UK are up by 3% since 1997. Emissions from cars and air transport are going up. Carbon Dioxide emissions from power generation have risen by 15% since 1997.

The response?

A failure of nerve from the government. And a surfeit of spin from the Conservatives.

There has been a failure to ask what a carbon free or a carbon neutral economy might look like. And a failure to explain clearly what kind of measures will be needed to move us in that direction.

Today I want to issue a challenge to the Labour and Conservative parties. To think about what a low-carbon economy might look like, and to state plainly whether they are prepared to take the steps necessary to achieve it.

Moving to a low-carbon economy presents both opportunities and challenges.

But carbon emissions cannot be reduced in a flurry of snow and a dog-friendly photo opportunity.

The Liberal Democrats are rightly proud of their record at the forefront of thinking global and acting local on the environment.

And we are proud of our readiness to take tough and unpopular decisions on the environment.

It is contradictory to put a windmill on your roof, while calling for a "concerted programme of road building," as David Cameron has done.

And it is disingenuous to boast about Britain's green leadership while presiding over a rise in emissions and campaigning in Europe for a weakening of UK emissions targets, as the government has done.

A cross party agreement, setting a clear regulatory framework for the reduction of emissions would be welcome.

Both other political parties agree that tackling climate change is an 'urgent challenge'.

Well I have a challenge, for them. Today I am issuing a challenge to the Labour and Conservative parties on climate change.

Let us as a matter of principle and policy agree that we should shift the burden of tax from income to the environment.

Let us agree on several practical steps for reforming our tax system to encourage green behaviour.

These steps are common sense and they do not require eighteen months of deliberation by a policy review. Indeed, some of them may well require votes during the debates on the Finance Bill.

The first is the principle of using green taxes to change behaviour. We are not in favour of higher taxes overall but green taxes are a lever by which we can ensure that our individual behaviour is collectively sustainable.

We need fairer and greener taxes, not higher taxes. Green taxes have now fallen as a share of national income from 3.6% in 1999 to 3% today. But the proportion of national income derived from green taxes should be rising not falling.

Second, green taxes, including excise duty on fuel, should not fall in real terms from year to year. Indeed the trend fall in green taxes should be reversed to help cut carbon emissions. Given that the rate of increase in greenhouse gas emissions from transport has doubled since 2000, the year that excise duty on fuel started to fall in real terms, fuel excise duty should be raised in line with inflation.

Third, there should be a substantial increase in the top rate of Vehicle Excise Duty above the Chancellor's meagre £45 so as to discourage new purchases of the most polluting cars. VED is one of the simplest and easiest ways to implement the 'polluter pays' principle. Failure to use it effectively in light of current knowledge is negligent.

Fourth, the climate change levy should be reformed into a universal carbon tax. A new carbon tax should include household emissions as well as business emissions with appropriate provisions for the less well off. In the meantime, the Climate Change Levy should also be raised in line with inflation as proposed by the Chancellor in the finance bill.

Fifth, we must end the madness of subsidising pollution from air travel. Aircraft are exempt from VAT and excise duty on fuel as well as exempt from the climate change levy. Air Passenger Duty should be restructured as a tax on aircraft emissions not passengers.

I have written to David Cameron today, making clear that, provided we can reach agreement on these five points, the possibility exists of a strong cross-party agenda to reform our tax system so that it rewards green behaviour.

But let me make it clear: these principles are a minimum test of commitment. Without these simple but serious steps, a cross-party agreement on climate change is impossible.

Let me also add to the government: anyone who believes there is a moral dimension to climate change would have no difficulty in embracing these ideas.

Votes on the Climate Change Levy and Vehicle Excise Duty in the upcoming Finance bill will be clear benchmarks against which to test the Tories new found green tinge.

The public increasingly recognise the environmental problems of our age, but they are not naïve. To Gordon Brown and David Cameron I quote Roy Jenkins: By your actions and your votes you will both be judged.

Society and the economy do not function in a vacuum. Change cannot be left to the market alone. It is the role of government to set the rules, to establish the framework and to steer a course. And that involves policy decisions, not photo-opportunities.

Our simple package of green taxes would send a clear signal to business and to individuals about the direction of travel of the British economy.

In their submissions to the government's energy review power companies such as Centrica and RWE npower called for greater certainty on future energy policy. Many of them submitted proposals for stronger cuts in emissions than the government itself proposed recently in the Climate

Change Programme Review.

But what they wanted, above all, was leadership. They wanted a clear signal about what kind of energy system the government wants.

Commerce and business are adaptable. It is the essence of commerce and business to adapt and to find new ways of being profitable. But investment decisions can only sensibly be made against a secure background.

The UK has a goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 60% before 2050. What will this mean for you and me? And what will it mean for the economy?

Changing behaviour: cutting energy consumption, decentralising and deregulating the power sector, building greener homes, cutting waste and driving environmentally friendly cars is thought to be unpopular. It is seen as undesirable, uneconomical, unrewarding.

Energy efficiency is seen as wearing a hair shirt: why should we tighten our belts when other countries are polluting their way to higher economic growth?

But in truth, pursuing a low-carbon economy is not about denying ourselves opportunities for growth, it is about opening up new opportunities, including new ways of measuring progress and raising public funds.

The world will have to go green in the future, indeed it is already moving in that direction.

There are hundreds of new markets emerging, and with them new jobs. The Chinese are already investing in lightweight cars. Portugal is researching new tidal power systems. California is pioneering a form of incentives for power companies to cut their customers energy bills.

Britain should be at the forefront in breaking new ground and harvesting those opportunities. If we can have tax cuts to encourage films to be made in the UK why can't we have incentives for green investments and green behaviour?

The low-carbon economy of the future will be built on decentralised energy supply, renewable technologies, on solar, wind, wave and tidal power and carbon capture and storage.

Low energy housing, using improved-insulation, intelligent design, sustainable water management, smart metering of electricity, and computer monitoring of demand and supply are already possible.

Cars and trains can be made lighter and stronger requiring a fraction of the energy to go the same distance and running on electricity or biomass or Liquid Petroleum Gas.

An intelligent and forward thinking government would be investing in research and development for these technologies now, something called for by the Railway Forum and by the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership.

The technologies outlined above are not only greener than existing alternatives but in most cases cheaper too. A lighter car requires less fuel. A better designed house needs less energy to heat it. And a decentralised energy network should produce more efficient and cheaper energy without the losses incurred in transmission and distribution.

It is worth repeating: being carbon-neutral is not simply a worthy goal, it is a profitable economic one as well.

Of course Britain cannot solve climate change by itself. Emissions control requires international co-operation on a major scale.

But this should not be an excuse.

Pursuing a low carbon, more energy efficient economy is worthwhile in its own right since it saves money.

And, international change requires moral leadership at the highest level. Leadership internationally is best achieved through setting an example and maintaining the high ground. If Britain can demonstrate the advantages of a low carbon economy, we can lead the debate on how to control climate change.

But instead of leading, this government has been going backwards not forwards on climate

change. And the Conservatives are complicit. They both speak of a need to 'search for' a new framework to control emissions after the current round of Kyoto targets runs out in 2012.

There is no need to look very far. There is a framework in place which has the support of the European Parliament, and of many other countries. It is called Contraction and Convergence, and the Lib Dems have been speaking about it since 2001.

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International, and by extension, national targets are a necessary part of measuring and monitoring change. Accepting that we are using more than our fair share of carbon while actively seeking to reduce it is the starting point for a sensible international conversation about national emissions budgeting.

And cutting emissions now in fact would increase our bargaining power with other nations over the next few years as the world seeks agreement.

Commitment to European action is central to any serious effort to tackle climate change.

It is only on a European basis that we can ensure energy security and sustainability. And it is only through serious commitment to Europe that we can persuade other countries to co-operate.

The planet needs hard decisions about how to negotiate these limits, not beginning another search for another framework.

If we are to meet our national goal of a 60% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, and to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities presented by the challenge of carbon reduction, Britain will need to adapt, and quickly.

Today I am announcing a new policy working group on Climate Change.

The Climate Change Working Group will meet to build on existing party policy and to look at specific proposals for reducing global, European and national emissions.

Politicians have a responsibility to explain the problems and to lay out options, to inform the debate and to lead it.

But the Labour government has consistently avoided hard choices.

And when it has introduced new measures they have been inadequate.

What would the Green Switch advocated by us, mean?

There are several fairly straightforward measures that could be implemented right away, some of which I have already mentioned.

1. Reform the Climate Change Levy

The Climate Change Levy is a positive step forward. It should be restructured as a tax on carbon across the economy to include households as well, so that the true cost of our impact on the environment is reflected in the prices we pay. Measures would need to be devised for protecting those on low incomes or those living in inefficient housing.

2. Raise Vehicle Excise Duty on Polluting Cars

The Chancellor has increased Vehicle Excise Duty on high polluting vehicles by less than half a tank of fuel. If it is to be effective as a measure to reduce emissions and encourage greener transport, VED will have to be radically redrawn to penalise emissions and reward clean cars. The

top-rate of VED should be significantly higher than at present.

3. Keep Fuel Duty In Line With Inflation

Duty on fuel should keep track with inflation. The freeze since 1999 has led to a rise in emissions.

4. Tax Emissions not Passengers

We have led the way in calling for reform of the way air travel is taxed. Instead of Air Passenger Duty on each passenger, airlines should pay an emissions charge. This would reward flights that were full and penalise those wasting a full tank on a few passengers.

5. No to Nuclear Power

Central to emissions reduction is the power sector.

We have consistently called for a mix of energy sources including decentralised supply. Up to 70% of energy generated in centralised installations is lost before it reaches your home. This is no different with nuclear power.

Investing massive sums in nuclear power will make a low-carbon future less likely not more. As the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee said only last week.

Large scale investment will fossilize the UK power generation industry for the next 50 years.

Nuclear power will mortgage our future. Incentives to diversify will disappear. And future generations will be left with uncertain risks and costs.

Taxpayers are expected to pay £56 billion to clean up existing nuclear waste (that's £800 pounds a head). As a society we cannot afford to undertake that financial burden, not to mention the security risk from terrorism.

A short term focus on nuclear energy will only increase reliance on an inefficient centralised energy infrastructure that uses half its power in moving electricity around the country.

6. Yes to Decentralised Energy Supply

In 2003 the government's own Energy White Paper laid out an ambitious agenda for a decentralised energy system, sometimes called 'rewiring Britain'. This agenda should form the backbone of a renewable energy action plan that will lead us towards a flexible, efficient, responsive energy sector.

Rewiring Britain will require investment in infrastructure as well as changes to the monopolies of electricity distributors who are currently encouraged to sell more power not less. It will require learning from the innovative experience elsewhere such as that of California in reducing energy demand and saving customers money.

We need to look at how computer management of demand and supply as well as good ideas like Performance Based Regulation, which rewards energy conservation measures, can cut emissions.

If we remove barriers to connection and simplify planning procedures for new installations, it should be possible to generate 20% of our energy from renewables by 2020, as the British Wind Energy Association claims.

7. Sustainable Building should be the Norm

A low-carbon economy will require a revolution in housing design and patterns of energy consumption in the home.

UK building regulations are among the weakest in Europe. Sustainability must be an essential pre-sumption in planning and building regulations.

The voluntary Sustainable Building Code proposed for public buildings binding for all new build, and elements of it applicable for renovations and refurbishments.

It is necessary to reward efficient construction and energy consumption, not only in the savings from reduced energy bills. In some towns in Holland for example, householders can get rebates on their council tax for reducing domestic waste.

8. Encourage Energy Efficient Appliances

Energy efficiency should be reflected in fiscal incentives for consumers to purchase green appliances, and to discourage inefficient or high energy technologies such as high polluting cars, appli-

ances with 'standby' functions or electric heating installations.

9. Change Planning Laws

Both local and national government should do much more to encourage the use of microgeneration in the home and in public buildings. Planning regulations should be framed to encourage microgeneration not inhibit it.

10. Tighten the EU Cap on National Emissions

The European Emissions Trading Scheme is the most ambitious of its kind and the main lever with which European governments can ratchet down emissions. The UK will miss its own domestic target of a 20% reduction in emissions by 2010. Instead of seeking a loosening of the ETS National Allocation it should be looking to tighten it up. The range of figures produced by the DTI on how tight the cap should be, is not ambitious enough. We can and should, do better.

We must press for international agreement on effective targets but we should not wait for agreement to act ourselves.

We all have a role to play.

We can turn down the thermostat, we can insulate our lofts better, we can buy energy efficient light bulbs.

Those who buy cars can switch to driving environmentally friendly cars.

We can drive less. We can fly less.

And most importantly, we can make our views known to our governments.

The money to be saved and the money to be made by making the green switch are huge.

The United Kingdom can be a leader in the carbon market, still in its infancy, yet already worth £11 billion annually.

I want the UK to make that switch as soon as possible and to lead the world by example.

When I was a child, the smog in Glasgow was sometimes so bad you couldn't see a hand in front of your face.

But then we woke up, we realised what we were doing and passed new laws in Britain and in Europe. Factories were retro-fitted, power stations cleaned up. Rivers cleaned and fish returned.

It is easy to forget how innovative and adaptable it is possible to be.

Here at the Tyndall centre in Norwich you have already applied your minds to great effect to become world leaders on the subject of climate change.

Now that climate change is established as a fact, the next task is convincing world leaders to do something about it, and doing something about it ourselves.

The task of finding a global agreement to stop the planet from warming is a task which demands the best from us all. With it, we shall rise to this, the great challenge of our times. Without, the prospect is grim.

I am determined that we shall not throw away in one generation the precious heritage of the centuries, and that we shall all play our part in rising to this challenge.

I am determined that we account to our children and grand children for what we did not what we said.

C&C - EDGE and Pledge Aubrey Meyer

May 03, 2006 07:40 PDT

Tonight 18.00

"Supply Demand Balance: is growth even an option?"

Ron Oxburgh

Former Chair Shell Transport & Trading

Aubrey Meyer

Director Global Commons Institute
Chair Peter Guthrie
Prof Engineering Cambridge
The EDGE

Institution of Civil Engineers
1 George Street, LONDON W1
18.00 3rd May 2006

Booklets containing draft C&C pledge at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/EDGE_Debate.pdf

Progress with C&C in West Africa - Raphael Hanmbock moving mountains!

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/ANCC_BENIN.pdf

Edge Pledge C&C; GCI Evidence to Parliament Aubrey Meyer

May 08, 2006 14:23 PDT

EDGE URGES INSTITUTIONS TO MAKE C&C A CORE CONCERN

"On 3 May, the Edge held the last of a series of three debates on energy and climate change. As a result, the Edge urges the built environment institutions to make Contraction and Convergence a core concern, given their wider duties of public care."

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/EDGE_Report.pdf

GCI SUBMITS EVIDENCE TO ALL-PARTY ENQUIRY ON CLIMATE CONSENSUS

"The shadow of genocide darkens the present enquiry. In 2006 the UK Government's Chief Scientist, Sir David King, did indeed say that climate change is the greatest threat to humanity - 'greater even than terrorism'. Given what we already know about the potential for climate change to bring catastrophic outcomes, Dr King's remark is justifiably emotive, but is it accurate? In GCI's judgement it under-rates the threat. Dr King - albeit inadvertently - while at best opaque on the underlying causes of danger, is fatalistic on the prognosis. He says 'threat' but projects 'certainty'.

Humanity is moving rapidly into conditions of dangerous rates of climate change. Realising this is imperative. Only concerted international action - principally on emissions control with C&C - will prevent this going from urgently serious to critical.

In April 2005 the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee Report advised-by many other major institutions, emphasized this: -

There is an immediate, urgent and absolute need for the UK parliament to come to a consensus on future emissions management in terms of a full-term Contraction and Convergence [C&C] framework and to win the case for this and delivering it internationally.

A globally shared atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration target ideally not higher than 450 parts per million [ppmv] CO2 equivalent, and within this a formal and rapid transition to globally equal per capita shares of the future emissions entitlements that are consistent with this limit.

This is C&C. It is the simplest, most robust and widely supported basis for inter-national and intra-national consensus-building; see the Annexes to this document."

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/APGCCC_Evidence_single_A4_pages.pdf

"C&C, not like footless leggings!" Aubrey Meyer

May 11, 2006 03:57 PDT

New Statesman

Energy Supplement - Editorial

<http://www.newstatesman.co.uk/pdf/Energy%20supp%202006.pdf>

"Environmentalists are often accused of obsessing about climate change. As one who has banged

on about it for years, I plead guilty. But suddenly this spring, like footless leggings under short skirts, the future of the planet is all the rage.

Unlike footless leggings, it won't go away. Fred Pearce argues that, as the situation becomes more urgent, the old idea of "contraction and convergence" has a new logic. I've generally been sceptical of C&C. Like the Kellogg-Briand pact that outlawed war in 1928, it takes a certain idealism to believe it will work. People would need to be convinced that climate change could have worse consequences than almost anything else – including a major war between well-armed states – for it to come into effect.

Still, the political ground is shifting. In a rare interview, the climate scientist John Houghton describes how he helped to convince the leaders of millions of US evangelicals, who overwhelmingly vote Republican, to get serious about climate change."

Has he persuaded them to get serious about C&C?

While Pearce argues C&C as a business plan, Houghton describes C&C more as Christian Duty.

C&C bites Pinochet's Poodle Aubrey Meyer

May 16, 2006 06:03 PDT

1. Royal Society of Arts.

Chair of Climate Capital in disgrace [see below].

2. The CIBSE Executive has asked The Rt Honourable David Miliband MP to respond to C&C question at Meeting this Wednesday London

3. The Africa Group, again C&C.

Meeting this Thursday London/Bonn [details at link].

"We support the principle of Contraction & Convergence. A great service to Africa would be if developed countries in Europe and the Americas did too."

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/LUFF.pdf> [page 13] or

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Josh.pdf>

4. The New Statesman - C&C "saves the world".

"Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) – the logic is compelling.

It is a formula for future global emissions that could, without exaggeration, save the world. Some big environmental groups such as Greenpeace, say it is a political dead-end.

They are profoundly wrong."

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/New_Statesman_Supplement.pdf

1. HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, chaired a packed meeting last night at the Royal Society of Arts [RSA].

Mayer Hillman put this question to the eminent speaker James Cameron after the speech.

[But first, in the programme note, Cameron describes himself as: –

" . . . the Vice Chairman of CCC and is responsible for strategic and sector development, is Chairman of the Advisory Board and represents the firm at the highest levels of business and government. He is one of the world's pre-eminent experts in developing market based policy responses to climate change. Prior to CCC he was Counsel to Baker & McKenzie and was the founder and the head of their Climate Change Practice. James has spent much of his legal career working on climate change matters,

including negotiating the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol as an adviser to the Alliance of Small Island States. He has held academic positions at Cambridge, London, Bruges and Sydney and is currently affiliated with the Yale Centre for Environmental Law and Policy. As a barrister he appeared in several of the leading cases in environmental law and the most significant international law case in recent times: the arrest of General Pinochet. He is the Chairman of the Carbon Disclosure Project and a treasurer of REEEP and a trustee of The Climate Group."] [Arrest! - Pinochet's Poodle got

him released].

QUESTION from Mayer Hillman to James Cameron

"News of the failure of the European Emissions Trading Scheme to find a viable price for carbon emissions, co-incides with BBC news today that 182 million Africans are now foreseen as dying as a result of the failure to arrest the carbon emissions causing dangerous climate change.

Eminent persons - such as Colin Challen supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury - describe this failure as the "Economics of Genocide", yet you describe yourself as "one of the world's pre-eminent experts in developing market based policy responses to climate change".

You were in fact instrumental in securing the release - not as you imply the arrest - of General Pinochet. You are better suited to defending Kenneth Lay in ENRON's emissions fraud that designing the policies that will protect Africans and all of us from dangerous rates of climate change.

On what conceivable grounds do you continue to oppose the Contraction and Convergence Framework, described in the New Statesman only this week as - [quote] without exaggeration, a formula that could literally save the world, opposition to which is profoundly wrong! [unquote]?"

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/New_Statesman_Supplement.pdf

James replied: -

[a] The ETS market-situation is nothing more than a 'blip'

[b] No comment on Africa and economics-of-genocide

[c] The remark linking him to Pinochet was 'snide' [why did he put it in his event-biography?]

[d] He 'Admires Aubrey' [that's nice] but C&C is "a waste of time" [that's not - tell that to Africa].

None of this is a surprise; James is a 'patchwork' man and markets don't deal with their casualties. Trouble is, his position is increasingly crushed between all-out contrarian guesswork and the full-term God-help-us C&C-framework.

Contrarians say you can't tell markets what to do . . . [Well ain't-that/is-that the truth!/?]. Casualties would like to know that we focus on the key point which is, do we deal with this with the: -

[a] There's-No-Problem-Guesswork

[b] Pick-numbers-out of-a-hat-Kyoto-Patchwork or

[c] C&C-concentration-target-based Framework?

For me, James' disgrace is the co-incidence of Africa saying it wants C&C to survive while he tells them C&C is a "a waste of time" [not nice] . . . he has nothing to say about the climate-induced mortality in Africa - the Auschwitz-next-door defence; [I didn't want to know it was there].

2. The new Secretary of State DEFRA The Rt Hon David Miliband has been asked to take a question on this from a CIBSE executive at a public meeting in London tomorrow.

"Congratulations on your latest appointment and your bold way of calling for a global 'Contract for Climate Change'. It is right to marry the economy to environmental sustainability social justice and giving back to nature in proportion to what we take.

This says that future economic continuity and social justice that minimizes climate-damages globally is dependent on the absolute requirement for a global Contraction and Convergence - or C&C-equivalent - atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration target based framework, as it is only from this that the urgently needed emissions-free prosperity for all can be guided and financed.

Do you agree?"

It will be helpful if he does. The Kenyan Government representative at the Chanctonbury Climate Community meeting in London on Thursday will re-iterate the African call for C&C at that meeting.

3. AFRICA GROUP

"We support the principle of Contraction & Convergence.

A great service to Africa would be if developed countries in Europe and the Americas did too."

Meeting Thursday 16th - details at link

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/LUFF.pdf> [page 13]or

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Josh.pdf>

4. New Statesman support C&C.

"Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) – the logic is compelling. It is a formula for future global emissions that could, without exaggeration, save the world.

Some big environmental groups such as Greenpeace, say it is a political dead-end. They are profoundly wrong."

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/New_Statesman_Supplement.pdf

BBC&C - [at last] Aubrey Meyer

May 18, 2006 21:24 PDT

The fair choice for climate change

BBC Article: -

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4994296.stm>

support for C&C at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/links/detail.pdf>

This week and next, government representatives attend UN talks in Bonn looking for the next step forward on climate change. In The Green Room this week, Aubrey Meyer argues that the effective and fair model they need already exists.

Contraction and Convergence secures survival by correcting fatal poverty and fatal climate change. The impact of climate change, it is generally agreed, will land hardest on the poor.

So perhaps it is time to listen to what people from the poorest continent, Africa, are asking for.

At the climate negotiations in Bonn this week, the Africa Group of Nations has called for the adoption of a concept called Contraction and Convergence - C&C, in the jargon.

They first made their call a decade ago. And with 12m people in Central Africa likely to die this year alone because of drought and famine linked to climate, they have good reason to assert that C&C is right, that it is urgently needed, and ask: "For how long must Africa suffer at the hands of others?"

Contraction and Convergence is the only long-term framework for regulating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which does not make carbon dioxide production a luxury that only rich nations can afford.

It creates the social equity which Africa needs, and the carbon reductions which are in all our interests.

Global shares

Contraction and Convergence is a straightforward model for an international agreement on greenhouse gas emissions.

It sets a safe and stable target for concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and a date by which those concentrations should be achieved, based on the best scientific evidence.

The atmosphere being a "global good", C&C declares that all citizens of the Earth have an equal right in principle to emit, and will actually be given an equal right by this future date, the individual allowance for each citizen being derived from the "safe" global target.

So from the grossly inequitable situation we have now, per capita emissions from each country will "converge" at a far more equitable level in the future; while the global total of emissions will "contract".

That is C&C in a nutshell.

CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE: HOW IT COULD WORK

Contraction to 450ppm CO₂-equivalent Convergence to equal per capita emissions at 2030

Here is a numeric example based on current assessment of the danger.

A maximum, or "ceiling", of 450 parts per million (ppm) atmospheric CO₂-equivalent is set, giv-

ing rise to a future global emissions “budget” that contracts year-on-year to near zero by around 2080, to keep concentrations within that “safe” ppm ceiling.

The tradeable shares in this future budget are agreed as “one person one share” globally, but moderated by a convergence to the global average of equal per capita shares over, say, 20 or 30 years as a compromise to ease the transition.

Poverty correction

The constitutional logic of C&C is unarguable; there are no grounds for defending unequal use of the atmosphere.

The economics are impeccable. C&C secures survival by correcting both fatal poverty and fatal climate change in the same arrangement.

Greenhouse gas emissions from industrial development in the West have been accumulating in the atmosphere for 200 years.

So far, GHG emissions have been a close proxy for wealth. Per capita emissions in rich countries are now way above the global average, let alone a sustainable average; and in poor countries, way below.

Africans in particular have good reason to complain about this, as in no sense are they the authors of their misfortunes at the hands of global climate change.

Greenhouse gas emissions from industrial development in the West have been accumulating in the atmosphere for 200 years, and still today Africa’s accumulated emissions are a fraction of the total produced by a country such as Britain.

The global account so far shows that 33% of people have 94% of the global dollar income and account for 90% of the global historical total of greenhouse gas emissions, while the other 66% of people have 6% of global dollar income and a history of emissions totalling 10%. The ratio of poor to rich life value in all this is worse than 15 to one.

The rising climate-related mortality has led UK MPs to observe that this asymmetry, if uncorrected, becomes the economics of genocide.

Symmetry restored

Contraction and Convergence corrects all this. Internationally, the list of eminent individuals and institutions supporting C&C is already large and growing fast

Shares created by C&C are valuable because they are tradeable. A C&C agreement makes it possible for poor countries to finance their future defence against climate change and their “clean development”, by trading their considerable excess emission shares to rich countries.

The rich countries would use their capital to retire their “dirty development”, and put in place economies that are clean and geared to reduced consumption.

This is a “framework-based-market”; and organised this way, the trade marries poetic justice and economic efficiency into a plan which the British magazine *New Statesman* described this week as a “compelling logic that could, without exaggeration, literally save the world”.

In Britain, five of the seven political parties support C&C, as does more than half the total number of MPs. There is a Private Members’ Bill that seeks to put C&C on the statute book.

Internationally, the list of eminent individuals and institutions supporting C&C is already large and growing fast; and then there is the UN itself.

As a country’s wealth grows, so do its greenhouse gas emissions. Most governments of the world have been bound since 1992, when they signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to “avoid dangerous climate change” - to stabilise the rising concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere below a “dangerous” value.

The Kyoto Protocol was the first attempt at finding a mechanism to curb emissions from the industrialised world, emerging as an alternative to C&C.

It is now seen as completely inadequate. The UNFCCC executive has said since 2003 that “C&C is inevitably required to achieve its objective.”

Was it this, and a keen sense of justice for Africa, that caused the Archbishop of Canterbury to observe: "Anyone who thinks that C&C is Utopian simply hasn't looked honestly at the alternatives"? Will governments represented at the Bonn talks this week look at the alternatives and reach, finally, for C&C?

Now that leading lights of the British government and the anti-poverty movement such as Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Bono have bonded so publicly with Africa on climate change and poverty, and declared that its voice must be heard, perhaps Africa's call for C&C will at last be listened to. It is the international agreement they seek, and that we all need to survive.

Aubrey Meyer is director of the Global Commons Institute (GCI), an independent group concerned with the protection of the global commons.

The Green Room is a series of opinion pieces on environmental issues running weekly on the BBC news website.

None so DEFRA Aubrey Meyer

May 19, 2006 00:15 PDT

. . . . as those who won't listen.

Messrs Blair Brown and Bono call for Africa's Voice.

Africa's Voice is for C&C, the fair choice.

Problem solved?

No way. Blair might as well have saved his breath.

Truth is useless without reconciliation – it is this explains why C&C is the African Voice and the new DEFRA Minister David Miliband told the Green Alliance meeting that, "C&C is a beautiful model".

That's good.

But the no good the old guard bureaucrats at DEFRA – Henry Derwent, Sarah Henry and David Warrilow - have used their world famous Hadley Centre and their slot at the BONN climate negotiations to call for the new assessment of the 'revised Brazilian Proposal' to be basis of future negotiations.

This how they think it now goes: - The old Brazilian proposal was no good. It crudely assigned blame for the past marking the 20% of the global population in the North having caused 80% of the GHG pollution and 80% of global population in the South having caused 20% of the pollution. These are the numbers and DEFRA et al wanted none of that ["we've got the technology and they want it was the line"].

Henry and Sarah have now commissioned the 'policy-free-zone' [the Hadley Centre] and other academic chums to recast the 'blame which is now 50:50. [No explanation provided].

If the future is 50:50, we are back to square one. To stabilise the atmosphere, everybody contracts pro rata @ x% depending on the concentration target - but of course there isn't a concentration target so there now point anyway.

At best this is original 'globality' of the US [1990] to which they added equity [differentiation between countries] in the Byrd Hagel Resolution of the US Senate [1997] who now look more progressive than DEFRA.

Seriously – you couldn't make it up. Mr Miliband – watch your back.

If this becomes the basis of the 'contract for social and environmental justice' you have just rightly called for, you will be as dead in the water as Mrs Thatcher was over the poll-tax.

Advice – fire these bureaucrats [they're not very pretty] and hire some beautiful models. [Greenpeace just has – in fact they now employ semi-nude girls to parade Green-Peace/Porn messages to world leaders at their summit meetings – utterly unbelievable Hugo Chave was beside himself: - "I blew her a kiss"].

Seriously, Brazil has been made to look totally stupid. The Chinese and the Indians won't buy one

unit of this 'new' idea. Africa – which is rapidly becoming the killing fields of climate – is suddenly made into a significantly 'guilty party, [absolutely outrageous] and the Americans who rightly say that 'blame' is a ridiculous basis for progress will be wearing the same old Eagle says Up-Yours T-Shirts [fact – the US delegation during the 90s regularly wore these].

Truth is useless without reconciliation. It is this that explains why C&C is the African Voice.

I asked Mr Miliband to tell Mr Blair that, Africans feel they have been heard – and that the problem they feel is they just haven't been listened to.

Mrs Beckett's parting shot before she was in fact fired for being anti-nuclear [sort of fits better with her new Iran Brief doesn't it?] was to say that the beautiful model was 'fashionable – without being pejorative' – of course.

Is the DEFRA bureaucratic plan to use climate change to make Africans completely in-audible. DEFRA announced an expensive climate change 'communications programme' recently where their PR agency has devised the key message; "we mustn't frighten people, it turns them off."

Not half – you can't frighten people when they're dead.

Where is the Archbishop? – Teach them O Lord to stop killing people.

Perhaps we need a little more of the wrath of God.

C&C - Kenya Gov in Bonn. Aubrey Meyer

May 26, 2006 10:12 PDT

Post-Kyoto negotiations: Africa Priorities

Presented by Kenya at the UN Climate Negotiations in Bonn this week

[As Reported by Earth Negotiation Bulletin]

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb24/enbots/pdf/enbots1208e.pdf>

"Don Riaroh, Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Energy, Kenya, emphasized that the effects of climate change, such as intense droughts and flooding, are already impacting Africa, noting these harm Africa's infrastructure and economy as a whole. He underscored that countries responsible for the largest GHG emissions should consider equity, which is one of the key UNFCCC principles. He stated that this principle should not be lost in the implementation phase of the Convention and emphasized that Kenya supports the contraction and convergence of emissions.

Joshua Wairoti, Kenya Meteorological Department, noted that Africa proposed including a reference to equity during the 1997 Kyoto Protocol negotiations, which implied: a globally defined contraction budget by an agreed date that stabilizes concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere at a safe level; convergence to equal sharing of emission entitlements per person globally by an agreed date; and trading of entitlements. He identified equity as the way forward for Africa in the post-2012 regime. Noting the lack of CDM projects in Africa, he stated that the CDM could greatly benefit this continent.

Aubrey Meyer, Global Commons Institute, presented contraction and convergence as a sustainable approach to resolving inequity issues. He discussed updated carbon dioxide emissions data and provided an overview of global energy needs, noting that unlimited growth in emissions is not viable. He described a number of carbon dioxide reduction scenarios, emphasizing that GHGs are being emitted faster than they are being reduced, and called for emissions allocations on a per-capita basis."

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb24/enbots/pdf/enbots1208e.pdf>

The UK government delegation were instructed to meet with the Kenyan Government delegation, to discuss this position.

What actually happened will be public before long.

Remember C&C in November. Aubrey Meyer

May 29, 2006 01:15 PDT

A letter from Climate Network Africa [CNA][written today - 29 05 06] to a large number of NGOs in Kenya points out, "the really great news" that Kenya's Government and Non-Government policy on global climate change is C&C.

Kenya hosts the next UN Summit [COP-12] on what to do about Climate Change. At the session just concluded, the UK delegation was instructed by its government to discuss C&C and COP-12 with the Kenyan delegation. Instead, the UK bureaucrats from DEFRA summoned the Kenyans saying they refused to support or even discuss these matters. No explanation provided was repeatable.

DEFRA boycotted the Kenya Government's C&C side-event though even the US Delegation Chief Harlan Watson came to this widely attended event and confirmed privately that he accepted it was 'in good faith with the US'.

DEFRA refuse to recognize the extent of political support for C&C in the UK and its parliament.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/links/detail.pdf>

They continue to defend 'economic incest' in Europe with dysfunctional trading schemes that pay polluters and blindly destroy innocent third parties.

Dubbed the 'economics of genocide', it already takes its toll in Kenya. Yesterday's Observer wrote on drought there; - "Their animals are dead. These people are next."

After twenty years of this worsening calamity, I have no sympathy left for these feeble and it appears insubordinate DEFRA bureaucrats. UK delegation member Sarah Hendry was heard Thursday wandering down a UN corridor mumbling to a colleague, "I am having a dreadful week."

What will it be like in Nairobi in November I wonder?

29 May 2005

From Climate Network Africa

Dear Kenya Colleagues,

As discussed at the last meeting, I hereby attach a brief note on the concept of Contraction & Convergence (C&C), as well as a hyper link to the website of the institution which invented the idea, for further information. The institution is called the Global Commons Institute (GCI) and is based in the UK.

Contraction and Convergence (or C&C, as it is popularly known) is a concept developed by the Global Commons Institute[1] (GCI) of the UK. In its most basic form, it assigns every human being an equal entitlement to ghg emissions. All countries should thus move towards the same per capita emissions. Total emissions should contract over time, and per capita emissions should converge on a single figure. The actual convergence value, the path towards convergence, and the time when it is to be reached would all be negotiable. The proposal allows for the trading of emissions entitlements using mechanisms of the kind permitted under the Kyoto Protocol, which would promote efficiency, transfer of resources to poor countries whose emissions quotas exceed their needs, and creating sustainable livelihoods through international cooperation, capacity building and transfer of low carbon technologies.

That's C&C in a nutshell.

It is worth noting that, at the just concluded UN Climate Negotiations last week (24th Session of the SBI and SBSTA) in Bonn, Germany, the Kenyan statement read by Mr. Don Riaroh, Deputy Secretary - Ministry of Energy, emphasized [2] that Kenya supports the adoption of the concept of Contraction and Convergence, as the best initiative that can provide the required impetus and a way out of the present morass dodging the international efforts to address climate change.

It is clear from the above that the Kenyan Climate Change NGOs position is therefore consistent and is in line with the official Kenya Government position! This is really great news as it shows that our efforts are complimentary to the Government's on the tricky issue of potential post-Kyoto climate change arrangements.

Take care and have a great week!

Fanuel Tolo

CNA

[1] GCI is an independent group concerned with the protection of the global commons: www.gci.org.uk

[2] <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb24/enbots/pdf/enbots1208e.pdf>

OBSERVER

29 05 06

Their animals are dead. These people are next

"Drought is set to plunge East Africa into a famine after the rains failed. Tracy McVeigh reports from northern Turkana in Kenya where neither charities nor governments are prepared to save nomadic tribes from starvation."

Sunday May 28, 2006

The Observer

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/kenya/story/0,,1784700,00.html?gusrc=rss>

Drought in Kenya. Photograph: Tony Karumba/Getty

In conference rooms and in academic papers, the experts call it 'pervasive pre-famine conditions'. In the village, squatting on his brick-sized wooden stool in the red dirt of east Africa, Lokuwam Lokitalauk calls it a death sentence. His curses ricochet round the quiet village and his glaucoma-misted eyes dart off, surveying the stick-like spectres of children drifting listlessly about.

'When I had my cows, I could afford three wives and I have 20 children,' he said. 'The drought has killed my herd. All my cattle have died of thirst but I still have the wives and children, and now I can't feed them. I should be out there with my cows grazing.' He waves a hand behind him to the crisp, cracked plains without turning his head: 'But, here I am, I am weak now; I'm waiting to die.'

And if the rains fail again later this year, he and his people face death. The ghost of famine hangs over the Turkana nomads of northern Kenya. The short rains failed last November and the long rains of April and May have arrived only as the occasional shower that just keeps the vicious thorn bushes and the few camels alive. The cows and sheep on which about 250,000 pastoral people rely for food and milk are now all dead. Over the whole drought-hit area, stretching into southern Ethiopia, southern Sudan and east into Somalia, people who spend their time moving with the weather from the valley-floor grazing sites to the springs in the hills have lost almost all their live-stock. Animals are everything to these people - their food, their wealth, their insurance and their savings accounts. Eight million people in this dry triangle are hungry. Herds of cattle hundreds strong have been wiped out, their skinny corpses not even any use as meat. The lucky families have a few thin goats left and spend most of their waking hours searching or digging for water to keep the spark of life in them. The children are malnourished and sick, their parents are weak and helpless. There are no old people.

There is some grazing land still to the west in Uganda where the rain has fallen a little more, but the once-friendly tribes there have turned protective and attack anyone who attempts the long walk to the border.

Half an hour's drive from the village of Lopiding, where the old men sit in despairing solitude while the women queue for hours for a turn at the well that reluctantly squeezes out a bowlful of water from deep in the earth, two-year-old Lokaalei cries and cries. He has not eaten for two days.

Lokaalei was orphaned in the last week of April. His young parents - Nakatorot and Ekal - were part of a group who had been digging for water. Some of the wells they dig with their bare hands have reached 40ft: that means 10 people standing from top to bottom passing up gourds of water from the shrinking water table.

The sides of these pits are just sand and brittle earth, so they collapse every now and again. Smothered by the very dryness of the land: this is a brutality beyond irony. Six people died in the accident that killed Lokaalei's parents and locals say about 35 others have died this way in the past month, but showers over the past few days have raised the water table and, for about four weeks at least, the pits will not need to be so deep.

Lokaalei's aunt has taken him in, but he will only let one of his cousins, a six-year-old girl, anywhere near him. No one knows if he cries for his mother or because of the pain in his belly.

'His name, in Turkana, is the word for when the water is flowing,' says his aunt Kochele. 'The rains were working when he was born and he was a great hope for his mother and for all of us.' She has her own three children, but the Turkana look after their own fiercely. 'Whoever has something small they will share,' she said. 'If we had livestock, there would be milk for the children, but now they get up in the morning to scavenge for a few berries.' She burns wood to make charcoal and walks for many miles to sell it. But so do many of the other nomad women scattered around this wide plain. It is a buyers' market and she gets a handful of shillings for her load.

These people have nothing on their minds but water, their days centred on it. They are haunted by water. Food is almost a secondary issue. Sanitation a long-forgotten luxury. 'It drives us crazy to see when they are drinking stagnant water from a pool where their animals have also drunk,' said John Kener, a project officer for the charity Amref's clinic at Lopiding, the only health service for thousands of square miles. 'There is no boiling of the water they can find, they drink where the animals drink. Disease is rampant.'

Joseph Lomil, 27, is on the village committee that looks after the well at Lopiding. 'Last month there were fights here because people wanted to give water to their livestock, but it takes too long to pull up water and everyone must queue.'

Lomil has heard of irrigation and knows about bore holes, and he dreams of going to Nairobi to train as a water engineer and then come back here to help his people. Just to torment himself he has worked out what it would cost for the two-year course - 300,000 Kenyan shillings (£2,200). There is nowhere for a man like him to get that kind of money and no charities are offering such individual investment. The Kenyan government certainly is not either. So Lomil dreams on as the village well creaks out its daily allowance.

The Turkanas usually live only briefly in larger groups, spending most of their time in the countryside moving around with their immediate family in a couple of hide, tarpaulin and stick huts. Since the drought, security has become paramount and families are coming together into encampments surrounded by thorny brush barriers to keep out Sudanese rustlers who come at night to steal a goat.

Today some grain has arrived in Lopiding from Nairobi - a three-day treacherous drive away - the first for several months and Kener estimates it will last the 30 families here four days. Others have walked in from miles around. There is no food aid for Lokaalei, though. Kochele and her family were in the hills when the government man came to register people for emergency food. Their name is not on the list.

There is no expectation from the Turkana that help will come to them from outside, certainly not from the government so far away in Nairobi.

David Ille is a 40-year-old father-of-six who for now lives in Lopiding. 'For the Turkana, we prefer to live in the countryside, that is where we are comfortable and happiest. Even now, those who have moved near or into villages will move out again as soon as they get some livestock.' Ille has lost three-quarters of his animals. He was a rich man, but, in a cashless economy, his wealth faded with his cows. 'For me it was very difficult as I had sent my sons to school so when the time came there was no help to move the cows to find some pasture. People say, "Now you have lost everything because you have sent your boys to school." But I do not regret it; maybe my boys will be able to support me in different ways.'

What different ways there are in this harsh environment is hard to see. This calamity is as much a part of the natural landscape as are its 20ft termite towers and the distant hills reaching up to the blue sky. Although the usual cycle of drought is every eight to 10 years, that has now been reduced - most likely by global warming - to about once every five years, and this one is especially tough. When all the livestock dies like this, it takes an estimated 15 years to build up stocks again. Experts and charity workers believe the nomads' plight in times of natural disaster is exacerbated by wilful neglect of people with no political clout. Dr Sara Pantuliano is an expert on pastoralism. A

research fellow of the humanitarian policy group at the Overseas

Development Institute, she will host a meeting in London this week to look at the gaps in the response to the drought. She said too many government officials believed the answer to helping the nomadic peoples of the Horn of Africa was not to help them in practical ways to sustain their traditional lifestyles, but to make them settle down.

'The ecosystem there cannot support large numbers of people so the areas are sparsely populated and easily forgotten. These are people who make the best use of resources by moving around and their way of life is valuable to the economy and they provide meat. They need investment such as abattoirs and livestock markets and roads, so their animals can be bought and sold.' In times of drought, people could then sell their cattle before they died and smaller herds would have a better chance of survival, especially if more wells and bore holes were built, she said.

'The biggest problem is that pastoralists have always been political outcasts, marginalised by the mainstream,' said Pantuliano. 'So no investment is forthcoming - politicians are taught outdated theories that the pastoralists have an inefficient economy and the only way they will survive is to settle. But 20 years of research has shown that is not true. They are economically productive: put them in settlements and they become an increasing burden on their government and on the international community.'

Some of the areas where the Turkana would normally go in times of drought have been closed off, not just by warring tribes but also by a decade of flawed management of land by successive governments with the encouragement of the World Bank and other donors.

'We are in a crisis,' said Mette Kjaeris, country director for Amref in Kenya. 'Around eight million people in that triangle are in need of food. Even if there is just a little rain now, it won't help much. Turkana is still an emergency district and the lowest priority in allocating investment; it's remote, it's hidden.'

It is not only a low priority for the government. Just up the road from Lopiding is Lokichoggio, a scrap of a town around an airstrip. About 20 charities use it as a stopping-off point for supplies and workers heading into the vast humanitarian crisis of southern Sudan. South African and Russian pilots drink beer in the bar at Kates' Camp, the only hotel for hundreds of miles. There is even a small swimming pool - full of water.

Now the fragile peace agreement in Sudan means most of the NGOs that come through here are beginning to ship out to base themselves fully within Sudan's borders. Kates' Camp customers will go and the pool will be drained. So, too, will the supplies of medicine to the Amref medical clinic that Kener runs and which relies on these assorted flights to keep their supplies coming in. 'We will stay, but I am worried things will get very difficult. Already some of the NGOs have taken our nurses away to Sudan,' Kener says.

The bigger calamity calls. 'That's one of the challenges facing us all, the NGOs, the governments - how do we prioritise? If we just look at greatest numbers of people, as in Sudan, areas such as this with lower population density will be neglected. We need to find new criteria; we need to pay more attention as a global community,' said Kjaeris. 'Everyone needs to work harder.'

This is the edge of the abyss of famine. If the rains do not fail again in November, the little boy named after running water may live to see his homeland green again. If the drought continues, Lokaalei and many others like him will undoubtedly die.

African Medical and Research Foundation: www.amref.org/uk

Tony Blair on C&C Aubrey Meyer

May 31, 2006 03:14 PDT

Letter - 22 05 2006 - from the Prime Minister Tony Blair to Elfyn Clywd Leader of the Welsh Nationalists [Plaid Cymru] regarding Contraction and Convergence

Original at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Blair_C&C_to_Elfyn_Clywd_220506_reduced_file_size.pdf

Wording of letter as text at the bottom of this message.

COMMENT

Mr Blair's letter says, "Certain aspects of Contraction and Convergence are appealing, including the identification of a fixed level for stabilisation of greenhouse gas [ghg] concentrations, and comprehensive global participation."

The whole purpose of the climate negotiations – ghg stabilisation - is stated here and this [though obvious, not-to-say legally-binding since 1992] is a welcome advance. C&C has been Africa's Voice since 1997.

Though signed by Mr Blair and dated the 22nd of May 2006, the letter was written earlier by bureaucrats from DEFRA. After stating the above, they recycle [word-for-word] DEFRA's standard rationale where the 'Brazilian Proposal' deals with 'historic responsibility' [but with no concentration target] while saying that it is an alternative to C&C [which does have a concentration target] which merely makes "per capita emissions the basis for assigning responsibility for future action."

The point still seems to be wholly lost on DEFRA officials that the process is meaningless without a concentration target. At the same time they also don't seem to grasp that the moment you do have concentration target, you are numerically combining the future safe and stable ghg concentration target with future responsibility and emissions trading, and so by definition have a rapidly shrinking but measured entitlement to the future use of fossil fuel for the measured number people who inhabit this 'future'.

To sustain forms of argument that imply or declare that these entitlements are going to be unequal as well as unmeasured not-to-say environmentally unsustainable, is – to put it mildly - deluded.

The date of Mr Blair's letter is significant; - it is two days *before* the same DEFRA officials at the climate negotiations in Bonn were instructed by the UK Government to meet with the delegation of the Kenya Government. The stated purpose of this meeting was to discuss COP-12 and Kenya's renewed advocacy of "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C). At this meeting, the single Kenyan Government official who was actually present was in fact told by members of the UK delegation that the UK would not support or even help to enable discussion and/or assessment of C&C.

As the Tony Blair the UK Prime Minister had said only days before that, "Africa's Voice must be heard", the reactions of Kenyan officials when they found out about this were bewilderment and ought to be heard as well.

DEFRA's letter with the PM's signature on it makes bathos and disgrace of his words.

Northern Kenya, its peoples and habitats across the whole region are being desiccated and destroyed by climate change again this year. And while DEFRA was obstructing Kenya's call for C&C, they were also promoting their 'new' version of the Brazilian Proposal in which carefully selected 'experts' have now proved that the corrected proposal shows that 'everyone is equally to blame' for what is happening with no suggestion as to the future regime of sharing under limits that require shrinking emissions.

Miguez, a senior Brazilian negotiator and personal friend over ten years said, "Come on Aubrey, what's new? You know how this process works. It's the same old game. We know there is no conflict between the Brazilian Proposal and C&C; so we just continue and support both."

It is reported that Sarah Hendry of DEFRA's climate team is now leaving the department. Reasons have not been made public.

LETTER

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

22 May 2006

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Elfyn

Thank you for your letter of 28 March enclosing a copy of one from Cynog Dafis regarding Climate

Change and Contraction and Convergence.

Certain aspects of Contraction and Convergence are appealing, including the identification of a fixed level for stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations, and comprehensive global participation. Any framework that incorporates long-term targets can offer countries greater certainty about their national targets and provide a clear signal to allow business to plan ahead and help drive investment in new and better technologies. The principle of equity is extremely important to all countries, but in particular developing countries, and a number of countries have expressed an interest in using per capita emissions as a basis for assigning responsibility for future action. Some developing countries, in particular India, have advocated the Contraction and Convergence model. Equally, other countries have shown interest in alternative frameworks; Brazil for example has championed historical responsibility as a basis for determining future commitment levels. However, one key element of any future regime must be its workability and one particular concern with Contraction and Convergence is the question of how globally acceptable, and in consequence how workable, it would prove to be.

At this stage, it is important that we remain flexible in looking at the options, that all existing suggestions for future frameworks remain on the table, and that full consideration is given both to the possible frameworks themselves and to the elements within them that could be used to form part of a workable solution.

For now, the Government is therefore pursuing a two-pronged approach, pressing for agreement on a long-term stabilisation limit whilst simultaneously maintaining pressure on countries to take ambitious short-term action to mitigate emissions.

Yours ever

Tony

Mr Elfyn Llwyd MP

C&C Momentum Aubrey Meyer

Jun 11, 2006 06:42 PDT

C&C Events/Publications this summer:

At the/in the: -

1. UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change
2. UK Carbon Neutral Company - FTSE Report
3. Global C&C Kite-Mark Pledge
4. British Medical Journal **
5. Brunel Memorial Lecture **
6. Green Cross International [Gorbachev] Brisbane Festival July
7. Bath MSc course
8. UCL "Rome Burning" Artist/Activist Festival
9. Energy Ministers Conference Dublin
10. Sustainability Course Dartington
11. WMO Finland/Kenya
12. UN Accountability Journal

1. All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change

"The Group expects to provide practical action through the design and piloting of innovative policy alternatives such as the '25/5 Challenge', 'Contraction and Convergence', 'Domestic Tradable Quotas' and 'CarbonNeutral'.

In this way the Group will have a direct and tangible impact on climate change policy in the UK."

http://www.gci.org.uk/Political_Parties/All_Party_Group_Objectives.pdf Full Report on cross-party consensus [13 07 2006]

Kenyan Delegation present for
Second Reading of C&C Bill [14 07 2006]
Portcullis House

2. Carbon Neutral Company - FTSE Report

CarbonNeutral-Company report link available mid July.

Interim Article-Link here: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/CN.pdf>

"The CarbonNeutral Company report on progress with of 'carbon disclosure' by FTSE companies is useful. But while disclosure is an important step, global 'carbon enclosure' – or full global C&C-compliance – is required to stabilize the atmosphere. As only this will avoid what is now regularly described as the worst threat even to face humankind, CN are correct to highlight this next stage of C&C-Compliance now.

The CarbonNeutral Company and the Carbon Disclosure Project provide useful bridging services to the C&C-compliance now needed.

They assist the call last year by 25 of the world's largest corporations of the World Economic Forum to the G-8 leaders. Their statement said the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Treaty was an inadequate patchwork and called on the governments to create a global "concentration-target-based framework with universal rights", in other words a C&C arrangement."

3. C&C Kite-Mark Pledge

To galvanize this effort GCI has drafted a C&C kite-mark and pledge for legal entities to adopt and exhibit as a sign of their commitment to the cause of global carbon-neutrality. A full-time working group of industry experts has been established to finalise preparations and this initiative will become operational later this year.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/kite/pledge-text.pdf>

4. BMJ – ** Highly influential "British Medical Journal" 2 articles, Stott Hillman

"The most feasible policy for tackling global warming is contraction and convergence – a carbon cap and trade policy designed to stabilise and then reduce global carbon dioxide emissions," writes Dr Robin Stott.

Access both at this link: -

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/521134/>

or at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/BMJ_Stott.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/BMJ_Hillman.pdf

5. BML 2006 – also ** highly influential "Brunel Memorial Lecture" Prof Paul Jowitt – President Elect of the Institution of Civil Engineers [ICE]

"The 'Contraction and Convergence (C&C) Strategy' proposed by the Global Commons Institute [37, 38], offers such a process, drawing widespread interest and support, for example from the Indian Government [39], the Africa Group of Nations [40] and the USA [41].

In December 1997 at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Kyoto – and shortly before they withdrew from the Kyoto negotiations – the USA stated: "Contraction and convergence contains elements for the next agreement that we may ultimately all seek to engage in." [US Delegation to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto COP-3].

"The UK should be prepared to accept the contraction and convergence principle as the basis for international agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and should adopt a long-term strategy for reducing its own emissions." [The UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution]."

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/BRUNEL_LECTURE_A3.pdf

6. Optimist Magazine [Gorbachev]

The Journal of Green Cross International [the other GCI]

<http://www.optimistmag.org/gb/0000/index.php>

Article at address above shortly, but here meanwhile: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Brisbane3.pdf>

C&C at the Brisbane Festival Australia in July

<http://www.brisbanefestival.com.au/earthdialogues/speakers.html>

<http://www.brisbanefestival.com.au/earthdialogues/program.html>

Photos of GCI Gorbachev and GCI Meyer doing business available here

15.00 12 06 06: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/images/GCIs.pdf>

7. Bath MSc Course – C&C and New Economics [13th June 2006]

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/carpp/msc.htm#description>

8. "Rome Burning" UCL Artist Activist [15th June 2006 18.00]

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Rome_Burning_Manifesto_Programme.pdf

<http://www.psi12.qmul.ac.uk/performance/index.html#thurs>

"Curated Manifestos"

'Outlining the climate of collapse' hosted by John Jordan

A presentation mixing biography, violin playing, film and hard science by guest Aubrey Meyer, an accomplished musician and composer before he immersed himself in ecological campaigning and became a leading figure in the global negotiations on climate change with his unique campaign of Contraction and Convergence.

9. Energy and the Climate Change Challenge

Chairman: David Taylor, Chief Executive

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IRELAND [19/20 06 2006]

Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks by Pierce Martin

ENGINEERS IRELAND

Ministerial Address:

Irish Energy Policy and Priorities

Noel Dempsey TD,

Minister for Communications, Marine & Natural Resources

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Contraction and Convergence: A Framework for Tackling Climate Change

Aubrey Meyer, Director,

GLOBAL COMMONS INSTITUTE

Climate Change: How We Can Save the Planet

Mayer Hillman, Senior Fellow Emeritus

POLICY STUDIES INSTITUTE

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Energy_Ireland_2006.pdf

10. Dartington Devon

C&C workshops for Sustainability South West [21 06 2006]

<http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/home2.html>

11. Strategic pre-COP-12 "Africa-C&C Unity" workshops and related events in Finland in July and in Kenya in August. Details of these will be public in due course.

GCI's film and media unit accompany this mission to Africa for further documentary film-making focusing particularly on the increasingly critical drought/famine consequences of climate change in the North of Kenya and beyond.

Independent TV broadcast pencilled in UK pre-November 2006.

12. Premier un Journal "Accountability"

<http://www.accountability.org.uk/resources/default.asp?pageid=68>

Article at address above, but here meanwhile: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Accountability.pdf>

C&C for the NHS . . . ? Aubrey Meyer

Jun 13, 2006 23:57 PDT

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/story/0,,1796589,00.html>

"The NHS has enormous power to do good, or harm, to human health and the natural environment, not just by providing health services, but also - and mainly - by deploying its vast corporate resources. It is the largest single organisation in the country. Its annual budget for England and Wales is more than £80bn, with £17bn spent on goods and services, and a workforce of more 1.3 million people - one of the largest in the world. It is planning to spend £11bn by 2010 on new hospital buildings.

The NHS Confederation, which represents health trusts and has its annual conference this week, has produced a statement on sustainable communities, urging the NHS to help make "safe, green, clean and healthy environments"

On Friday, the British Medical Journal will take up the issue of climate change, calling on health professionals to support a policy of "contraction and convergence", in which every individual has an annual carbon allowance, to be traded globally and reduced year on year. On Saturday, at a conference in London, the global health charity, Medact, which campaigns on international issues, will focus its efforts on climate change."

Anna Coote, lead commissioner for health on the UK Sustainable Development Commission, will speak at a Medact conference, Global Inequality and Climate Change, in London on June 17.

For more information call 020 7324 4739 or

go to www.medact.org

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/story/0,,1796589,00.html>

C&C At and around UK Parliament Aubrey Meyer

Jun 24, 2006 11:10 PDT

Joined by Kenyan UN Climate Delegates

Current C&C Events in and around the UK Parliament

1. Launch of All-Party Report on Climate Consensus – 13 07 2006

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/APPCCG_Invitation.pdf

2. Second Reading of C&C Bill – 14 07 2006; contact Colin Challen
colinch-@parliament.uk

3. Shrinking Economies in the Developed World – 17 07 2006

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/SHRINKING_ECONOMIES_IN_THE_DEVELOPED_WORLD.pdf

4. Dishonourable Conduct - DEFRA at recent UN climate negotiations;

Correspondence at: - http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Sarah_Hendry.pdf

C&C - FTSE, Stock Exchange, Penny Drops Aubrey Meyer

Jun 27, 2006 01:31 PDT

C&C in and at: -

1. CarbonNeutral FTSE Report

2. The London Stock Exchange

3. The Penny, London's No. One Alternative Newspaper

"Followers and Leaders"

Report on FTSE from Carbon Neutral Company

"The CarbonNeutral Company report on progress with 'carbon disclosure' by FTSE companies is useful.

But while disclosure is an important step, global 'carbon enclosure' – or full global C&C-compliance – is required to stabilise the atmosphere. It is only this which will avoid what is now regularly described as the worst threat to face humankind. The CarbonNeutral Company is correct to highlight this next stage of C&C-compliance right now."

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/CarbonNeutral_Co_FTSE350_Climate_Research.pdf

CarbonNeutral

T +44 (0) 20 7833 6000

E in-@carbonneutral.com

www.carbonneutral.com

"Carbon - the New Currency of Business"

Sustainability - Climate Change and the City.

London Stock Exchange.

Monday October 2, 2006.

C&C in the City Symposium at the heart of the UK commercial marketplace,
the London Stock Exchange.

Hosted by Sustain Magazine [Details to be announced].

Welcome to Issue 1 of The Penny – London's Alternative Newspaper.

Cover Story - "C&C and the Charge of the Rhino"

Brilliant Rhino Cartoons by Greg Stekelman www.themanwhofellasleep.com

" . . . there's our hard-hitting cover story by Tom Burgis, writing about how London is the launch pad for an idea that could halt global warming and save us all."

"Contraction and Convergence is blissfully simple - simple enough for the European Parliament and the African Union to adopt it as policy. The climate mandarins who once told Meyer to visit the barber are now seeking his advice. [Well not all of them].

'It's just a logical position,' he says, 'not, of itself, ideological. It's like music: you can't say it's a leftist piece of music or a rightist piece of music. An octave is a doubling, there are givens.'

<http://www.pennylondon.co.uk/ThePennyIssueOne.pdf>

The Penny

London E1 6QL

020 7770 6180

www.pennylondon.co.uk

Contributors: edi-@pennylondon.co.uk

John Ashton, C&C . . . Avoidance . . . ? Aubrey Meyer

Jul 04, 2006 04:37 PDT

John Ashton and C&C

John Asthton has newly been appointed roving climate ambassador for Britain by the new Foreign Secretary Mrs Margaret Beckett [ex DEFRA]. John's take on C&C was in the Pew Centre Report a couple of years back thus: -

"Ultimately, almost any conceivable long-term solution to the climate problem will embody, at least in crude form, a high degree of contraction and convergence. Atmospheric concentrations of GHGs cannot stabilize unless total emissions contract; and emissions cannot contract unless per capita emissions converge. The practical question is not whether this is a reasonable scheme, but whether the quickest way to realize it is to base the next stage of the negotiations explicitly on it."

The vague notion of 'long-term' is a luxury we cannot afford. The solution needed has to be full-term and is probably much shorter than we have been encouraged to believe. The situation is already urgent.

Here is a briefing that puts the vague notion of "long-term solution" into the clear and present danger of runaway climate conditions taking hold.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Avoidance.pdf>

It should be increasingly clear to most people that C&C is urgently required. The issue is not whether C&C is 'reasonable'. The issue is whether the 'next stage of the negotiations' can conceivably be relevant without C&C coming formally and urgently in play.

John is a very decent man – no question. However, in his new role he has reframed the whole 'problem of what to do about climate change' away from targets and timetables to being an 'investment problem'.

For this he is being treated, some say, "like the Queen of Sheba" in the inner circles of Whitehall that now seem to be increasingly paralysed by the enormity of the climate crisis.

Insiders pose . . . 'early success' to bench-mark for 'longer-term progress'

The fact is that we are running out of time and these propositions become a real and dangerous dichotomy when based on the false dichotomy between targets and timetables.

We've been 'here' all along, i.e. looking for successes while continuing to create the problem faster than we are organising to avoid it <and not behaving or even speaking as though this were the case!>.

These 'two' [. . . 'early success' and 'longer-term progress'] are and deepen a real dichotomy, if not stated in terms of C&C framework [i.e. concentration-target based inclusive global framework on common metrics etc] but they are no dichotomy at all if they are stated within the framework.

Climate Politics – All at C&C? Aubrey Meyer

Jul 11, 2006 06:23 PDT

Climate Politics – All at C&C?

All Party Climate Change Consensus Group

'C&C Friendly' Report Launch

10.00 am Thursday 13th July 2006

Royal Society of Arts, John Adam St London

Open to public – details here

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/APPCCGinvitation.pdf>

This link to the Report will be active Thursday: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Consensus_Report.pdf

While the recommendations from this are useful, some of the expert 'oral' evidence to this enquiry [included] has the merit of putting ngo-hesitation out to scrutiny . . .

All Party Climate Change Consensus Group

C&C Bill, Pledge, Kitemark – Publicity Event

11.00 am Friday 14th July 2006

Committee Room 7 House of Commons London

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/APPCCG_C&C_event.pdf

The meeting will be joined by the Kenyan Government, hosts of COP-12 Nairobi, November. Report of Kenya Government Position as reported by UN in May

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Kenya_Side_Event_IISD.pdf

Local Council Support and Resolutions for C&C and C&C Bill is growing and will posted at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/Local_Government/

Oxford

Camden

Bristol

Norwich

Summary "Aggravated Climate Risk" Assessment

We are running out of time to avoid Dangerous Rates of Climate Change

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/page16_17_A4.pdf

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Avoidance.pdf>

Environment Data Interactive Exchange [EDIE]

"Global Commons Institute tells EDIE why emissions-trading, in its current form, is floundering - and the contraction and convergence framework can address the issue."

http://www.edie.net/Library/view_article.asp?id=3651&channel=0

New UK House of Commons New Early Day Motion [EDM 2465] supporting Tony Blair

"That this House congratulates the Prime Minister on his speech at King's College, London on 26th June, in which he called for an acceleration in discussions leading to a new framework to tackle climate change; notes that both he and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have praised the contraction and convergence proposal; and urges the Government to ensure that this model features highly in future negotiations."

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=31031&SESSION=875>

<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page9746.asp>

It is worth taking time to consider if Tony Blair's words together are a call for C&C. He wants an international climate deal urgently and before he leaves and he has said we must have: -

- * a rational science-based unity rather than more rounds of division. [publicly before COP-11]
- * a global concentration-target based framework; the process is meaningless without this. [privately to well placed high-level source in the private sector]
- * a convergence date [to un-named very senior Civil Servant source]
- * something tougher than Kyoto and sooner than Kyoto with everyone in – [see numerous speeches]
- * 'muscular multilateralism' to deal with climate and Africa's poverty - etc [ibid]

Blair knows that C&C is in play; -

"Aspects of C&C are appealing - the ghg concentration and global participation."

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Blair_C&C_to_Elfyn_Clywd_220506_reduced_file_size.pdf

Points of relevance: -

- * African Group has traditionally called for C&C since before Kyoto.
- * Kenya will raise it again at COP-12 in Nairobi in November.
- * DEFRA has informed UK MP that, "the UK will support this."
- * Rt Hon David Miliband MP calls C&C "A Beautiful Model"
- * The UK all-party consensus report published this Thursday makes no global policy call,
- * The C&C bill is 'read' again this Friday.

Stop Press: - The Kenyan High Commissioner also attends and speaks at this event.

Kenya Host COP-12 and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jul 16, 2006 05:13 PDT

Speaking at a meeting in the House of Commons on the 14th of July 2006, H. E. Joseph Kirugumi Muchemi the Kenyan High Commissioner to the UK said; -

"C&C is built on the equity principle and demands that the greenhouse gases emissions space is equitably shared on per capita basis among all persons of the world. Such is a welcome framework for it addresses the interests of the developing as well as the developed countries alike. It is for this reason that Kenya supports this principle and has not wavered in its support for the principle and would like to see the whole world coming out in its support for we are convinced that it is the better option to address effectively the long term interests of Africa and for all with regard to the challenges of climate change."

http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Kenyan_Ambassador_on_C&C_pre_COP12.pdf

Also speaking at the meeting in the House of Commons on the 14th of July 2006, Dr Joshua Wai-roto Deputy Director of the Kenya Meteorological

Service said; -

"The UNFCCC required a tool to implement the Convention and this lead to the Kyoto Protocol adopted in 1997. Unfortunately the Kyoto Protocol lacks equity. This is a serious deficiency because the tool is supposed to help the world implement the Convention for the benefit of all. Without equity the tool favour the polluters more than the non-polluters and so helps to escalate the problem of rising concentrations of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. It therefore renders communities in the developing world more vulnerable and all the impacts I have mentioned above continue to ravage the communities, particularly those in Africa and elsewhere and pushes them nearer to their extinction much faster than their counter parts in the developed world. We must address this deficiency in the tool immediately.

The UNFCCC Negotiations for a future International Climate Change regime must be built on: Equity principle where GHG emissions are capped at a safe level (preferably 450-550 ppmv) of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere. The safe level must be scientifically determined and agreed on by all. The emissions space so determined for should be equitably shared on per capita basis. A date should be determined for contraction of the GHG emissions budget to be completed. Another date which should be earlier than the date for contraction should be agreed on for the parties to converge on the resources. This process will ensure equitable distribution of resources for the benefit of all while still addressing the problem of Climate Change.

It is on this philosophy that the Principle of Contraction and Convergence is built and it is for this reason that I believe that the Contraction and Convergence Principle is a better option to address the problem of Climate Change. This principle should therefore be embraced by all."

http://www.gci.org.uk/speeches/Kenyan_Delegation_on_C&C_Pre_COP12.pdf

C&C - "Accountability Forum" Aubrey Meyer

Jul 17, 2006 07:46 PDT

C&C - "Accountability Forum"

<http://www.accountability.org.uk/default.asp>

"None of the recent and ongoing scares and worries about energy security, climate change or nuclear power will break the trend for ongoing energy demands; but these anxieties raise difficult questions about how we think about the relationship between energy and accountability.

In this issue, leading practitioners from diverse backgrounds respond to the central question: 'can we move to more efficient, equitable and cleaner energy systems by changing how we practise accountability in energy use?'

In this issue of Accountability Forum leading practitioners and thinkers from groups including the Frances Seymour and Nancy Kete of the World Resources Institute, Camilla Toulmin of the International Institute of Environment and Development and Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute address some of the fundamental problems we face as we try to encourage responsible and accountable energy use."

<http://www.accountability.org.uk/resources/default.asp?pageid=68>

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/Accountability_P.pdf

C&C - Penetrating Deeper Aubrey Meyer

Aug 15, 2006 05:49 PDT

Intelligent Infrastructure Futures

The Scenarios – Towards 2055

http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Intelligent_Infrastructure_Systems/Reports_and_Publications/Intelligent_Infrastructure_Futures/the_scenarios_2055.pdf

This report from UK Government's 'Foresight' envisages: -

"Regions and local authorities have followed the lead of their governments and run local initiatives to reduce travel demand; and very few governments have opted out of the international Contraction and Convergence Agreement to reduce global emissions. Political and economic sanctions are imposed through the United Nations on rogue states that don't comply."

C&C Timeline envisaged throughout.

The report published January 2006 by DTI, was commissioned by the Foresight Programme of the UK Government's "Office of Science and Technology" to support its Project on Intelligent Infrastructure Systems. [The views are not the official point of view of any organisation or individual, are independent of Government and do not constitute government policy].

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Beyond economic models

'The paradigm of neo-classical economics is particularly hegemonic at the moment... Looking ahead, it is highly likely that other disciplines will become dominant diffusers of ideas. Ecological and systems ideas may prove a strong contender – it is possible that where most policymakers today see markets of consumers and producers, in 10 or 20 years' time, we will all automatically see systems of matter, energy and waste. At the moment ecology is being squeezed to fit into economics. In the future the reverse may be true.' Geoff Mulgan, 'Global comparisons in policy-making: the view from the centre', Open Democracy, 12 June 2003.

"Under the terms of the Contraction and Convergence Agreement, individuals each received an entitlement, which had been negotiated and agreed between the regions of the world. The entitlements, in the form of international energy-backed currency units(EBCUs) operate as a parallel currency. See the Global Commons Institute, www.gci.org.uk , for further information."

Related Report at: -

<http://www.iccr-international.org/foresight/docs/deliverable3-en.pdf>

"A proper response requires the adoption of a framework within which targets are set to substantially lower greenhouse gas emissions. In the transport sector, these will be focussed on major reductions in both the volume and speed of road, rail and air traffic — much more than reduction

in the rate of its growth. In meeting such targets, many other public interest objectives on the social, economic and environmental front will also be achieved. Such a framework, based on the principle of Contraction and Convergence (contraction of emissions to the required level to protect the planet and convergence towards equal per capita shares throughout the world), has been proposed by the London-based Global Commons Institute. It is generating widespread international support from highly influential politicians and growing numbers of major institutions in developing and developed countries.

This required paradigm shift aims at the behaviour of every single person for it has huge implications for the quality of life (loss vs. gain, new measures of progress etc.). Especially in the beginning, politicians and teachers are the most important actors."

C&C strengthening in Australia Aubrey Meyer

Aug 28, 2006 12:13 PDT

President Gorbachev's Green Cross International held its 'Earth Dialogues at the Brisbane Festival' this July. Over three days the event was attended by in excess of 2000 members of the public.

Many eminent persons contributed: -

<http://www.brisbanefestival.com.au/earthdialogues/speakers.html>

[CVs of persons relevant to the climate sessions are at the end of this message].

The Global Commons Institute [GCI] presentation materials used are sited here: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/Brisbane.ppt>

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C_Bubbles.pdf

with the hand-out: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/rising_risk.pdf

The Green Cross Magazine – "Optimist" – carried the C&C material here,

<http://www.optimistmag.org/gb/0014/one.php?id=1622>

At the end the conference, output drafted from the conference included the following: - "3.2 Drawing on commitments made under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, governments should develop frameworks based on the sustainable and equitable principles of Contraction & Convergence to guide market mechanisms to limit greenhouse gas emissions and atmospheric concentrations to a safe level." [This is still draft].

Reactions to the C&C presentation were strongly committed and warm: -

It was described by Patrick Bell, Director, Strategic Policy Development Queensland's Department of Energy as, "the best presentation on this [climate and how to frame what needs to be done] I have ever seen. We absolutely need people like you to fight like this."

An officer of the Brisbane City Council [Natural Environment & Sustainability], wrote to say that: - "I was lucky enough to see you speak (and play the violin so beautifully) at the Earth Dialogues in Brisbane (Sunday 23rd July). I was one of the ones crying in the middle rows! I found your presentation compelling. I have been discussing the contraction and convergence idea with my colleagues - it's timely for us, as we are currently reviewing Brisbane's Sustainable Energy and Greenhouse Action Plan, and holding discussions to draft new renewable energy and energy efficiency policies for Brisbane City Council."

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Climatechange_Africa.mov

The Hon. Mr Rod Welford the Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts and chaired the session immaculately. He described GCI's Rising Risks analysis as "absolutely terrifying": -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/rising_risk.pdf

He asked the very distinguished Dr Graeme Pearman of CSIRO [biography/CV below] to respond to the projections and Graeme made the simple point that, "we just don't know enough about the system to rule this prognosis out."

Prof Aidan Byrne, Head of Physics Department, The Australian National University, said, "Thanks for all that; it was a delight to meet you. I'll be building C&C into all my talks from now on and best of luck with your efforts."

A lot of e-mail afterwards - for eg: - "My husband and I really enjoyed your thought provoking comments today and your objective to challenge us (the audience) in our thinking and behaviour. We appreciated the fact that you tried to encourage us, as individuals and the audience, to think as Global Citizens; what we can do better/more effectively in the context of that role. That is, to be empowered and to do some thing individually and together "sooner, rather than later". We also witnessed first hand, through the questioning process, how difficult it is for some individuals to think outside a local mindset (exclusively), and how politicization of issues or country specific "mantras" can easily shift the focus from the pressing problem at hand. We remain committed to do our bit (albeit how "small") to protect Planet Earth for many generations to come. Thank you once again for hosting the session."

Enjoying GCI's attack on the lily-livered Al Gore and other such luminaries, the celebrated broadcaster Philip Adams, who chaired much of the Conference, conducted a lengthy interview with GCI on the C&C campaign on Australia Broadcast Corporation "Late Night Live": -

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/latenightlive/stories/2006/1711125.htm>

There were quite a few reactions to all this by email - typically: -

"I've listened to Phillip Adams on LNL for years now, and have been trying to board the Climate Change tram for several years now - and sort the rubbish from the real solution. I get it. The 20 minutes in which you spoke with Adam switched a light bulb on in my head about the overview of the situation and the direction towards solution. As a teacher this is invaluable for my work; C&C - Fantastic."

"Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Earth Dialogues in Brisbane However, your interview with Philip Adams was aired last night on the radio here in Sydney. I was fascinated to hear of your constitutionalist approach the topic of climate change and its ethical principles of sharing and equity."

"I have just heard your interview here in Australia with Philip Adam .I must say that I very rarely write to anyone, to tell them how much I enjoy and admire their intellect. But I can honestly say that I was amazed and thrilled to listen to you, and your happy and ecstatic personality. I wish that your stance on the environment could have been explored a little more, however, I loved to listen to you and I hope the people around you have an appreciation of just what an absolute treasure they have with them."

By way of further UK institutional endorsement of C&C, this year's prestigious Brunel Lecture by the President Elect of the Institution of Civil Engineers Prof. Paul Jowitt weighed in hard. In a learned and detailed paper, Professor Jowitt gives one of the strongest recent endorsements of C&C as a strategic necessity.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/BRUNEL_LECTURE_A3.pdf

"Atmospheric CO2 levels are reaching critical levels and there must be a strategy to stabilise concentrations to a (relatively) safe level, and with the Kyoto process in limbo, some other process or protocol will be required to arrest the asymmetric pattern of 'Expansion and Divergence' and which leads to a more equitable and less self-destructive use of the earth's resources. The 'Contraction and Convergence (C&C) Strategy' proposed by the Global Commons Institute, offers such a process, drawing widespread interest and support, for example from the Indian Government³⁹, the Africa Group of Nations⁴⁰ and the USA⁴¹. In December 1997 at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Kyoto – and shortly before they withdrew from the Kyoto negotiations – the USA stated: "Contraction and convergence contains elements for the next agreement that we may ultimately all seek to engage in." The US Delegation to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto "The UK should be prepared to accept the contraction and convergence principle as the basis for international agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and should adopt a long-term strategy for reducing its own emissions."

The UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution - The integrity of the C&C approach was reinforced by the 2000 report of the UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, which concluded: "Given current knowledge about humanity's impact on climate and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's findings, we support 550 ppmv⁴³ as an upper limit on the carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere. Major reductions in global emissions are necessary to prevent that limit being exceeded. The UK should be prepared to accept the contraction and convergence principle as the basis for international agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and should adopt a long-term strategy for reducing its own emissions."

Patrick Bell joined the Department of Energy as Director, Strategic Policy Development in October 2004. He is currently responsible for developing the policy framework to ensure the future provision of secure, cost competitive and sustainable energy for Queensland, energy efficiency, renewable energy and management of energy purchase contracts with retailers to implement the government's social policies. He represents Queensland on the National Emissions Trading TaskForce. Patrick previously played key roles in energy policy from 1995 to 1997 establishing the Queensland Electricity Reform Unit and developing a broad range of policy positions required for Queensland's interconnection with, and transition into, the National Electricity Market. Patrick has also held senior policy positions across Queensland Government economic portfolios for the past 20 years and led the development of the Smart State Science, Research and Innovation Strategy as well as sectoral strategies such as the Information and Communications Technology Export Strategy, Clean Coal Technology and Biotechnology strategies.

Dr Graeme Pearman was trained as a biologist at the University of Western Australia. He joined CSIRO in 1971 and was Chief of CSIRO Atmospheric Research 1992-2002. He contributed over 150 scientific journal papers primarily on aspects of the global carbon budget. He is currently Director of a consultancy company. Pearman was elected to Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Science in 1997 and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, in 2005. He was awarded a United Nations Environment Program Global 500 Award in 1989, Australian Medal of the Order of Australia in 1999 and a Federation Medal in 2003. He was a finalist in Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year in 2002 and Brodie-Hall lecturer for 2003. His current interests include energy futures, sustainability and sustainability science, scientific capacity building; public communication of science; the role of science in modern societies; and science policy.

Mr Rod Welford is the Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts. Mr Welford was elected to Parliament in 1989. He is a former Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (2001-2005) and Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (1998-2001). Prior to entering Parliament, Mr Welford was a solicitor and a barrister. He holds a Bachelor of Arts with first class honours, a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Science in Environmental Management. He also holds Graduate Diplomas in Legal Practice and Industrial Relations. Mr Welford participates actively in local community organisations and is patron of the Albany Creek Junior Rugby League Football Club, the Pine Hills Sports Club and the Mitchelton Senior Citizens Association. He is a current member of the Royal Lifesaving Society, Queensland Surf Life Saving Association, Everton Park School Swimming Club and Arana Leagues Club. Mr Welford is also chair of the Whitlam Institute for Social and Economic Research. His personal interests include philosophy, permaculture and environmental design, swimming, surfing and reading.

Aidan Byrne, Professor of Nuclear Physics, Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering at The Australian National University. Professor Byrne has spent over two years working in Germany as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow and has been undertaking research in nuclear structure physics for over 25 years. "I believe that nuclear power could well be part of our energy mix in future, along with wind, solar and other renewables. All sources of energy have their advantages and disadvantages and each has to be considered on its merits. Australia's particular circumstances with an abundance of sunlight, space, coal and nuclear resources, will decide on this mix. Other countries are not so fortunate. So the decisions that other countries make to go nuclear may not need to be replicated in Australia. Speculating on sites for nuclear power plants at this early stage is premature and counter-productive."

Phillip Adams is a prolific and sometimes controversial broadcaster, writer and film-maker. As presenter of Late Night Live, he has interviewed thousands of the world's most influential politicians, historians, archaeologists, novelists, theologians, economists, philosophers and sundry conversationalists. Largely self-educated (he left school in his mid-teens) he's the author of over 20 books, including The Unspeakable Adams, Adams Versus God, Talkback, Retreat From Tolerance and A Billion Voices. His writing has appeared in many of Australia's most influential publications and he has been a contributor to The Times and The Financial Times in London, and to the New York Times. His films include The Adventures of Barry McKenzie, The Getting of Wisdom, Don's Party, Lonely Hearts and We of the Never Never. Adams' Australia was part of BBC TV's contribution to Australia's bicentennial celebrations. Other TV programs include two series of The Big Questions with Professor Paul Davies, and Death and Destiny, filmed in Egypt with Paul Cox. A foundation member of the Australia Council and chairman of the Film, Radio and Television Board, Phillip has chaired the Australian Film Institute, the Australian Film Commission, Film Australia and the National Australia Day Council. He is a former president of the Victorian Council for the Arts and was foundation chairman of the Commission for the Future. He currently chairs the Advisory Board of the Centre for the Mind at Sydney University and the Australian National University. His many board memberships include the Festivals of Ideas in Adelaide and Brisbane and the Families in Distress Foundation. Other board memberships have included the Museum of Australia, Greenpeace Australia, CARE Australia, the Australian Children's Television Foundation, Film Victoria and the Anti-Football League. He was co-founder of the Australian Skeptics. As well as two Orders of Australia, Phillip was Australian Humanist of the Year (1987), Republican of the Year 2005, and received the Longford Award, the film industry's highest accolade in 1981, the same year that he was appointed Senior ANZAC Fellow. He is a recipient of the Henry Lawson Arts Award (1987) and in 1998, the National Trust elected him one of Australia's 100 Living National Treasures. He has four honorary doctorates—from Sydney, Griffith, Edith Cowan and the University of South Australia. Phillip lives on a cattle property specialising in the production of chemical-free beef. He is a collector of rare antiquities, including Egyptian, Roman and Greek sculptures and artefacts.

Tories - C&C simple? Aubrey Meyer

Aug 31, 2006 06:18 PDT

As Climate Camp Activists wield their logic at Drax in response to rising risks of runaway climate change: - ["Peace Solidarity Contraction and Convergence"]

<http://news.independent.co.uk/environment/article1222823.ece>

"Tony Blair's target on curbing emissions is based on the science of 1990 not that of 2006. This year we've seen the evidence that the Earth is becoming effectively ill. We've already reached the tipping point on the permafrost. It will come in the Amazon in the next three to five years. We need a 90 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. That means less air and car travel, electric cars, banning night flights, congestion charging, changes to domestic heating and electricity from renewable sources." [Stephen Stretton Cambridge physics graduate]

. . . . Zac's [as in Goldsmith] message is that "Climate change brings us an uncomplicated choice". If only he and his Conservative colleagues would actually organise logically in the light of that. [Thursday August 31, 2006 - Guardian]

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/green/comment/0,,1861670,00.html>

Zac quotes the Archbishop of Canterbury "The economy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the environment". In fact it was Tim Wirth US Under-Secretary of State who made this remark famous nearly ten years ago.

With the help of Sir Crispin Tickell, it has been recycled since then, but sadly more and more as a 'planet-as-market' where 'choice' becomes 'chance' while our chances of survival actually diminish. The remark has been to negligible effect on organising the rapid global retreat from climate-changing greenhouse emissions needed to defuse the threat - "worse than terrorism" that Sir David King routinely chants - of the dangerous rates of climate change to which we are now al-

most irreversibly committed.

As Teddy Goldsmith's nephew, Zac knows this as well as anyone alive.

However, the claim by him that the Conservatives and their quality of life policy group have understood this 'choice' would be more credible if Zac quoted the Archbishop of Canterbury on "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C).

The purpose-specific comment on this which the Archbishop made famous two year ago was, "C&C is Utopian only if we refuse to honestly contemplate the alternatives" . . . www.gic.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf

. . . while the UN itself says, "Achieving the objective of the [climate] convention inevitably requires "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C)".

Speechless as it left me last year, both the UK Prime Minister and 25 Corporations from the World Economic Forum led by BP, effectively took the same view. They specified that climate policy and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is meaningless without a specified ceiling to atmospheric greenhouse gas (ghg) concentration target with everyone involved on common metrics, subsequently praising the C&C model for precisely this reason. Blair called for "a rational science-based unity."

[All quotes above are sourced in this UN lobbying material: –

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/SBSTA_0506_Booklet.pdf].

C&C shows a way to put ghg emission shares on the same global account. As the eminent MP Colin Challen, Chair of the House of Commons All Party Group on Climate Change says, we can demonstrate up front what is needed, namely "solving the problem faster than we cause it" - it takes us from guesswork to framework.

Using this way of summing both problem and solution, Colin has already achieved a high degree of consensus with his parliamentary colleagues in this cause – see reference above and the report – and is destined for further success: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Consensus_Report.pdf

In earlier times and to his great credit as Conservative Environment Secretary in the 90's, Mr John Gummer was a champion of this logic and he now, albeit from the backbenches, is one of Zac's colleagues in this Conservative Party group.

The unpredicted oddity with John now is that, at a recent 'climate-policy-conference' in Whitehall, it became clear that he has done a complete turnaround on C&C. He vehemently denounced the very idea of their being a ghg concentration target, let-alone a C&C framework because that's where the logic leads. When asked if he would suggest a concentration target he snapped, "I know where you are trying to lead me." This conference organised by the Peter Luff's Action Committee for a Global Climate Community, was attended by many NGOs and the great and the good, Sir Crispin Tickell, Elliott Morley etc.

This time it was at least nearly everyone who was speechless with surprise at Mr Gummer's stance. In fact some of the things muttered by some of the great and the good were unflattering and wholly unprintable.

Though the choice for C&C is uncomplicated and recognised clearly by so many, it remains a complete mystery as to why this man and this party, in league with the world's premiere environmental organisations Greenpeace and WWF [now re-branded as the "I Count" [sic]] campaign, continually choose to oppose the C&C framework and try to frustrate and dissipate the C&C consensus as it grows here and abroad.

However much it is longed for, more policy guesswork will not do it. Not choosing C&C forecloses on choice itself as we fail to avoid climate change and these organisations surely know this. Indeed, it is based on the very fear of this, that they now very largely raise their subscriptions.

These ['I-Count'] actions are also tinged with a little bathos.

Over many many years now, the one thing that personnel in "I Count's" present and prior incarnations would <not> do is actually to 'count' . . . and so to put up a numerate global framework.

It was this and this alone that the US described - and continues to describe - as "Kyoto's fatal flaw". The US conceded C&C with the Byrd Hagel Resolution: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/RSA_Occasional_Paper.pdf

and at COP-3"

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/BRUNEL_Lecture_A3.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3_Transcript.pdf

But as they graft with Zac's group they are trying not to count all over again; - so 'I Count's' structure-less proposals for Kyoto-2 draw the Tories deeper onto the axis of error in their future without a plan. To get a sense of the diminishing timeframe left to us all, the rising risks are counted out here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/rising_risk.pdf

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

Mr Cameron's performance was assessed here: -

<http://lists.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read/message.html?sort=t&mid=1720134195>

No Planet B Aubrey Meyer

Sep 08, 2006 06:47 PDT

Rates of change are accelerating,

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5314592.stm>

. . . is the sea rising

<http://environment.guardian.co.uk/water/story/0,,1866134,00.html?gusrc=rss&feed=1>

. . . is C&C?

Brisbane Festival Peace Appeal formally adopts Earth Charter and C&C

"Climate change is the most serious threat we face. Drawing on commitments made under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, governments should develop frameworks based on the sustainable and equitable principles of Contraction & Convergence to guide market mechanisms to limit greenhouse gas emissions and atmospheric concentrations to a safe level."

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Brisbane_Appeal_C&C.pdf

UK Climate Czar, John Ashton, now at three of the four key climate messages: -

[1] We need to treat climate change not as a long term threat to our environment but as an immediate threat to our security and prosperity;

[2] The cost of failure to prevent climate change is greater than the cost of success;

[3] You cannot use military force to make everyone else on the planet reduce their carbon emissions;

[4] [No Planet B - if only . . .] . . .

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5323512.stm>

. . . . with global climate damages growing at twice the rate of the global economy, it is self evident that the cost of failure is greater than success at prevention. John now recognises the urgency of this and that there are no military solutions. Good.

The fourth point is whatever technology remains beyond the military, a cooperative framework of "Contraction and Convergence" is also required by definition to meet the terms of the UN Climate Convention i.e. to solve the problem faster than we create it.

The UN acknowledges this and to be credible, John should too. There is no afterlife on Planet B.

In Helsinki this week Tom Spencer ECPA equipped to present C&C to Helsinki Conference: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/Helsinki.pdf>

While Al Gore finally speaks on the inconvenient truths of [1] prevention-not-adaptation and [2]

the present reality climate victims: -

"We have to solve global warming and there are people who urge adaptation instead of prevention; that formulation must be rejected. Since there is damage done already, it is only morally responsible to have an appropriate amount of attention paid to helping poor nations to cope with the changes already taking place."

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/TECH/science/09/05/environment.gore.reut/>

Aegean C&C - Triage Aubrey Meyer

Sep 11, 2006 08:08 PDT

"Contraction and Convergence" (C&C)

"Solving the Climate Problem Faster than We Create It."

As Venice contemplates a future under water, and climate change embraces global triage, the question posed is - "Have politicians the wit to even face this test, let alone pass it?"

Climate Change Keynote Address

Conference by Royal Institute of British Architects [RIBA]

Teatro alle Tese

Venice

27 28 October 2006

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/RIBA_Conference_October.pdf

C&C - A Considered Commitment, FINDHORN

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/FINDHORN.pdf>

C&C COP-12 - Advocacy from Grass-roots and NGOs, INDIA

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Indian_NGOs_Report.pdf

NGOs and rural people in India launched today a Report calling for Contraction and Convergence. The report is entitled "Post-2012 targets and timetables for All".

It says that the, "Government of India should take a lead on a much more hard-hitting dialogue on binding targets and timetables for all countries including G-77 plus China, on the Contraction and Convergence Model."

It calls on the Indian Government to, "hasten the implementation of post-2012 commitments in the field of climate change, by adding India to the list of countries accepting binding targets and timetables on per capita Greenhouse Gas emission reductions in the second commitment period."

For more information and for the full report contact in-@cerindia.com

Visit www.cerindia.com or write to CERI, 32/2

Kempapura Road, Hebbal, Bangalore 560024 Karnataka, India.

Phone Anandi Sharan-Meili +91 9448034562.

This true story about Raul Estrada Oyuela, the God-Father of Kyoto reveals that Practice Without Principle is leading to Global Triage.

The 'Berlin Mandate' was agreed at COP-1 to the UNFCCC in Berlin April 1995, to establish a Protocol to the UNFCCC. Between 1995 and 1997, the 'ad hoc group on Berlin Mandate' [AGBM] was chaired to this purpose by the distinguished career diplomat from Argentina, Raul Estrada Oyuela. In August 1997 the AGBM met for the seventh time, a few months before COP-3 in Kyoto [December 1997] and the creation of what would become known as the 'Kyoto Protocol'.

During this meeting of the AGBM, Chairman Estrada appeared at a very large conference for the press and the NGOs to report on progress and take questions. Emission-trading had come into play and everyone knew that the political argument had come to centre on one question above all others; - 'how would the multilateral commitments on emissions control be defined and quantified?' A new word had resulted from the acronym of the point at issue namely 'Quantified Emissions Limitation Reduction Options' or 'QELROS': who got how much and why?

By this stage, GCI had established two clear bench-marks in the debate. The first was Contraction and Convergence [C&C] as the meta-concept for calculating QELROS in a scientific and constitutional manner. The second - considered notorious - was that the so-called Byrd-Hagel Resolution [BHR] of US Senate [July 1997] was in fact C&C. The BHR was all or nothing. It embraced QELROS globally, as quantified reductions alongside quantified limitations of emissions for all of the developed and the developing countries all on the same account. GCI took the view that C&C was the only way to negotiate what the resolution called for, as anything devoid of a concentration target and more complicated than C&C would be rich in contested assumptions and recreate the arbitrary sub-global conditions that the US had been objecting all along.

Indeed, whether the Senate had intended it or not, BHR was tentatively seen as C&C by definition and at a special series of meetings in Washington in July 1997, officials of the US Government asked GCI to raise support for this understanding, particularly in India and in China. We did this on visits to those countries during July and when reporting back in August we also secured a collective statement to the UNFCCC from the Africa Group of Nations affirming the need for C&C. As the record would show, all this would feature clearly at the end of COP-3.

As he reported to the AGBM 7 press conference, Chairman Estrada was familiar with all these developments. His news however was desultory. The US continued objecting to the one-sided nature of the negotiations and the commitments on offer notwithstanding from the Europeans were hostage to that view. At the end of the session I publicly asked Estrada if the QELROS were seen as a function of an atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration target or whether it was the other way around, that the concentration value was simply seen as the result of whatever haggling had taken place in the QELRO negotiation.

To much laughter from Greenpeace and its cohorts in the Climate Action Network he said, "Aubrey in this process what happens in practice is what happens and you make up the principles afterwards to explain what happened in practice." Afterwards he apologized for the chaotic view saying, "what else could I say?"

Years later Estrada published a paper in which he recalled the exchange thus: "In a meeting with NGOs during the Kyoto Protocol negotiations, Aubrey Meyer asked me which differentiation criteria were being used in the process. As negotiations were very flexible, I answered that at the end of negotiations I would explain those criteria, and that allowed me to get out of the situation among the laughs of the audience. When the negotiation ended and the Protocol was adopted, Aubrey Meyer asked me again which were the criteria, and since I didn't know the answer, I simply said that with QELROS agreed criteria were no longer relevant."

Candid as he was, this blunt truth is the 'make-it-up-as-you-go-along approach'. It is aleatoric and more farcial than gesture politics. It is as if someone who waved their arms around believed this made them the equal of Jascha Heifitz. This simile is harmless but what it illustrates is not. The UN climate negotiations are fundamentally flawed by the evolutionist folly that just plucking 'promising' numbers for QELROS out of a hat will do. The hope is everyone will fail to notice the difference between the signal of what is required and the noise of what is actually happening. In the final hours of COP-3 the global allocation of tradable emission permits was debated. The US accepted in principle the C&C signal led by the Africa Group, India and China. But when the UK remained silent, Estrada suspended the meeting saying that all the work done was in danger of being lost and the remnant noise became the Kyoto Protocol.

Even evolutionists could see by the end of 1997 that dangerous rates of climate change would not be averted by this aleatoric approach and would collectively lead us to triage and leave us increasingly unfit to survive.

Indeed, as matters now unfold, a process of global triage has begun. An architect of Kyoto and emissions trading was the UK Government advisor turned 'carbon-trader' James Cameron. In 1990 his 'Centre for International Environmental Law' [CIEL] with Greenpeace, encouraged the vulnerable Small Island States of the South Pacific and the Caribbean to form a group and the 'Association of Small Island States' [AOSIS] was born. As the islands are mostly low-lying and very vulnerable to sea-level-rise, the group had the status of 'canary-in-the-mine' as a memento mori for all,

if dangerous rates of climate change are not avoided.

By 1995 Greenpeace and CIEL had persuaded their clients that salvation lay in them presenting what became known as the 'AOSIS Protocol' to COP-1. Refuting the need for 'globality' defined by common sense and the US Government, this stated the developed countries only should tighten their emission reduction 'commitments', as in the UNFCCC, in exchange for no control of emissions by anyone else. At COP-2 in 1996 the US rejected this as 'unrealistic'. When the US presented their Byrd Hagel Resolution a year later, Greenpeace attacked it as 'Byrd-brained' whilst also arguing that global emissions must be reduced to zero by 2050 to avert a global climate disaster. This was the same as the C1 scenario of 'Acceptable Risk' as defined at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/Helsinki.pdf> [slides 14 -25], a position GCI had argued since introducing C&C at COP-2 in 1996. As anyone could see that C&C was obviously required to achieve this, from that day to this it remains a mystery why Greenpeace and Mr Cameron routinely denounce all calls for C&C.

Describing the paltry outcome of the COP-3 as 'a farce' Greenpeace and others recognized that AOSIS went from being an endangered species to being a certain discard in the triage that had begun. Since then Greenpeace has repositioned itself and the NGOs at the margins of the triage in a process now nearer the C3 scenario of 'Impossible Risk' with Mr Cameron now operating as 'Carbon Capitalist' and trader par excellence at these lucrative margins.

In his recent words quoted below, having abandoned the islands, Cameron adds Africa to the growing pile of discards that the C3 scenario inevitably causes and the economics of genocide inevitably requires.

"The Africans are in a perilous position. They will not be rescued by 20 years of debate about C&C. Nor will they be rescued by the Carbon Market [or] beneficiaries of [it]. They're going to have really look to the possibilities that do exist in altering their economies to cope with very high fossil fuel prices and Climate Change at the same time . . . some combination of looking at land use and land use change issues; of coping more effectively with the water resources which are there; of growing biocrops; of ensuring that renewable energy technology is made available at low cost."

FoE Pas Aubrey Meyer
Sep 15, 2006 16:34 PDT

Under the heading, "Time for a global response to climate change", Conservative Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Peter Ainsworth has written to Conservative MP John Gummer.

He is requesting that Mr Gummer - Chair of the Conservative Quality of Life Group - look into the potential for a Global Climate Change Emissions Authority and to examine a proposal for a global emissions

trading scheme which would extend its coverage to all sectors of the economy. Mr Ainsworth makes the reasonable point that, "in the absence of a global framework, there is little intellectual justification for action on the part of individual countries."

http://www.conservatives.com/tile.do?def=news.press.release.page&obj_id=131908

He's right. As an esteemed veteran of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, Mr Ainsworth knows, that is the key point: - 'Where-is' and 'What-is' the Global Framework? What is the rationale for fair and safe?

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmenvaud/105/105.pdf>

As though in reply, new Friends of the Conservative Party, "Friends of the Earth" take a 'FoE-Pas

that completely fail him. They release their new report entitled "Living within a Carbon Budget", explaining FoE's new pact with the conservatives and how it is based on their "Big Ask" [now I Count] campaign.

The report could have been called, "We Assert, We Don't Address" [and we certainly don't count]. Why?

FoE's Big-Ask is that the UK must reduce its emission year on year at the rate of 3% a year so as to emit no more than 4.6 Billion [Giga] tonnes of carbon between 2000 and 2050.

This new report asserts the UK must do this, "if it is to deliver its <fair share> of emission cuts to achieve a concentration of 450 parts per million carbon dioxide in the atmosphere" [going on to say] . . . "whether the UK aims to deliver its fair share is a political and moral question that our report does not attempt to address" [sic].

What does that mean? "We Assert, We Don't Address" [or we don't care, 'cos we can't count], and we certainly don't have a global anything for Mr Ainsworth to intellectually justify the random unilateralism his party has apparently agreed to.

Forget about 'fair', there's no rationale basis here from which to claim anything at all, let alone fair/unfair and safe/unsafe because there is no global framework of account. However, if for example the notion of 'fair' was that future shares or national emission entitlements are proportional to population, and the notion of safe was a ceiling of 450 ppmv ghg concentration [this is increasingly unreliable], the UK has 1% of world population and 1% of the global [emissions contraction] budget of the total 460 billion tonnes.

Given the rate at which sinks now appear to be failing, this weight of emissions output takes us more towards 600 ppmv, which is way, way above a level that is safe. And it follows that if – as the papers now routinely warn us – the system as a whole is at risk of going down, we either have to have a much smaller global emissions budget, [in which case FoE's UK share is not 'fair'] or this larger budget is not 'safe' and so is not 'fair' to anybody by definition.

To see the solution to this problem – that we have to solve it faster than we create it and have a framework for demonstrating that – we have to engage with it conceptually and [as the Environmental Audit Committee recognised in its Report at Easter last year and the All-Party Consensus Report did this year] the framework for this account is C&C.

While some members of FoE do argue for C&C, they are irrationally silenced by the Board of Thought-Police running Stop Climate Chaos and told to recite the slogan-placebo "I Count" instead.

[If only they did].

If 'I-Count' was just hooligan graffiti, nobody would care. The trouble is this report claims to have been researched by the Tyndall Centre; to have been funded by the Co Operative Bank; and to have had its big-ask demand apparently adopted as policy by the Conservative Party. All this under the influence of this NGO and others, who make the unsubstantiated claim to 'lead' the environmental movement away from environmental catastrophe.

Civilization collapses with the failure of intelligence long before the collapse of the environment . . . and it is not clear that enough people are aware of this, let-alone care

Peter Ainsworth should assert his experience and his authority now.

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/low_carbon_economy.pdf

UNFC&CDM . . . ? Oh Snail . . . Aubrey Meyer

Sep 21, 2006 04:40 PDT

Progress?

A recent internal assessment [July 21st, 2006] of the CDM 'Executive Board' says [quote]: -

" . . . the Non-Renewable Biomass Methodology discussion has become a placeholder for a much broader discussion on how to achieve, for want of a better expression, Contraction and Conver-

gence, or equitable negotiated targets and timetables for meeting the IPCC suggested emissions reductions of 80% compared to 1990 levels.”

http://lists.iisd.ca:81/read/attachment/30847/1/060722_NRB_CoP12.doc

“Slowly, slowly up Mout Fuji . . . Oh Snail.”

But how does this square with the press release from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) [Tuesday 19th September] which claims that: - “we can still stabilise the world’s climate”?

The answer is that [for the moment] it doesn’t. The strain is driving the UNFCCC into Orwell-speak.

The numbers cited in the press release, all based on the potential of the CDM to deliver the impressive sounding \$100 billion a year of investment in Developing Countries, are certainly misleading about stabilising the world’s climate. They are also in free-fall on distribution.

The issue of post-Kyoto measure-for-measure emissions control in Developing Countries, is becoming like sitting on the event-horizon of a black hole and wondering which way to move.

Like so many government and non-government additions to this debate - potentially about the end life-on-earth-as-we-know-it - the words about trends and the trend-numbers themselves, never match.

The new Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC is an experienced man. He is the Dutch bureaucrat Yvo de Boer who was the principal advisor to the emphatically pro C&C Jan Pronk, the Dutch Environment Minister who hosted COP-6 in the Hague in 2000.

Yvo now says: -

“Recent scientific findings and growing evidence of impacts of climate change suggest that deep emission cuts by industrialized countries are needed to stabilize the world climate, with European leaders referring to reductions on the order of 60 to 80% by the middle of the century.”

Well, he and the UN are absolutely right to emphasize the ‘growing evidence’ of impacts. However, they should also have stressed that what this means is: -

1. rates of change towards danger that are faster than those predicted by the IPCC and
2. unless drastic action is taken now, we are in a one-way street that is becoming a cul-de-sac to drastic climate impact.
3. 80 to 90% emissions cuts globally are needed as soon as possible, if there is to any chance of stabilising the accelerating rise of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere and runaway climate change.

To make absolutely sure that I was interpreting their wording correctly, I rang the UNFCCC secretariat/press office to establish whether the, “60 to 80% [emissions cuts] by the middle of the century” was either: -

A - “a global prospectus” [i.e. including developed countries] or

B - “a prospectus for the developed countries only” [i.e. excluding developed countries].

After confusion and an internal consultation at the UNFCCC Secretariat Press Office, they rang back to confirm that the, “60 to 80% by the middle of the century” refers to the <industrialised countries only>, it does not include developing countries.

Oh dear – they were finally absolutely clear on that point – but totally unclear about how to balance the global ghg emissions budget with stable ghg concentrations in the atmosphere [tentatively, a stable climate . . .].

However, Mr de Boer’s press release does then go on heroically to say: -

“The 100 billion dollars a year investment flow would come about if half of the 60 to 80% reduction in emissions is met by industrialized countries through investment in developing countries.”

But, the fact remains that no numbers, nor even comments, are offered as to what constraint on the Developing Country future emissions entitlements/requirements would be, let-alone consistent with the UNFCCC claim that all this will, “stabilise the world’s climate” and in the absence of which the damages continue to rise at a rate that overwhelms us all: –

. . . try projecting this forwards for fifty years, page 13 'economic losses': -

http://www.munichre.com/publications/302-04772_en.pdf?rdm=88299

[Damages continue to grow at twice the rate of 'economic growth' per se].

So the three key questions that arise are these: -

1. "How much [what quantity rate/weight/date] actual emissions reduction/avoidance/contraction [etc] does this \$100 billion/year investment in 'sustainable development' in developing countries actually 'buy' from the projections of Developing Country emissions into the future, and

2. What is the global total [what quantity rate/weight/date] of actual emissions reduction/avoidance/contraction [etc] when this \$100 billion/year investment in 'sustainable development' in developing countries is combined with Developed Countries reducing by 30 - 40 % [i.e. 60 - 80% because of these being 'relaxed' by half following the returns [emissions credits] to the 'investment'] by 2050", and

3. Assuming this is ever answered, does this global total bear any resemblance to a global emissions prospectus that ever, "stabilises the worlds' climate", let alone by 2050?

For the answer to question three to be "yes" in any reliable sense, an extent of emission avoidance in developing countries will need to have occurred that is even greater in Developing Countries than in is foreseen here in the Developed Countries.

It is not reassuring when the body charged with saving us all from climate change has such an apparently frail understanding of the issue.

The confusion worsens with his further comment: -

"The current CDM pipeline is expected to generate some 12 billion dollars in carbon credits by 2012, presuming that the price of a tonne of carbon is in the order of around 10 dollars. If the post-2012 value of credits can be ensured and there is continuing growth of the CDM, the actual income is likely to be much higher."

This comment is numerically impossible to reconcile with the July comment [above] from the CDM 'Executive Board' saying: -

" . . . the Non-Renewable Biomass Methodology discussion has become a placeholder for a much broader discussion on how to achieve, for want of a better expression, Contraction and Convergence, or equitable negotiated targets and timetables for meeting the IPCC suggested emissions reductions of 80% compared to 1990 levels."

http://lists.iisd.ca:81/read/attachment/30847/1/060722_NRB_CoP12.doc

If it were, it would be a good thing for all of us starting with Africa's share of the CDM and the consequent impact on the price of carbon.

Government agencies are cumbersome and prone to massive and tedious error. Not so you would have thought the BONGOs [Business-Oriented-Non-Government-Organisations].

Numeracy is not their strong point. Here's something a little less temperate.

Jonathon Porritt called last week for, "radical action to prevent a climate catastrophe" and then endorsed BP's new scheme ["TargetNeutral" see below].

Joined on BP's 'advisory board' by Ed Mayo et al, Mr Porritt endorses BP's scheme into which motorists can now pay £20/year [to BP's 'charity'] for motoring and consciences cleansed of emissions and impact. Jonathon and the board's comment is that this will make people 'carbon-literate' [sic].

BP Launches targetneutral [TM]

<http://www.targetneutral.com/TONIC/index.jsp>

saying: -

"Strict procedures are followed to ensure the projects' integrity. These are modelled on those created by the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) for emissions reduction projects developed under the Kyoto Protocol. All project activity is overseen by the targetneutral Advisory and Assurance Panel."

As Eliza Doolittle said; "Words, Words, Words - I am so sick of Words!!"

Happy motoring . . .

Actually it gets comically worse . . . then comes the clearest and crassest example of [is it?] 'involuntary dishonesty' [one has no way of knowing] in the climate change policy debate. The new title of the "Stop Climate Chaos" lobby is [hold your breath . . . !]

"I Count" [sic - yes - don't have an accident] . . . If only that were true!

<http://www.brandrepublic.com/bulletins/digital/article/588948/climate-change-campaign-drive-recruit-supporters/>

It is 'carbon-numeracy' that is needed, not more waffle.

"I count" should promise so much but its authors have a history of delivering so little. The trouble is that the opposite is true - they <don't count> and they <won't count> i.e. emissions:concentrations build-up per unit time and the C&C rates needed to avoid a climate catastrophe.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/rising_risk.pdf

How about detente around - "We Count with C&C" to Stop Climate Chaos."

There's a challenge for the SCC; it is precisely because the leadership of this campaign [Greenpeace WWF etc al] <don't> count [and indeed refuse to numerate or to be accountable about that], that the policy debate flounders from bad to worse and the commercial sector goes deeper and deeper into dither and drift.

Read the history of this here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/RSA_Occasional_Paper.pdf

With honourable exceptions, most White Coats [scientists] won't take the consequences of their insights, so the government blesses the 'no-focus-groups' and civic resources are marshalled all over again into continuing to create the climate problem faster than we even contemplate [let alone count] trying to solve it . . . e.g. yet more cut-price air-travel - you can just see Ryan Air offering to in-flight fart-in-a-jar to save gas and reduce impact.

The crisis is immediate; it is our garrulous liberalism in the face of the collapse of the planet and common sense.

NGOs Support for C&C Rising Aubrey Meyer

Sep 25, 2006 13:07 PDT

Sun, 24 Sep 2006 09:34:41 +0100

"We All Count with C&C"

The response to 'MEDACT's' C&C-letter-appeal after 24 hours is considerable and growing. If you wish to add support for this, please respond to: -

DR ROBIN STOTT OF MEDACT

[MEDICAL ACTION - [HTTP://WWW.MEDACT.ORG/](http://WWW.MEDACT.ORG/)]

From: "robin stott" <sto-@dircon.co.uk>

marking it for the attention of: -

THE STOP CLIMATE CHAOS BOARD

[GREENPEACE, WWF, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AND

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS]

RE SUPPORT FOR "CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE"

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you informally as Medact's representative on the Stop Climate Chaos network. My note is primarily directed at those whose organisations are part of the SCC network, particularly board members, but is sent more widely to others who have an interest in knowing our coalitions

stance on Contraction and Convergence.

I am concerned that despite the excellent work of SCC, we are not being as effective as we might, in large part because we have not energetically embraced and articulated the presently most feasible framework for combating climate change. I know we all agree that to be effective, we really have no choice. The global response to climate change has to couple the emissions reduction necessary to stabilise the rising greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere to correcting the disparity in access to resources between 'rich' and 'poor'. To be effective our coalition must collectively advocate for the framework which provides the best antidote to these interrelated issues.

Medact has held this position for many years. It stems from our founding commitment to combat the social, economic and environmental circumstances that provoke poor health, and our belief that the changing climate and the worsening global resource disparity are interlinked symptoms of our ever-more perilous predicament.

To be healthy, and indeed to survive, we have to correct these interlinked problems. We regard C&C as the most feasible and most effective framework for implementing the policies and measures that stabilise climate and correct the growing resource disparity in the same methodology. For this reason, Medact supports and advocates Contraction and Convergence [C&C] as the necessary antidote.

C&C is now very widely regarded as a significant contribution to the debate. And, acknowledging the seminal role of GCI in developing it, Medact has over the life of Stop Climate Chaos, suggested that the coalition should actively promote and advocate for C&C as the most feasible available antidote to the interlinked problems.

Whatever the issues that may have fogged the long running debate on how best to tackle climate change, C&C is a model of clarity* and because of this has now become central to this debate. Since the founding meeting of the coalition, I have spoken to many people from the organisations which support the coalition. Most have also supported C&C. They share Medact's view that, if not C&C, what is going to drive and guide the investments and changes we all agree need to be made? A few have had some reservations, but even these acknowledge the power of C&C and that the coalition should take it seriously asking, where else do we find a framework that sets a global carbon budget related to atmospheric CO2 limits and re-balances the flow of resources between the profligate and the frugal carbon emitters?

As November 4th approaches and support for C&C grows, the coalition's position on this framework becomes more urgent. I understand that those who are to speak in Grosvenor Square on Nov 4th are all committed to C&C, and will articulate this commitment as will their counterparts in the Kenyan Government in Nairobi. It would be a missed opportunity, to say the least, if this support were not reflected clearly by the coalition.

All of us, both individually and within our organisations, must explore all the detail of options with which to go forward. At the same time, as an over-arching framework to guide this effort I see no real alternative to Contraction and Convergence. Resolving the mirror evils of global warming and resource disparity has become so urgent that I believe nothing should now distract us from supporting C&C and generating yet more momentum for it.

So, as the Medact representative, I wish to ask all the members of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition what their position is with regard to C&C, and assuming as I do that most are committed to this policy, that we move the coalition to adopt it.

I look forward to hearing from you with your views soon.

Best wishes and in peace

Robin Stott FRCP FFPH

• www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf

• <http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

Respond to: -

"robin stott" <sto-@dircon.co.uk>

This is a response from GCI as requested by a supporter: -

There us a growing volume of traffic in this

Dear . . .

Robin Stott's letter.

Since you addressed you reply to both Robin and me and copied several others, I will make this short comment.

I agree with Robin's letter and am glad to read that you do too. Many people hold pro-C&C views. I hope the steering group in SCC will reflect on its message, on why Robin wrote the letter and, rather like 'Making Poverty History, make sure that from now on, "We all Count with C&C". As Robin says, on this key point C&C is a model of clarity, correcting poverty and climate change in the same account.

As you rightly say, this is the message that needs to take centre-stage now. The situation is increasingly serious, and it is the SCC's present lack of clarity on how to account this globally that weaken's its purpose. We can correct this to demonstrate that we are set to solve this twin-problem [poverty/climate-change] faster than we create it.

That is what C&C is for.

I see Robin has asked many people to respond and they are now doing this. Thank you for your helpful response and copying me in.

I am interested in further news of success.

Kind regards

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

C&C at London Stock Exchange Aubrey Meyer

Sep 26, 2006 08:13 PDT

2nd October 2006-09-26

London Stock Exchange

One-day conference convened by Sustain Magazine, filmed by Tangent Productions.

'In the City: Carbon Numeracy - As the City prepare to calculate, report, trade, offset emissions, is Carbon the New Currency of Business?'

Programme: -

10 – 11.30 "The Issues": -

Climate for Change: the New Agenda for Business

Debate – From Guesswork to Framework

James Cameron Director "Climate Capital"

Aubrey Meyer Director, Global Commons Institute;

John Duggan CEO, Gazeley Properties.

Perspectives on the business threats and opportunities with the projected impacts of climate change.

- Can policy-makers create conditions for carbon-numerate capitalism?
- How can these issues best be understood in the Board Room?
- How can the City best value carbon?

2) 'Question Time' Debate "The Numbers":

How good is my carbon credit?

Chair:

Paul Dickenson, Carbon Disclosure Project

Panellists:

Antony Turner Managing Director, Carbon Sense

Stuart Clenaghan Director, Carbon Capital

Chris Tuppen CSR , BT

Nick Robins Head of SRI, Henderson

To reduce it, trade it or offset it, first you have to count it.

- Corporate strategies - from unknown to carbon positive
- Carbon counting, standards, boundary issues, reporting and targets
- How to assess and value decarbonising potential up and downstream
- Investing for climate solutions

3) "The Solutions":

Potential, Prediction & Provision

Colin Challen MP - Chair, Cross Party Climate Change Group;

Jonathan Shopley - CEO, The Carbon Neutral Company;

Mark Clemson – Director, Corus Colors

4)'The China Syndrome':

Challenges and Opportunities.

Speakers include:

Peter Sharratt Sustainability Manager, WSP Group;

Neil Kirkpatrick Arup;

Scott Wightman Foreign and Commonwealth Office

With the likely impacts of the significant current and future growth of the economy in China, the module will provide an exploration of the challenges and opportunities posed by low-carbon development solutions in this area.

- Can models be developed for the 'sustainable city'?
- Can energy markets minimise the impacts of climate change?
- Can low carbon technologies provide solutions to the challenges in this area?
- Can UK companies, investment and export contribute to sustainable development in China?

Contact: -

Ruth Peacey

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Clarification from Tyndall Centre Aubrey Meyer

Sep 29, 2006 07:12 PDT

Very happy to publish this Clarification from Tyndall Centre . . . "A Response to Aubrey's e-mail of 16 Sep 2006 From authors of report Living within a Carbon Budget"

In his e-mail of 16 Sep 2006 entitled "FoE Pas", Aubrey is critical of Friends of the Earth's Big Ask campaign and the report FoE released entitled Living within a Carbon Budget, available at: - http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/living_carbon_budget.pdf

Whilst the report was commissioned by FoE and the Co-op bank, it was actually written by four researchers from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.

Aubrey has kindly given us researchers the opportunity to respond to his e-mail, so as to distinguish our position from that of the organisations that commissioned the report.

A case of mistaken identity

Not only did FoE publish our report, they also published their own 4-page and 20-page responses (available at: -

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/news/carbon_budget.html

In the confusion, Aubrey quoted the following passage that he mistakenly took to be from our report.

"The UK must emit no more than 4.6 Giga-tonnes of carbon between 2000 and 2050 if it is to deliver its fair share of emission cuts to achieve a concentration of 450 parts per million carbon dioxide in the atmosphere...Whether the UK aims to deliver its fair share is a political and moral question that this report does not attempt to address."

However, this passage is not from our report but comes from FoE's own 20-page response. Commenting on the above passage, Aubrey wrote

"Forget about 'fair', there's no rational basis here to claim anything at all...because there is no global framework of account...the framework for this account is C&C."

He continued

"If 'I-Count' was just hooligan graffiti, nobody would care. The trouble is this report claims to have been researched by the Tyndall Centre."

To avoid any confusion, it should be noted the Aubrey's criticisms were being levelled NOT at our Tyndall report but at a response to the report written by FoE.

FoE, our report and C&C

To further clarify the situation, we set out the stance taken towards C&C in our Tyndall report and the stance towards C&C taken by FoE.

In our report we neither endorse nor reject C&C. We simply note that within the EWP [Energy White Paper], the Government essentially adopts the position laid out in the earlier Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution report, namely, that a 2°C rise in global mean surface temperature correlates with an atmospheric concentration of CO₂ of 550ppmv and that this in turn equates to the now familiar UK carbon-reduction target of 60% by 2050."

In a footnote to this passage we write "Within the RCEP report, the UK's contribution to stabilising the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ at 550ppmv was based on the contraction and convergence apportionment principle. Whilst the EWP does not expressly endorse contraction and convergence, it would be at best disingenuous for the Government to reject the contraction and convergence apportionment principle yet enshrine the target that emerged from it. Consequently, the analysis within this report assumes the RCEP's and, by clear inference, the Government's approach to apportioning emissions to nation states."

Hence, without endorsing or rejecting C&C, we adopt the C&C approach to apportionment simply because this was the approach the government itself adopted.

FoE make no comment on C&C in their 4-page or 20-page responses or in their foreword to our report. However, previously FoE have made the following statement on C&C - see: -

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press_releases/growth_in_flights_will_wre_31052005.html

"Contraction and convergence (C&C) is a policy increasingly recommended for avoiding the worst impacts of climate change it would require industrialised nations to make substantial cuts in their emissions, while permitting some industrialising countries to increase theirs within the equal level per capita objective. C&C has been supported explicitly by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) and implicitly by the UK Government in its 2003 Energy White Paper. Friends of the Earth believes that Contraction and Convergence under-estimates the cuts needed in developed countries because it fails to take into account responsibilities for historic emissions. The G8 richest countries are responsible for around two-thirds of historic carbon dioxide emissions."

We are most grateful to Aubrey for giving us the opportunity to make these clarifications.

Kevin Anderson

Alice Bows

Sarah Mander

Richard Starkey

Report authors, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research

29 September 2006

"C&C - COP-12 - 100% - Road Map"? Aubrey Meyer

Oct 03, 2006 07:24 PDT

COP-12

Colin Challen MP, Chairman of the All-Party Group in the UK House of Commons, met in Nairobi with the Chairman of COP-12, Kenyan Environment Minister last Friday, at the latter's request.

Colin, author of the Contraction and Convergence Bill to the parliament, described the two and half hour surprise meeting as, 'very positive'.

LSE

The conference at the Stock-Exchange conference in London yesterday clearly laid out the need for a C&C agreement that speaks to 100% of global emissions.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/LSE.pdf>

Colin's challenge was, "support C&C or come up with something better." The representative of the Foreign and Commonwealth office was asked to ensure that the UK's promise to support Kenya's positioning at COP-12 was made good and that the UK's missed C&C opportunity at COP-3 Kyoto, would be not be missed again if, at COP-12, C&C is re-presented as the basis of the post-Kyoto global framework.

The two China experts asked why they hadn't been told about this. James Cameron now of Climate Capital advised the UK to duck when C&C was led at COP-3. Was this why he bottled out at the last minute of the LSE meeting?

G-8 - MEXICO, MALDIVES, SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA

While C&C inched towards centre at LSE, Australia and South Africa met G8 leaders in Mexico to begin 'informal emergency talks' on avoiding dangerous climate change.

Organisers want progress on: -

1. economic challenges of tackling climate change
2. alternative low-carbon technologies
3. level of investment from public and private sectors
4. 'road map' for a low-carbon future

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5398784.stm>

Faced with pressure for a global 100% emissions deal, the Mexican delegate told the BBC that per capita differentials in emissions have to be faced, and the Maldives separately issued an SOS: -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/listenagain/> [08.30 hours interviews, 03 10 2006].

The South African and Australian positions are closing. Yesterday JOHN RITCH [Director-General

World Nuclear Association] told a high-level Conference in South Africa, "if greenhouse gas emissions continue at the current massive scale, they will yield consequences that are, "literally apocalyptic. Humankind cannot conceivably achieve a global clean-energy revolution without a huge expansion of nuclear power. This could be harnessed, not only to generate electricity, but also to produce hydrogen and battery power for vehicles of the future and to desalinate seawater in response to the world's rapidly emerging fresh water crisis."

Making the key point – i.e. one that is true regardless of the technology of choice - he said, "to accelerate the nuclear renaissance, a comprehensive global regime needed to be constructed, which included the "contraction and convergence" concept."

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/eng/news/today/?show=94839>

Today the Australians said they were leading the world's efforts for a post-Kyoto deal that speaks to 100% of global emissions. Senator IAN CAMPBELL Federal Environment Minister Australia said: - "Australia is actually chairing the major dialogue that is trying to build a post-Kyoto arrangement that is effective. The trouble with Kyoto is that it only covers roughly a third of the world's emissions, and an effective arrangement must cover 100 per cent."

"What we all need to understand is that to address climate change, you are going to need to invest in excess of 17 trillion globally to transform entirely how we produce energy, and how we use it. You are going to need multi-trillion-dollar investments. Every power station in the world has to be changed and every transportation system in the world has to be changed. Virtually every new power facility we put in the developing world needs to be changed."

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2006/s1754691.htm>

IRAN

GCI has been invited to a seminar and briefings that include the Iranian President, to discuss C&C in Teheran in November. Is the church broad enough? Overtures are being made to the Israelis, and to Ken Livingston and Niki Gavron to deliver on the C&C understanding they struck with Hugo Chavez on his visit to London last month.

UK GREENS

Making the point of the China experts at the LSE yesterday, Caroline Lucas MEP of the UK Green Party made a comment to the BBC about C&C sceptic Bjorn Lomborg. "[He] falls into a common trap: he assumes that all efforts to deal with climate change will be net costs, ignoring the fact that fighting climate change might provide us with more money for purposes such as health and nutrition in developing countries, not less. Contraction and convergence, for example, is a widely supported formula which envisages a trading scheme whereby resources flow to developing countries and we tackle climate change at the same time."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/5361050.stm>

UK CONSERVATIVES

Finally on the home front, the Conservative Quality of Life Group announced today that they are requesting a meeting about C&C

As they say 'expect the unexpected'.

AXA Insurers Call for C&C Aubrey Meyer

Oct 03, 2006 21:21 PDT

A new report about climate change by David Crichton was launched this week. It was circulated at all party conferences. A condensed version is available on the internet. The URL is;

http://www.axa.co.uk/aboutus/corporate_publications/climate_change.html

The report is published by AXA Insurance, one of the biggest companies in the world, and strongly advocates Contraction and Convergence.

Several members of the Conservative Party Quality of Life policy group were present at the launch

yesterday in Bournemouth, where the meeting was addressed by Oliver Letwin MP, and they took copies away with them.

In a section called "How Insurer's Could Force Change" the report says: - "As a start the Government could endorse the concept of "Contraction and Convergence" developed in the UK by the Global Commons Institute.

This is the best framework for greenhouse reduction so far and it has achieved widespread support around the world, because it seems to be the only equitable way to share out so called "rights to pollute" the environment. The European Parliament, the Church of England and local authorities in Norwich, Bristol, Camden and Oxford together with the Conservatives, Lib Dems, SNP, and Plaid Cymru now support Contraction and Convergence. The insurance industry should continue to press for an increased pace of change in Government policy."

RIBA and C&C Aubrey Meyer

Oct 06, 2006 23:43 PDT

At a full meeting of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects [RIBA] in London this week, RIBA Council was requested to: -

1. Adopt the philosophy of Contraction and Convergence [C&C] as the basis of RIBA policy on combating climate change; and

2. Endorse the four-point strategy set out in this paper: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/Endorsements/RIBA_Council_C&C_Proposal.pdf

The recommendation was unanimously adopted.

The RIBA Annual Conference takes places in Venice this year at the end of October.

The Philosophy of C&C is the first Key-Note Presentation on day two: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/RIBA_Conference_2006.pdf

The Future is C&C . . . ? Aubrey Meyer

Oct 23, 2006 00:26 PDT

Various developments

New Statesman C&C Cover Story [Mark Lynas]: -

<http://www.newstatesman.com/200610230015>

New C&C Context Flash Animation – includes ppmv movie NOAA - press

arrows for advance within scenes and logos to advance through scenes: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Venice_Presentation.swf

C&C Event at Stop Climate Chaos Edinburgh 23 10 2006: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/SCC_Edinburgh.pdf

RIBA Conference Venice 27/8 Teatro alle Tese

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/RIBA_Conference_2006.pdf

C&C Event London School Economics 3rd November

Please contact jan-@alty.net

Contraction & Convergence Student Campaign

Contact

Niel Bowerman email <niel.bo-@keble.ox.ac.uk>

Keble College Environment Representative

OUSU Environment Committee Co-Chair

Mobile: +44 (0)7727 261966

West Africa C&C Event Output:-

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Cotonou_C&C_Press_Release.pdf

UNEP « Our Planet » Magazine C&C COP-12 article 01 11 2006

<http://www.ourplanet.com/>

"The Future is C&C" T-Shirts for Climate Events and March 4th November:

- Please contact jan-@alty.net

Kenya Opens COP-12 with C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 08, 2006 20:43 PST

Speech by Hon. Kivutha Kibwana, EGH, MP, Kenya's Minister for

Environment and Natural Resources and Chairman of COP-12

On the Occasion of the Opening of the Kenya side event "On Equity for Survival" at the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties on Wednesday 8 November 2006.

Full speech [below] which sets tone for coordinated COP-12 next week; A few developments in his support and some tribute to the now decades of un-remitting campaigning by Mayer Hillman [mayer.h-@blueyonder.co.uk] and Janet Alty [jan-@alty.net] of GCT

West Africa - contact Raphael Hanmbock [Cameroon] <climateaf-@yahoo.co.uk>

ast Africa -

contact Grace Akumu [Kenya] <gak-@yahoo.com>

GCI COP-12 Nairobi

contact Adam Poole ad-@gci.org.uk

C&C Briefing to COP 12 at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/COP_12.pdf

UNEP Our Planet C&C article at: -

http://www.unep.org/pdf/ourplanet/op_english_17v2.pdf

Latest C&C Model and Context Flash Animation:

-http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CandC_model_context_animation.swf

Navigation - arrows: within scenes/GCI logos: through scenes

[Full DVD Movie available on private request].

C&C Article [Poole] in Open Democracy at: -

http://www.opendemocracy.net/globalization-climate_change_debate/climate_game_4064.jsp

London Marches for C&C: -

http://english.ohmynews.com/articleview/article_view.asp?article_class=3&no=327254&rel_no=1

Colin Challen MP [Labour] -

http://www.opendemocracy.net/globalization-climate_change_debate/naked_lunch_4062.jsp

and Caroline Lucas MEP [Green]

http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/caroline_lucas/2006/10/there_is_nothing_in_the_broad.html

and Norman Baker MP [Lib Dem], master-minds of the London Rally led Parliamentary case for C&C at London Marches outside the US Embassy last Saturday:

Volumes of Images/Movie/Full_Transcripts available on request;

eg: - http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Proud_C&C_T_Shirt_Wearers.JPG

Courtesy of Scottish Action on Climate Change

contact John Riley <jo-@saocc.org.uk> [Many more - including

Africa_Marches in Nairobi - available on request].

UK National C&C operations contacts: -

Niel Bowerman Oxford <niel.bo-@keble.ox.ac.uk>

Aled Dilwyn Fisher LSE

<http://www.lsesu.com/main/campaigns/environmentandethics/environmentandethicsofficer>

Neale Upstone Cambridge <nea-@nealeupstone.com>

Bristol Greens

http://www.bristolgreenparty.org.uk/policy/c+c_resolution.htm

Earth Charter C&C Contacts

Brendan Mackey <Brendan-@anu.edu.au>

Rabbi Jeffrey Newman <jeff-@jnewman.org.uk>

The quite beautiful "Converging World Project" at: -

<http://www.theconvergingworld.org/contraction.html>

More from the New Statesman - Mark Lynas

<http://www.newstatesman.com/200611060015>

British Medical Journal [BMJ] joining with Royal Institute of British

Architects return to C&C campaign in this Friday's BMJ.

Contact Robin Stott [MEDACT] sto-@dircon.co.uk and

Sunand Prasad [RIBA] <s.pr-@penoyre-prasad.net>

C&C in Living Planet Index

<http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/005242.html>

Contact Jonathan Loh <jona-@livingplanet.org.uk>

Nicholas Stern presents to Africa COP-12 next week . . . His much heralded report so far reads . .

.

"The notions of the right to climate protection or climate security of future generations and of shared responsibilities in a common world can be combined to assert that, collectively, we have the right only to emit some very small amount of GHGs, equal for all, and that no-one has the right to emit beyond that level without incurring the duty to compensate.

We are therefore obliged to pay for the right to emit above that common level. This can be seen as one argument in favour of the 'contract and converge' proposition, whereby 'large emitters' should contract emissions and all individuals in the world should either converge to a common (low) level or pay for the excess (and those below that level could sell rights)."

When pressed on the C&C issue by the huge audience at his report-lecture LSE Tuesday night, made a heart-felt speech saying he was 'in favour of the approach' . . .

[Come on Nick, nearly there . . . here's the man you've come to meet]

Speech by Hon. Kivutha Kibwana, EGH, MP, Kenya Minister for Environment and Natural Resources Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kenya, I am greatly honoured to welcome all of you to this Kenya Side Event on "Equity for Survival : Way forward for Post Kyoto".

Equity and responsibility are at the heart of the UN Climate Convention, which states that "the Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities". In spite of this, the international regime to fight climate change still fails to fully live up to this nobler principle. That is why it is, indeed, our task as delegates and observers to ensure that we do not lose sight of this important principle. It is possible as negotiations move fast, key tenets of the Convention will be forgotten. This must be avoided as we should not make decisions which look good on paper but remain un-implementable.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

There is a well founded concern that the unprecedented human (anthropogenic) and industrial as

well as development activities of the past two centuries the world over have caused changes over and above natural variation. Rising global temperatures are causing changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

Indeed, all of us are witnessing the horrible disasters associated with climate change. Over 70% of all hazards are related to extreme weather and climate events, the most common of which include droughts, floods, flash floods, landslides/mudslides and lightning strikes. These are already upsetting many management methods based on the natural variability of climate and the implications are far reaching.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a well known fact that industrialised nations are overwhelmingly responsible, historically and currently, for emission of most of the greenhouse gases which are raising world temperatures and causing erratic extreme weather patterns.

It is therefore important of us to demand that those responsible for the greatest greenhouse emissions to take the issue of equity even more seriously and ponder over a Post-Kyoto regime which will not only be equitable and therefore readily implementable, but which will allocate emissions entitlements on a per capita basis. We should aim at a process for capping total emissions, progressively reducing them [contraction] and sharing emission entitlements using a formula so that in an agreed timeframe, the entitlements converge to being equal per person [convergence].

The reasoning behind it is that human beings by virtue of being born equal have an equal right to the atmosphere a global common resource. We can then wish to establish a global market in tradable emissions entitlements which would promote efficiency, transfer of resources to poor countries whose emission quotas exceed their needs and create sustainable livelihoods through international cooperation capacity building and transferring of environmentally friendly technologies.

Failure to incorporate the principle of equity into the new regime will inherently leave developing countries, in particular Africa, with the burden of cleaning the atmosphere as others enjoy unprecedented profligate lifestyles.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Currently most citizens of many developing countries and in particular East Africa live below the poverty line and are disposed to less than US\$ 1 per day. In this regard, industrialisation has been identified as the key to attain self sufficiency and the sustainable development urgently required. East Africa therefore has a duty to develop to the status of the developed countries. Energy is the main vehicle to achieve the required industrialisation. With emphasis on industrialisation, emissions are bound to rise. Morally, it is important that we adopt the right technologies in our quest for industrialisation.

Such technologies should ensure that they are proven and appropriate to our needs. Transfer of skills associated with technology to ensure continuity of programs. Full involvement of local resources and expertise; that the energy supplied is adequate; that the energy meets the needs of the present and future generations ie should be sustainable.

To achieve all these, developing countries should demand from industrialised country parties the transfer of relevant energy technologies. Of course this action requires co-operation but the co-operation should be based on the principle of "equal but differentiated responsibilities" as articulated in the UNFCCC.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative, African governments including East Africa have stated clearly that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, individually and collectively, actively in the world economy and political arena. This is a clear indication that African states want to trade with the rest of the world but not to beg. We must therefore use our environmental space wisely as an economic asset for development. We should ask for arrangements where developing countries will bring something to the table to trade in the name of "emission entitlements" and of course a good price.

I therefore suggest that we develop intuitional arrangements for trading our environmental space

in the best interest of the well being of our citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It appears from the way the negotiations are going, we will end up in developing countries scrambling for fewer and fewer Clean Development Projects (CDMs), especially in Africa, while those responsible for excess greenhouse emissions will be the first ones to put obstacles in front of African projects citing lack of competency in project development, political instability, insecurity etc, whereas their private sector will be continuing business as usual in the region, in particular, in the extraction of petroleum products, mining and all the rest.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my humble appeal to you to consider serious incorporation of equity in the Post-Kyoto regime as climate change impacts are already posing a threat to our very survival in Africa. "Equity" in this context means an approach that is fair with reasonable actions by all countries in addressing climate change in a manner that would reflect the significant differences between countries in terms of their capacity to respond to climate change, their historic and projected emissions, and their vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I once again welcome you to Kenya and declare this "Kenya Side Event on Equity for Survival" officially open.

All this is at least some tribute to the decades of relentless campaigning by Mayer Hillman and Janet Alty of GCT

C&C - COP - 12 Carpe Diem Aubrey Meyer

Nov 11, 2006 08:56 PST

After a year of climate- trauma, the African hosts of COP-12 now say that COP-12 is about C&C! Carpe Diem

Nick Stern has given the UK Government line - it is unequal rights to the atmosphere. [see below] The COP-12 hosts have already rejected it demanding equal rights. [see below that].

Here first is: -

PUBLIC QUESTION TO SIR NICHOLAS STERN [AT LSE LAST TUESDAY]AND RESPONSES IN BOLD
The African line is spelled out in full at the bottom of this message.

QUESTION

When is the political tipping point in favour of "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C)?

SIR NICHOLAS STERN HIS ANSWER [in ". . . "] [mp3 available on request.

[STERN] "Now the last question was about the political tipping point coupled with the idea of "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C). For those of you who don't know the jargon, you may not know what political tipping point means. It's actually quite a deep concept. But on "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C)"

[BOLD] C&C is not jargon - it is precise, epistemologically numerate and now legally protected nomenclature.

[STERN] "It means that if you go into carbon-trading and different nations have different allowances for emissions, the idea of "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) is that you give everybody the same kind of emissions allowance per capita, regardless of how much they were emitting. So those poor people who emit less can sell some of their allowance to rich countries that emit more. And that's the story of "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C)."

[BOLD] No its not. C&C starts from a concentration target that is safe and stable and works from there: -

www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf [definition contractually agreed with UK Government in writing - letters on request].

[STERN] "And it does have obviously strong ethical attraction to it."

[BOLD] Hearts and flowers - It has the simple attraction power of logic.

[STERN] "It is based on a proposition on rights which is a bit tricky to get your head around - we all have the same rights to emit to some level or other. That's a difficult one to understand."

[BOLD] Why; why is it difficult to get your head around? Why is it difficult to understand? Does the author need psychiatric help? He is already assigning unequal emissions rights in the carbon market where apparently its too easy to understand or even to be debatable.

[STERN] "I mean you could argue that we have no right to emit . . . ,"

[BOLD] Choke choke; this is a new twist in the economics of genocide as it is arguing that we all have no right to breathe.

How about I breathe therefore I am - do government officials assume this too or just that we do and they don't?

[STERN] " . . . or you could argue that have some right to emit; you sort get into quite difficult conceptual territory."

[BOLD] Rubbish - it very straightforward. The difficult conceptual territory is the neuronal collapse inside the crania of the establishment's glove-puppets.

[STERN]"But the motivation behind the question "

[BOLD] [. . . the hearts and flowers behind the answer not the question].

[STERN] " . . . that the story of trading . . . "

[BOLD] [which requires emissions rights by definition]

" [STERN] . . . and the story of adaptation and the story of mitigation should be so structured that rich countries, at least for the beginning period, which might be quite a long period, pay the bulk of the costs, is - I think - sound."

[BOLD] [its more the smell isn't it its the planet we're trying to save not the bureaucracy].

[STERN] "We talk about [in the reports] the rich countries paying 80-plus-% of the costs of mitigation. Bearing in mind that rich country GDP is 70 - 75% of world GDP, and they bear historic responsibility for the story, that seems to be a fairly modest requirement."

[BOLD] [But we've already been told that 'we' are prepared to pay anything to avoid the end of civilization because that costs less]

[STERN] "But whether you translate your equity concerns specifically just that one way through, "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) seems to me to be an open question."

[BOLD]Who said it was only C&C and nothing but C&C? Certainly not GCI].

[STERN] "The basic theme of the question I have strong agreement with, that is that rich countries pay more."

[BOLD] It would be a foolish man at this stage who at this stage didn't agree with this].

[STERN] "How you implement it is open to question."

[BOLD] Which Stern's report didn't question successfully, it rehearsed the difference between 2 or 3 repeats of the industrial revolutionary emissions output [213,000.000,000 tonnes carbon times two or times] as a margin of error !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! - as he said, "don't trust my methods" - so what; - have another go?]

[BOLD] So his trading scheme and its advocates can get their heads around the difficulty that this scheme apparently requires unequal rights by definition.

Consensus? Sweet Jesus - who needs the psychiatrist?

[BOLD] When Stern presents next Wednesday in Nairobi he will be met by the Chair of the meeting The Hon K Kibwana: -

Speech by Hon. Kivutha Kibwana, EGH, MP, Kenya's Minister for Environment and Natural Resources and Chairman of COP-12

On the Occasion of the Opening of the Kenya side event "On Equity for Survival" at the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of

the Parties on Wednesday 8 November 2006.

Full C&C speech [below] which sets tone for co-ordinated COP-12 next week - Nick I warned you .

. . .

A few C&C developments

British Medical Journal

<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/333/7576/983>

New Scientist - The poor will pay for global warming

<http://www.newscientist.com/channel/earth/mg19225774.600-the-poor-will-pay-for-global-warming.html>

C&C Briefing to COP 12 at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/COP_12.pdf

UNEP Our Planet C&C article at: -

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http://english.ohmynews.com/articleview/article_view.asp?article_class=3&no=327254&rel_no=1

Colin Challen MP [Labour] -

http://www.opendemocracy.net/globalization-climate_change_debate/naked_lunch_4062.jsp

and Caroline Lucas MEP [Green]

http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/caroline_lucas/2006/10/there_is_nothing_in_the_broad.html

and Norman Baker MP [Lib Dem], master-minds of the London Rally led Parliamentary case for C&C at London Marches outside the US Embassy last Saturday: -

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Courtesy of Scottish Action on Climate Change contact John Riley

<jo-@saocc.org.uk> [Many more - including Africa_Marches in Nairobi - available on request].

UK National C&C operations contacts: -

Niel Bowerman Oxford niel-@keble.ox.ac.uk

Aled Dilwyn Fisher LSE

<http://www.lsesu.com/main/campaigns/environmentandethics/environmentandethicsofficer>

Neale Upstone Cambridge <ne-@nealeupstone.com>

Bristol Greens

http://www.bristolgreenparty.org.uk/policy/c+c_resolution.htm

Earth Charter C&C Contacts

Brendan Mackey <Bren-@anu.edu.au>

Rabbi Jeffrey Newman <jef-@jnewman.org.uk>

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More from the New Statesman - Mark Lynas

<http://www.newstatesman.com/200611060015>

British Medical Journal [BMJ] joining with Royal Institute of British Architects return to C&C campaign in this Friday's BMJ.

Contact Robin Stott [MEDACT] st-@dircon.co.uk and Sunand Prasad [RIBA] s.p-@penoyre-prasad.net

C&C in Living Planet Index

<http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/005242.html>

Contact Jonathan Loh <jon-@livingplanet.org.uk>

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a well known fact that industrialised nations are overwhelmingly responsible, historically and currently, for emission of most of the greenhouse gases which are raising world temperatures and causing erratic extreme weather patterns.

It is therefore important of us to demand that those responsible for the greatest greenhouse emissions to take the issue of equity even more seriously and ponder over a Post-Kyoto regime which will not only be equitable and therefore readily implementable, but which will allocate emissions

entitlements on a per capita basis. We should aim at a process for capping total emissions, progressively reducing them [contraction] and sharing emission entitlements using a formula so that in an agreed timeframe, the entitlements converge to being equal per person [convergence].

The reasoning behind it is that human beings by virtue of being born equal have an equal right to the atmosphere a global common resource. We can then wish to establish a global market in tradable emissions entitlements which would promote efficiency, transfer of resources to poor countries whose emission quotas exceed their needs and create sustainable livelihoods through international cooperation capacity building an transferring of environmentally friendly technologies.

Failure to incorporate the principle of equity into the new regime will inherently leave developing countries, in particular Africa, with the burden of cleaning the atmosphere as others enjoy unprecedented profligate lifestyles.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Currently most citizens of many developing countries and in particular East Africa live below the poverty line and are disposed to less than US\$ 1 per day. In this regard, industrialisation has been identified as the key to attain self sufficiency and the sustainable development urgently required. East Africa therefore has a duty to develop to the status of the developed countries. Energy is the main vehicle to achieve the required industrialisation. With emphasis on industrialisation, emissions are bound to rise. Morally, it is important that we adopt the right technologies in our quest for industrialisation.

Such technologies should ensure that they are proven and appropriate to our needs. Transfer of skills associated with technology to ensure continuity of programs. Full involvement of local resources and expertise; that the energy supplied is adequate; that the energy meets the needs of the present and future generations ie should be sustainable.

To achieve all these, developing countries should demand from industrialised country parties the transfer of relevant energy technologies. Of course this action requires co-operation but the co-operation should be based on the principle of "equal but differentiated responsibilities" as articulated in the UNFCCC.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative, African governments including East Africa have stated clearly that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, individually and collectively, actively in the world economy and political arena. This is a clear indication that African states want to trade with the rest of the world but not to beg. We must therefore use our environmental space wisely as an economic asset for development. We should ask for arrangements where developing countries will bring something to the table to trade in the name of "emission entitlements" and of course a good price.

I therefore suggest that we develop intuitional arrangements for trading our environmental space in the best interest of the well being of our citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It appears from the way the negotiations are going, we will end up in developing countries scrambling for fewer and fewer Clean Development Projects (CDMs), especially in Africa, while those responsible for excess greenhouse emissions will be the first ones to put obstacles in front of African projects citing lack of competency in project development, political instability, insecurity etc, whereas their private sector will be continuing business as usual in the region, in particular, in the extraction of petroleum products, mining and all the rest.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my humble appeal to you to consider serious incorporation of equity in the Post-Kyoto regime as climate change impacts are already posing a threat to our very survival in Africa. "Equity" in this context means an approach that is fair with reasonable actions by all countries in addressing climate change in a manner that would reflect the significant differences between countries in terms of their capacity to respond to climate change, their historic and projected emissions, and their vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I once again welcome you to Kenya and declare this "Kenya Side Event on Equity for Survival" officially open.

Aubrey Meyer

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To receive C&C development circulars

send an email to: GCN-sub-@igc.topica.com

SUNDAY INDI punt C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 12, 2006 00:23 PST

This week, ministers from around the world will fly to Nairobi to join the latest negotiations on how to achieve this. One of the favoured means is by "carbon trading", whereby nations and companies are given pollution allowances; those that wish to exceed them have to buy spare permits from those producing less.

The most sophisticated such system, "contraction and convergence", was dreamed up by a former London busker, Aubrey Meyer, who runs the Global Commons Institute. Under it everyone on Earth would be entitled to the same carbon footprint. National emissions would have to "converge" until each country emitted the same amount of pollution per person. Rich ones would cut back while poor ones increased, within a "contracting" and ever-reducing world total.

Politically difficult though it may be, it is attracting growing support. David Miliband, the Secretary of State for the Environment, has recently endorsed an even more controversial proposal - that each person should be given a steadily reducing carbon allowance. Those who want to exceed this permitted footprint, such as by driving more or flying frequently, would have to buy permits from those who live more modestly.

Experts think it would be the best way to bring down emissions fast and it should mean that the poor get wealthier by selling part of their allowances to the rich. Then we will be in the carbon age indeed.

<http://news.independent.co.uk/environment/article1963434.ece>

C&C Petition - Blair Web-site [No 10] Aubrey Meyer

Nov 20, 2006 02:49 PST

C&C Petition to Blair open for signature at: -

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Carbon-Rationing/>

1. We believe Climate Change is one of the most serious threats to mankind, and to biodiversity on this planet, and that rapid action is required.
2. We believe, we need a global cut in emissions of 60% by 2030, and that this is likely to require a 90% cut in UK emissions by 2030.
3. We believe, the fundamental international framework that can deliver these cuts is Contraction and Convergence. We urge the government to campaign tirelessly at an international level for the adoption of Contraction and Convergence. We believe this approach of sharing emissions fairly per capita worldwide, and a process of aligning all nations to that is vital.

4. We believe that supporting C&C in the UK requires adoption of carbon rationing, with a tradeable ability, not green taxation.
5. We believe, green taxation will alienate much of society and will be unpopular with many of the people whose emissions we seek to lower. Green taxes will hurt poorer people more than the rich. Green taxes will not enforce reductions. Green taxes take away personal choice in how we live our lives.
6. We believe, by implementing carbon rationing with binding targets we can force the country to only use its share, rewarding those who have spare ration, and allowing an element of personal choice in how a person spends their ration.
7. We believe, we must implement rationing with a trading ability as otherwise there will simply be a black market.
8. We believe, carbon rationing can bring personal and business emissions within an overall target and ensure fairness between interests of corporations and citizens.
9. We believe supporting these frameworks we need incentives for energy efficiency in the household, and for the use of renewable energy sources.
10. We believe we need regulation for businesses to drive changes in fuel consumption, energy efficiency, food miles etc.

Alex Kent, the Petition Creator, joined by:

David Ross

Simon Turvey

Quentin Brodie Cooper

John Beisley

Clive Gross

Tom Chance

Simon Morris

Ken Neal

Regina Shaw

Alan Ledger

James Marcus Richard Whitham

Matt Hammond

Peter Burgess

Julia Westgate

K Mansley

Sarah Jones

Susan Brown

Owen Barritt

Trish Whitham

Robin Green

Naomi Phillips

josephine carter

Peter Kent

Andrea Kent

Peter Barber

Mike Silver

John Morton

Jenny Nicholson

C&C - RIBA Conference "A huge success" Aubrey Meyer

Nov 29, 2006 11:47 PST

RIBA Conference VENICE "A Huge Success"

http://www.architecture.com/go/Architecture/Events_5475.html

Full Summary Here: -

http://www.architecture.com/fileLibrary/pdf/RIBA_Conference_Summary001.pdf

"Aubrey Meyer, formerly a professional musician, started the talks with a virtuoso performance that was simultaneously moving, terrifying and informative.

He played the violin theme to Schindler's List to images of the environmental holocaust he went on to argue that we face.

It was a rallying cry for architects, having adopted "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) at RIBA Council . . . "

"Massimiliano Fuksas gave a tour de force. He urged architects to be honest about their dishonesty when it comes to issues like climate change and took issue with Norman Foster's line that architects can only be advocates."

"Jack Pringle the outgoing Chairman of RIBA saw climate change as the dominant agenda for the 21st Century. He called for targets and endorsed "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) saying that market forces won't work, calling instead for Government action and for intervention in architecture, engineering and products.

He committed RIBA to becoming a more campaigning organisation."

C&C links minus fiddle for RIBA event: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/C&C_Bubbles_main_panel_only.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/White_planet_3x4_flash_mx_2004.swf

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Venice_Movie.avi

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Venice_Presentation.swf

"Contraction and Convergence" Petition now listed 20th overall at Downing St. with ~ 600 signatures: -

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Carbon-Rationing/>

CHALLENGE ARTICLE for FT CALLS ON SIR NICHOLAS STERN FOR DISCIPLINE ON CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE

To avoid dangerous rates of climate change, we have to solve the problem faster than we create it. Though this is a simple and obvious test, it is a great challenge as rates of change towards an increasingly adverse climate are already now well established.

Like others before it, Sir Nicholas Stern's recent report recognises the challenge but does not rise to it. Rising to it means showing that we are collectively organising to do enough soon enough globally to avoid dangerous rates of climate change. In other words success requires that all the new investment needed must be governed - as Al Gore rightly says - by prevention and not by an aimless trade-off between mitigation and adaptation. Stern's Report avoids the test and loiters in the trade-off.

Prevention requires a global framework that demonstrates we all understand, take and pass the test we're now faced with. To avoid dangerous rates of climate change, we must contract our overall future greenhouse gas emissions to the global atmosphere to nearly zero within the next half a century sharing the available entitlements to emit equally per capita, in other words constitutionally.

This constitution is "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) and it already has huge support: - www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf

There is no other conceivable way for success. Any other basis for sharing the task of contraction

requires a random continuation of the inequality that will keep us locked into this deepening crisis. In total and sharing the rights equally, we must emit not more than once the amount we have emitted already, in other words about a total of a quarter of a trillion tonnes of carbon to match the total so far. More than this raises the risk of runaway climate change, and any excess must be neutralised through carbon sequestration. Doing this within a global framework that demonstrates this and to which we are all legally committed and bound is sine-qua-non.

The Stern report correctly recognises that the economic externality of climate change is the greatest example of market failure in history. He also says that we are now in a situation of appalling global inequity where the poorest, who are the majority and the least responsible for causing climate change, are also the most vulnerable to its lethal effects and are already bearing the heaviest brunt of the damages.

Stern described C&C as 'an assertion' but allowed himself the luxury of asserting that C&C was unlikely to get support. Defending his stance at a recent public meeting at the LSE he said that equal rights under these limits was, "too difficult to get your head around" before just taking for granted that the very unequal shares that he prescribes as being necessary to trade his un-quantified emissions entitlements, are so easy to understand that they don't even require discussion let alone support.

Economic analysis as Stern says is at the margins and he notes that climate change is anything but a marginal problem. This admits head-on that economists work at the margins, can predict little and achieve and commit to nothing. This leaves only the politicians to make the decisions that deal with this massive structural failure and achieve the corrective success we all now desperately need. 25 of the world's most powerful corporations wrote last year from the World Economic Forum in Davos demanding this leadership.

It is politicians who must give the leadership to deal with the enormous inequity of this great market failure to prevent the lethal trends it has begat. Unavoidably, a framework for this leadership is required. This framework must lay out how over a full, defined period from now until we achieve a safe and sustainable atmospheric concentration of CO₂ we will all, on a global scale, actually achieve it. By definition such a framework needs to exist so exceptions can be tested.

At COP-12 UN General Secretary Kofi Annan found a 'terrifying lack of leadership' on climate change. The result of this is that the investment community are faced with an appalling dilemma. Investors are urged to invest in what is obviously an inadequate 'market-based framework', when a full-term 'framework-based market' is urgently required so as to save ourselves. One must assume that rational investors will acknowledge the primacy of such a framework, ahead of merely making short-term gains WHILE we don't solve the problem. Without such a framework, investors face the double jeopardy of wasting money on random projects and inadequate arrangements, while also losing the money that is left to the potentially limitless damages of a deepening market failure.

It is in this critical area where Sir Nicholas Stern's report is obviously weakest. His 'positioning-numbers' are aspirational and make matters worse as they have no integrating rationale. They fail to resist the trends where we continue to cause the problem faster than we act to resolve it. This depends on people's ignorance of the trends which is obviously ending and so won't work. In 2000 the UNEP Financial Initiative published growth-trends of uninsured loss estimates due to 'un-natural weather related events' that were averaging over 6% per

annum, in other words already these damage costs were seen to be progressing at twice the rate of the benefits of economic growth. UNEP also projected these trends for several decades to demonstrate that these losses WILL in due course negate the entirety of economic growth, unless drastic action to halt this race to market-oblivion is organised. At COP-12 in Nairobi UNEPFI published a report which said that within 15 years the average annual insured losses would top one trillion dollars per annum, while saying privately that they now have no choice but to withdraw insurance cover from parties who face these risks.

The contrast between this reality and projections in the Stern Report is all too apparent. Like Sir David King before him, Sir Nicholas Stern acknowledges that while for reasons of climate safety

we should be aiming to stabilise at 450 CO₂ e ppmv, stabilising at 550 ppmv is the aspirational best we can hope for and is achievable by spending merely 1% of GDP on mitigating ghg emissions. The idea that 1% of GDP bails us out of this, borders on the fantastical.

The difference between 450 and 550 ppmv as a concentration outcome is no mere 'margin of error'. It is the difference between repeating twice or three times the entire weight of emissions emitted in the first 200 years of the industrial revolution. To date we have emitted a quarter of a trillion tonnes carbon from mining and burning that much oil coal and gas. This has raised concentrations from below 280 ppmv CO₂ to over 420 CO₂ equivalent ppmv and temperature by nearly one degree over the last two hundred years. Stern's report now foresees emitting this again more than three times to a total of one and a quarter trillion tonnes of carbon equivalent over the next century, to the aggravated hazard of a 550 ppmv outcome because of another three quarters of a trillion tonnes of carbon-equivalent being pumped into the sky.

What makes Stern's prognosis so unreliable is that no real recognition is given to increasing sink-failure. The average annual value for concentrations has been accelerating in recent years. While greenhouse gas emissions from human sources are still increasing, the fraction of these retained in the atmosphere has been increasing as well as, at the same time, the natural sinks for CO₂ have started to fail. The odds are that progressively the entire weight of carbon from these emissions will be transferred to the atmosphere permanently. This risk is aggravated further by the interaction with other positive feedbacks to temperature rise such as methane release and albedo loss due to ice melt. On present trends, this value of 450 ppmv CO₂ e will be exceeded within ten years and beyond then, investors will see mounting losses as global climate impacts rise out of control. Insurers won't provide insurance AND investors won't invest.

Without the robust framework that C&C provides we will hit the rocks, like a ship with everything in place bar the rudder and the compass. The resistance to such a framework, especially in the developed world is only explicable if one imagines governments to be in a state of self-delusion, fearful of cold, rational number crunching. This is cognitive dissonance on a suicidal scale, and at the very least one might ask that C&C should be examined in the COP-12 process – or demand that a better be placed on the table. Unless this challenge is taken up, we will pursue a partial solution, which in climate change terms is not solution at all."

Tories - Step Up or Give Up Aubrey Meyer

Dec 11, 2006 04:51 PST

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/DontGiveUpOnTwoDegrees.pdf>

Yesterday this climate change paper: -

"Don't Give Up on Two Degrees"

by Conservative MP Nick Hurd

was published by the Conservative "Quality of Life Group".

<tp://www.qualityoflifechallenge.com/documents/DontGiveUpOnTwoDegrees.pdf>

or if link is broken: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/DontGiveUpOnTwoDegrees.pdf>

"Getting the science right"

In one sense - getting to grips with the 'science' better - the paper is very useful. It correctly takes Sir Nicholas Stern to task over 450-550 ppmv CO₂ e. It points out that this concentration value of GHG in the atmosphere is too high if we are to avoid a more than a two degrees Celsius overall global temperature rise. The paper poses 400-450 ppmv as the limit of what's needed. This is more realistic. "Getting the framework right"

In another sense – the plain logic of global time-dependent limits to consumption - this group is fragments and all at sea. It seems to me that despite the input of Mark Lynas, Peter Ainsworth and others, they still aren't doing the arithmetic. The section called "Getting the framework right" [see below] has a good title, and some not unhelpful exhortative remarks but no methodological

content. In this area all we get is a string of right-on sounding buzz words with no real value due to their contradictory usage.

The “critically right” framework turns out to be words: - a “cross-party kick-start” to a “throttle up or down” at “political” will . . . with which we can speed up or slow down to manage the risks both locally and globally to accommodate the two opposing trend tendencies of doing too much too soon [fat chance] versus too little too late . . . without a global emissions framework being mentioned once.

The sad fact seems to be this: - John Gummer, whose group is, was one of the earliest and sharpest C&C advocates. Now, for reasons un-stated accompanied by what can now better be described as publicly almost foaming at the mouth, John’s anti-C&C views are damaging the chances for competence in this ‘Quality of Life Group’.

With time running out, the “Right-Framework” part of the report avoids the discipline of time-dependency in emissions management. This, if anything, will only confuse and damage the cross-party consensus the Conservative Party want to lead.

Its dead simple or we’re dead, if C&C does not lead the cross-party consensus, there will be no consensus.

REPORT EXTRACT

“Whether the long term goal is 60% or 80% could be dismissed as almost beside the point in 2006. Either way we must assume that we will travel down the road to decarbonisation of the world economy, and the most pressing challenge is how to kick start the collective political will to take the first serious steps on that journey.

However there is no point settling for 60% at this stage if that goal is inadequate in the face of our risk assessment. We may be setting ourselves up for an even more expensive process further down the track both in terms of mitigation and adaptation policy.

On the other hand, the framing of a more ambitious long term goal not only sends a strong signal about the direction of travel: it should also jolt the short term policy response into more urgent action. This is hugely important given the need to generate some momentum behind emission reductions, particularly if the Prime Minister is right that ‘without radical international measures to reduce carbon emissions within the next 10-15 years, there is compelling evidence to suggest we might lose the chance to control temperature rises.’ [18] A more ambitious approach also gives us the flexibility to throttle back if the climate science is revised. A worse outcome would be one in which we were forced to accelerate further down the track at a significantly higher human and financial cost.

Such an aspiration has no credibility without a statutory emissions reduction target for 2025, proposed by an Independent Agency and supported by a vote in the House of Commons. A medium term target of this type is important for shaping the key investment decisions that will be taken over the next 15 years in replacing our energy generation infrastructure. Those decisions will shape our ability to meet the long term goal.

Getting the framework right is critical. It needs to be flexible enough to allow us to adjust to changes in our knowledge base and perception of risk. It also needs to have credibility in terms of the direction of travel and cross party commitment to the journey.”

It is as if we had only just become aware of this cost-problem called “loss of control” by climate change.

Aubrey Meyer

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The Holy C&C Aubrey Meyer

Dec 17, 2006 05:12 PST

Hard to Resist . . . The Holy C&C

The Pontifical Academy of Sciences

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Sachs-ClimateHumanRights.pdf>

Also . . . a new and erudite publication from Edward A. Page

"Climate Change, Justice and Future Generations"

<http://www.amazon.com/Climate-Change-Justice-Future-Generations/dp/184376184X>

Similar and deeply well argued case for C&C as the real deal, rather than the 'sons of Kyoto', 'Kyoto-Lite' and 'Kyoto Plus'.

Its a tome and expensive but genuinely worth it if it helps put much of academia on notice about what is actually going on and how to think through the long-now called *avoiding* dangerous climate change rather than the short-now called *avoiding dealing with it*.

[C&C Sample below]

7.4 THE FUTURE FOR KYOTO

. . . . In the following [final] brief remarks, it is suggested that, at present, Contraction and Convergence is the most attractive approach to the climate problem. It is attractive on a large number of theories of the profile and currency of justice and raises no more problems than its rivals in terms of the scope of justice.

First, the Contraction and Convergence approach seems congruent with both 'contribution to problem' and 'ability to pay' arguments for differential responsibility, yet it does not depend on either of these for its essential justification. The approach does not assume that those that must make the biggest changes in their environmental practices were responsible for the climate problem either historically or contemporarily. Rather, it distributes the responsibilities of climate change abatement in terms of a scientific analysis of a sustainable future where dangerous climate change is avoided (the IPCC refers to this as 'Backcasting'⁴²) and a principle of equality of usage of the atmosphere. Neither idea, however, is wholly reducible to the 'ability to pay' or 'contribution to problem' principles. Second, the approach is at least as comfortable as its rivals with any of the plausible theories of the currency of justice that were examined in Chapter 3. Although much further research is needed in tern-is of the impact of climate change on the components of well-bring such as human health. Contraction and Convergence seems well suited to the promotion of existing and future welfare, resources, basic capabilities and midfare.

Third, the approach seems consistent with a range of theories of the profile of justice. It will be attractive to egalitarians, for example, as it will reduce inequalities between developing and developed countries, and between generations, relative to its rivals. It will also tend to improve, relative to rival approaches, the position of the worst off since research suggests strongly that very many of the worst off will be members of developing countries in a future world blighted by climate change.⁴³ Finally, it will be attractive to those who wish to

bring as many people as possible to the point where they have enough since the measures it will introduce will benefit many millions of people in developed and developing countries who lead, or will lead, lives lacking in what is needed for a decent life without bringing more than a very limited number of people below the sufficiency level. There may, of course, be some members of developed countries who, for whatever reason, fall below the baseline of a dignified life as an indirect result of this tough approach to climate change. But this will be a feature of any approach to

climate change, including doing nothing at all.

C&C 2007 - and a Happy New York Aubrey Meyer

Jan 07, 2007 14:59 PST

Imminent C&C activities [as - on the 07 01 2007 - temperature hit 72 degrees F in New York making it the "Stewed Apple"]:

1. Advice to Parliament's All Party Climate Group [22.01.07] prior to debate for climate-bill
2. At All Faith Group at St Ethelburga's [30.01.07]
3. At London Jewish Cultural Centre [04.02.07]
4. Week long course at Schumacher College [05-09.02.07]
5. Downing Street Petition
6. New book from MIT

On January 22nd the UK House of Commons "All Party Group on Climate Change" [APGCC] starts a series of hearings on issues related to the climate-bill. This bill is currently being drafted by DEFRA prior to being debated in the House of Commons this year.

GCI has accepted an invitation from the APGCC present evidence to them on the 22nd of January, framing the issue with C&C. The evidence led will include an animation-graphic presentation concerning accelerated rates of change taking the analysis beyond that in the presentation to the RIBA conference last October.

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Venice_Presentation.swf

and the need for accelerated global response procedures now needed to avoid runaway climate change.

DEFRA and the government will be challenged on the adequacy of framing a local bill that merely seeks to turn into law the so-called 'existing commitment' to cut UK emissions by 60% by 2050.

This figure was cherry-picked by them from the Royal Commission [2000] rejecting the global C&C methodology used by the RCEP. In other words it is an arbitrary figure delinked from any adequate or credible global process governed by a safe and stable concentration of ghg in the global atmosphere.

As part of this exercise, a now considerable list of very eminent persons will speak to the record in support of C&C and the need for this discipline in framing the climate bill if it is to be adequate, effective and the 'good example' it is claimed that the UK provides for the world to follow.

This testimony and evidence will be available on a CD that will also include the technical evidence led by GCI. The CD will be on general release with the full backing of the APGCC.

Please mail me at aubrey-@btinternet.com if you would like to receive a copy.

The mission statement reads: -

"Climate Change is set to become a global catastrophe. Everyone realises the world must take immediate and sustained action to avert the worst of what lies ahead. This means halting the human emissions of the greenhouse gases that are accelerating global warming - but this can't be done without a global framework that shows we are solving the problem faster than we cause it. The Kyoto Process fails this test, but C&C - Contraction & Convergence - is focused on it.

C&C starts by setting a limit for the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere, but because we are already on the cusp of runaway global warming, this can only be slightly above the present level. It then schedules a global Contraction of CO2 emissions that can keep us within that limit, and does so on the basis that everyone on the planet is entitled to an equal share in the declining amount of CO2 that human activities can safely emit.

By linking national carbon shares to population and limits to consumption, C&C provides a framework that can deliver climate security. It reduces the carbon shares of wealthy over-emitting countries until they converge with the (temporarily rising) shares of poorer under-emitting countries. The latter will be able to sell their surplus carbon shares to wealthier nations through a global trade that will encourage investment in renewable energy, and improve the prospects of all par-

ties. This is C&C in a nutshell.

The Kyoto process is inadequate because it is fragmented, divorced from the climate science, and distorted by national interests. Uncoordinated national policies have even less chance of success. In contrast, C&C connects science to the global objective and principles of the UN.

Climate Treaty agreed in 1992.

Support for C&C is growing because it is global, rational and fair. It will be an immense challenge to implement C&C, but I believe it's exactly what we – and every other country - must now do."

"Averting Climate Change - What does your faith say?". GCI joins all-faith colleagues at the Gandhi Foundation inter-faith event on the anniversary of Gandhi's death with the theme: - "C&C – an All-Faith way of saying Amen to Climate Change"

The venue is St Ethelburgas's Church near Liverpool St, London. The time is from 6.30 to 8pm on the 30th of January 2007.

Contact: -

Helen Gilbert

St Ethelburgas's Centre for Reconciliation & Peace

78 Bishopsgate

EC2N 4AG

020 7496 1610

hel-@stethelburgas.org

How Can Jews Help Prevent an 'Environmental Genocide' and Save the Planet?

United Nations green activist Aubrey Meyer and friends.

Sunday 4th February, 2pm - Tickets £12

London Jewish Cultural Centre

Ivy House, 94 - 96 North End Road

London NW11 7SX

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/LJCC_04_02_2006.pdf

"Contraction and Convergence" – one week course at Schumacher College

Feb 5th – 9th 2008

http://www.schumachercollege.org.uk/ShortCourses/Short_Course_Teachers.html

10 Downing Street "Contraction and Convergence" (C&C) Petition Growing

Alex Kent, the Petition Creator, joined now by another 1,269 signatories.

Please consider supporting this petition: -

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Carbon-Rationing/>

"A Climate of Injustice"

New Book from J Timmons Roberts [MIT] and

Bradley C Parks of the "Millmenium Challenge" [Washington]

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/product-description/0262681617/ref=dp_proddesc_0/102-9500501-0330545?ie=UTF8&n=283155&s=books

Published by MIT, in "A Climate of Injustice", J. Timmons Roberts and Bradley Parks analyze the role that inequality between rich and poor nations plays in the negotiation of global climate agreements.

Ambivalent about C&C and avoiding measured rates of change, they nonetheless do argue that until we reach a North-South global climate pact that addresses larger issues of inequality and striking a global bargain on environment and development, the current policy gridlock will remain unresolved.

C&C in new Lloyds-London Report Aubrey Meyer

Jan 09, 2007 06:40 PST

C&C is the Scientific view in tough new report from Lloyds of London

<http://www.lloyds.com/NR/rdonlyres/6498A184-F610-449F-9AA9-91C205622BC8/0/WhatNextfor-ClimateChange.pdf>

Bill McGuire

"The Kyoto Protocol is having negligible effect. If successful, Kyoto will result in a slowdown in the rise of global temperatures by 0.02C to 0.28C. That isn't going to help a great deal and we must decide what comes after Kyoto. It has to have the US, India and China on board. The best hope is a system called contraction and convergence, which works on the premise that everyone on the planet has the right to produce the same amount of greenhouse gas. A level is set for the planet and it is divided by the number of people, so that each country knows how much it can emit per head of population. The overall level is then brought down by agreement."

Bill McGuire is Benfield Professor of Geophysical Hazards at University College London and Director of the University's Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre. He has published more than 300 papers, books and articles and his work includes looking at how climate change might trigger landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. He was also a member of the National Hazard Working Group set up by the UK Government to explore the feasibility of global natural hazard early warning systems.

"Business, government and individuals need to be scared about climate change. In 2001, the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change Third Assessment Report forecast that global temperatures would rise between 1.4C and 5.8C by 2100. Worst-case scenarios now envisage an 8C to 10C increase.

In 2001, it was also suggested that sea levels would rise by up to 88cm by 2100, but more recent studies suggest a far more rapid increase. Global warming is going to be much, much worse than experts expected. Total ice lost from the Greenland ice sheet has more than doubled in the past decade. A total melting of the sheet would lead to a 7m rise in global sea levels. Only a year ago, the timescale for such a rise was being measured in thousands of years. Now it's being seriously talked of in hundreds of years, if not less.

Global warming also threatens the Gulf Stream, which keeps the UK several degrees warmer than comparable latitudes such as Labrador and Eastern Siberia. Last December, the Southampton Oceanography Centre published evidence for a 30% reduction in the gulf stream's circulation since 1992. If the weakness persists, we might expect a 1C fall in UK and Western Europe temperatures over the next ten years or so. This is the difference between today's climate and that of the Little Ice Age between the 15th and 19th centuries. Climate change will mean more natural hazards such as windstorms, floods and hurricanes. We may already be seeing that. It's a climate change signal. Warmer sea surface temperatures are triggering more powerful hurricanes and tropical cyclones worldwide."

The Kyoto Protocol is having negligible effect. If successful, Kyoto will result in a slowdown in the rise of global temperatures by 0.02C to 0.28C. That isn't going to help a great deal and we must decide what comes after Kyoto. It has to have the US, India and China on board. The best hope is a system called contraction and convergence, which works on the premise that everyone on the planet has the right to produce the same amount of greenhouse gas. A level is set for the planet and it is divided by the number of people, so that each country knows how much it can emit per head of population. The overall level is then brought down by agreement.

Parlament - C&C and risk assessment Aubrey Meyer

Jan 22, 2007 06:12 PST

All Party Climate Change Group Hearing

4.30 Today in Committee Room 6

Opening message from

Professor David Crichton,
Insurance Industry Consultant,
Benfield Hazard Centre
UCL

"A comprehensive assessment of risk must fully include feedback effects. Even if we do not know the speed or severity of these effects, we must consider the probabilities of disastrous acceleration in climate change within very short timescales. The C&C model demonstrates how this can be done.

Risk assessment is the core activity of the insurance industry, the biggest industry in the world. Insurers are the leading experts in risk and risk modelling.

C&C already has a high profile with insurers. Governments need to listen to the insurance industry and make C&C central to government policy around the world.

From a risk management point of view, C&C produces an important assessment of the risks we face from human-induced runaway climate change and how to frame a response at the policy level.

At any rate we must all move much more quickly to control greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels. In the meantime, architects and planners can no longer ignore climate change, and have a clear duty to act reasonably to reduce risk by changing to more resilient construction in safer areas now.

Governments have a primary duty to consider the health, safety and well being of their people. As a first step they can introduce more resilient building standards, more sustainable planning policies, and take measures to relocate people and businesses away from flood hazard areas.

Insurers have a duty to make it clear that they will consider litigation against any who fail in their duty if such failure results in injury or damage."

Animations of the risk-assessment in the C&C climate model here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/presentations/C1,C2,C3_compared_v2.swf

To be used in conjunction with the existing: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Venice_Presentation.swf

A film of eminent persons support for C&C is at: -

<http://www.tangentfilms.com/long.mp4>

This clarifies risk assessment of potential rates of 'sink-failure'.

[1] Proportioning the Assessment of Rising Risk [the science-rationale of global contraction at various rates].

[2] Proportioning the Response to that Assessment [the policy-rationale of global convergence at various rates, subject to various rates of global contraction].

IPCC contraction integrals with concentration-stabilisation outcomes are the references [550 C3, 450 C2, 350 C1].

Comparing 'weight' of emissions flow with 'weight' of rising concentrations stock [1 ppmv CO₂ = 2.13 Gigatonnes Carbon] . . .

Each of these "Contraction and Concentrations" is subjected to aggravated rates of sink failure - the airborne fraction of emissions goes from 50% - 100% in: -

[1] 200 years 'slow'

[2] 100 years 'medium'

[3] 50 years 'fast'

And each contraction integral under C3, C2 C1 is proportionately accelerated [shrunk in time-weight] to meet the three levels [slow, medium, fast] of sink failure.

Each contraction profile can be immediately converted into its "Contraction and Convergence" equivalent showing options for five rates of accelerated convergence 2050, 2040. 2030, 2020,

2010.

The key bit of this analysis is that: -

The contraction profile [time-weight] required to stabilise at 550 ppmv with fast sink-failure is practically the same as the contraction profile for 350 ppmv with slow sink failure.

In a nutshell - we need to be thinking of zero emissions by about 2050 globally if there is a serious risk-aversion strategy for stabilization of atmospheric ghg concentration.

Eminent support for C&C at: -

<http://www.tangentfilms.com/long.mp4>

All-Party C&C at FTSE for Good Aubrey Meyer

Feb 03, 2007 23:54 PST

18.00 6th February, Colin Challen MP, Chairman of All-Party Climate

Change Group [APCCG] addresses the "FTSE for Good"

<http://www.ftse4good.com/>

On behalf of the APCCG, his message is "Contraction and Convergence (C&C) is the only credible global framework within which we can organise to do enough soon enough to avert the worst of global changes already underway."

An extended C&C information and support movie will be used and available on the web that evening at: -

www.tangentfilms.com/APGCC_C&C_FTSE.mp4

Challen is co-organising the Government's Climate Change Economics Conference scheduled for the Autumn of this year and has committed himself beyond the next election to intensify his campaign for a global agreement on climate change.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/west_yorkshire/6312339.stm

Respected by all parties, his is a hard act to follow.

GLA - Renew call for C&C Aubrey Meyer

Feb 28, 2007 00:40 PST

Greater London Authority

"Action Today to Protect Tomorrow"

http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/climate-change/docs/ccap_fullreport.pdf

"Climate change clearly requires global action. The Mayor supports the broad view that this should be achieved through a process of 'contraction and convergence' - with the largest industrialised nations that have caused climate change required to significantly reduce their emissions, while newly developing nations are permitted to increase emissions up to a point where emissions converge and stabilise at a level which avoids catastrophic climate change.

Once carbon emission levels have stabilised at a safe level, the world needs to operate on the basis of 'carbon democracy'; that is, that the world agrees a maximum level of global emissions and every individual is entitled to emit an equal proportion of carbon emissions within that. The science of global warming is still developing, but the growing scientific consensus is that stabilising atmospheric CO2 concentrations at 450 parts per million (ppm) is required to avoid catastrophic climate change. Current levels are around 380 ppm - up from levels of 280 ppm maintained for most of human history prior to the industrial revolution.

Stabilising global carbon emissions at 450ppm on a contraction and convergence basis means that London has to limit the total amount of carbon dioxide we produce between now and 2025 to about 600 million tonnes². Meeting this CO2 budget will require ongoing reductions of 4 per cent per annum. This implies a target of stabilising London and the UK's emissions at 60 per cent below 1990 levels by 2025. This compares to the existing UK government aspiration of a 60 per cent

reduction from 2000 levels by 2050. This plan adopts these targets and prioritises actions across all sectors to achieve them.”

This renews the call for C&C in the GLA’s

“Green Light to Clean Power” 2004

http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/energy/docs/energy_strategy04.pdf

Chapter Four

Contraction and convergence

Contraction and convergence is a simple approach to distributing the total greenhouse gas emission reductions required internationally, between various countries or groups of countries. The approach is based on two principles:

- i) that there is an upper limit to acceptable global atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration, beyond which the damage from climate change would not be acceptable
- ii) that the atmosphere is a global commons, so that as individuals we all have equal rights to emit greenhouse gases.

These principles are applied to the problem of distributing internationally the right to emit greenhouse gases, as follows. First, the target atmospheric concentration is agreed, and a date is set at which point the atmospheric concentration will be stabilised at the agreed level. From these factors, the global annually allowable greenhouse gas emissions can be calculated for each year of the stabilisation period. This will be a decreasing number over time, as global emissions contract to the sustainable level defined by the target concentration.

An individual person’s emissions entitlement for a given year is the global allowance for that year divided by the global population. From this, national entitlements are calculated on the basis of national population. Therefore, a population cut-off point is required, after which additional population growth does not generate emission entitlements. To achieve these emission reductions via gradual transition, there would be a period during which emission entitlements for all nations converge to an equal per capita share globally.

This period is independent from the stabilisation date for atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration: rates of both contraction and convergence would both be agreed through negotiation. Emission entitlements created through contraction and convergence could be internationally tradable, so that the resulting system would be compatible with global carbon trading.

† The contraction and convergence proposal was developed by the Global Commons Institute, London.

Details of its origins, methodology, and support are available online at

<http://www.gci.org.uk>

C&C support growing . . . Aubrey Meyer

Mar 19, 2007 09:59 PST

As we prepare – at last - to release the All-Party DVD of C&C with much eminent independent support for C&C, the umbrella group the UK Environment Society and also the Scottish Nationalists have just declared support for C&C.

Environment Society

The Society’s Board unanimously agreed that the ‘Contraction and Convergence’ framework provides an important step forward in helping all sectors of community, business and government to understand how we can move forward together, on a global scale, to tackle climate change.

John Brady, Chair of the Society welcomed this approach and said, “On behalf of the Society for the Environment I am proud to endorse the ‘Contraction and Convergence’ framework which will be important in helping us to work towards a sustainable and equitable future, not just for the UK but communities and economies worldwide.”

The members and Constituent Bodies of the Society for the Environment are:

1. Arboricultural Association (AA)
2. Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
3. Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)
4. Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
5. Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM)
6. Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM)
7. Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)
8. Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)
9. Institute of Professional Soil Scientists (IPSS) (associate member)
10. Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)
11. Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE)
12. Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
13. Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)
14. Institution of Water Officers (IWO)
15. Landscape Institute (LI)
16. Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
17. Royal Meteorological Society (RMetS)

http://www.gci.org.uk/press/Soc_Env_supports_C&C_Framework.pdf

Scottish Nationalists

Holyrood - 2007-03-19

Addressing the Scottish National Party's Spring Conference at Glasgow Science Centre, SNP Shadow Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs Minister Richard Lochhead MSP said that it was time for a SNP Government for action on Scotland's environment.

"We owe it to future generations to act now.

"We owe it to the international community especially the developing countries on whose backs the industrialised nations have built their wealth and modern day standards of living.

"Scotland has a partnership with Malawi – the annual carbon footprint for a Malawian is equivalent to only two days for the average Scot.

"We should be proud that it is already SNP policy to support the internationally recognised principle of Contraction and Convergence where developed nations agree to take the burden of emissions cuts until the developing world catches up with the developed world."

<http://www.snp.org/press-releases/2006/it-s-time-for-a-greener-scotland-1/>

APPCCG DVD Launch HoC Aubrey Meyer

Mar 21, 2007 07:10 PST

All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group

PRESS NOTICE

10am Wednesday March 28

House of Commons Committee Room 17

Launch of 'An Incontestable Truth'

Climate change MP Colin Challen warmly invites you to the launch of the All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group DVD 'An Incontestable Truth' next Wednesday.

The group-funded film focuses on Contraction and Convergence, an approach to climate change that sees fairness and equity as the best basis for sustainable international agreement.

The launch will feature clips of the DVD and offer the opportunity to meet the film's makers and contributors.

Colin Challen said today (Thurs): "The DVD provides a snapshot of the Contraction and Convergence climate change framework. Opinion formers including Sir Crispin Tickell and Jon Snow explain why they support it.

"We've produced the DVD because it is clear that there should be an underlying discipline added now to negotiations on the post-2012 climate change agreement.

"I cannot detect such a discipline at present. There is little unity of purpose but a merely a string of different demands from different vested interests.

"Politicians have to decide what it is they want to achieve. That has to be a solution that solves the problem faster than we're creating it, or be honest about how they intend to manage the trade-off between mitigating climate change and adapting to it."

Ends

Notes to editors

1: For further launch details: Colin Challen MP 020 7219 8260/0771 2051556 and Chal-@parliament.uk.

2: For more on Contraction and Convergence: <http://www.gci.org.uk/>

3: Labour MP for Morley and Rothwell Colin Challen founded the All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group in 2005.

4: The number of MPs who have signed Colin Challen's all-party 25/5 challenge to reduce their personal carbon emissions by 25% before the year 2010 topped 60 earlier this year.

UKPHA to Champion C&C Aubrey Meyer

Mar 27, 2007 03:30 PST

UK Public Health Association Conference

Edinburgh Conference this Friday

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Edinburgh_programme_final\[1\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Edinburgh_programme_final[1].pdf)

Conference will include showing of All Party C&C DVD

This is in support of the UKPHA "Call to Action" that includes a call for C&C

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Call_to_Action_Report_to_Edinburgh_Symposium_23_3_2007\[1\].pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Call_to_Action_Report_to_Edinburgh_Symposium_23_3_2007[1].pdf)

"The Incontestable Truth - Contraction and Convergence [C&C]

The Irreducible Response to Climate Change"

This All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change [APPGCC] DVD – "The Incontestable Truth" is launched tomorrow in the House of Commons. Wednesday 28th March, House of Commons, Committee Room 17, 10.00 am.

The DVD is now being distributed by APPGCC to all MPs and Peers.

All those listed below have contributed to the DVD.

Chris Mottershead – Distinguished Energy Environment Advisor BP

Julian Salt – Insurance Industry Consultant Lloyds

Jon Snow – Channel 4 TV

David Wasdell – Scientist non-linear systems

Andrew Dlugolecki – Insurance Advisor UNEPFI

David Crichton – Insurance Advisor ABI

Sir Crispin Tickell – Former UN Ambassador for UK

Michael Mainelli – Director Z/Yen; London Accord

Bill McGuire - Director Benfield Hazard Center UCL

Lorna Walker – CABE Commissioner

Jack Pringle – Director RIBA

Mark Lynas – Author Conservative Quality of Life Group

Paul Jowitt - ICE President Elect

Joshua Waioto – Dep Director Kenya Met Office

Mayer Hillman - PSI

Robin Stott – Director MEDACT

Grace Akumu – Director Climate Network Africa

Alex Evans – Senior Fellow NY University

Angela Mawle – UKPHA Director

Jeffrey Newman - Earth Charter

Fred Pearce - New Scientist

That the all-party group is behind this shows a diversity that puts to rest the idea that this C&C idea is coming from the left or from the right. It comes from everybody - one of the speakers on the DVD is from BP and one leads the London Accord.

All have one dominant question for Government: - "What is the rationale behind the figure on which the climate bill is predicated if it is not C&C? [And why won't you answer this question?]."

From the RCEP Report [2000] onwards, everybody has known the figure [-60% UK ghg by 2050] came from the Contraction and Convergence rationale.

The Government feigns to reject this without providing any alternative rationale. Consequently, many people regard the climate lottery that results in this bill as lacking credibility.

Far from being an example of global leadership, the figure at the heart of the bill is random and too little too late for any credible global response to climate change.

The DVD clearly analyses and comments on this point in the light of growing alarm over natural 'sink-failure'.

As the Chairman of the APPGCC, Colin Challen has tirelessly and with great skill taken responsibility for the C&C message in Parliament over the past few years building a remarkable consensus in its favour. The Director of Tangent Films, Mike Hutchinson has brought so much time and talent to communicating it with this and other films.

GCI gratefully acknowledges their contributions.

Basis - C&C response to Climate-Bill-Consultation Aubrey Meyer

Apr 01, 2007 07:31 PDT

Dear Sir/Madam

The Government is circulating a draft Climate Change Bill for public consultation. It is available at:
-

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm70/7040/7040.pdf>

This letter asks you to respond to the consultation after considering the critique of the bill made in the DVD "An Incontestable Truth – Contraction and Convergence the Irreducible Response to Climate Change" published and circulated by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change".

Copies of the DVD are available from the APPGCC Chairman Colin Challen MP and it is also on-line at: -

[www.tangentfilms.com/Risk Analysis web.mov](http://www.tangentfilms.com/Risk%20Analysis%20web.mov)

www.tangentfilms.com/AIC.mp4

The above should work - please test - in a Quicktime Player.

The file below works in an MS Web Browser [Logos touch-sensitive to advance through scenes]

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CandC_model_context_animation.swf

If you agree with the arguments led there and supported by the eminent contributors to the DVD, we ask you to do two things: -

1. Use the public consultation to inform the government of the need to embrace the architecture of Contraction and Convergence in the Bill. 2. Write to your MP - who by now will have had a copy of the DVD from the APPGCC - asking them to support your arguments to Government in the debates on the Bill when these happen in parliament.

As it stands the draft bill is presented as the UK's response to the achieving the objective of the United Nations Climate Treaty. The objective is to cut global emissions sufficient to stabilise the rising accumulation or 'concentration' of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere at a value that is considered safe.

The target figure in the bill will require UK citizens collectively to deliver a reduction of UK greenhouse gas emissions of 60% by 2050 by law.

The bill's intention to provide leadership in avoiding dangerous rates of global climate change is good and we support this intention.

However, we have serious reservations about the vacuous context in which this UK-only target figure has been selected. Lacking any globally numerate rationale for emissions control, it is at best symbolic and in reality wholly inadequate and deeply misleading.

Concentrations of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere are an expression of cumulative emissions. The rate of concentrations rising is accelerating as a result of two factors: -

1. emissions from human sources – such as fossil fuel burning - are still rising,

2. the natural sinks for these gases – such as the oceans and the

forests – are slowly failing with result that an increasing fraction of emissions is staying permanently in the atmosphere. These factors make the situation increasingly urgent as we continue to cause the problem of climate change much faster than we are acting to avoid it.

The relationship between concentrations, sources and sinks for emissions can best be understood like that of a bath [the atmosphere] into which water from a tap flows [source emissions] and from which water drains away through a plug-hole [sink emissions]. The tap is flowing faster than ever; the plug-hole is getting increasingly blocked and the bath is threatening to over-flow.

If there is still to be any meaningful chance of achieving the objective of the UN Treaty, very deep cuts in human emissions and the restoration of natural sinks are needed globally, quickly and organised in a globally rational and equitable mechanism.

The only emissions reduction mechanism that can be deployed to this purpose is Contraction and Convergence (C&C) as devised by the Global Commons Institute which already has enormous support: -

www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf

Please use the public consultation on the Bill to urge the Government in the strongest terms to adopt Contraction and Convergence without delay and please write your MP asking that person to represent your concerns on this in parliament.

A leadership role on the international stage by definition requires C&C as, in the words of the Climate Treaty Secretariat the objective of the Treaty inevitably requires it.

Failure to organise and achieve this imperils modern civilisation, the lives of billions of the people and the biodiversity on Earth.

Yours Faithfully

Mackey & Li on C&C for Earth Charter Aubrey Meyer

Apr 09, 2007 12:30 PDT

Brendan Mackey and Song Li

Report on C&C to the earth Charter

http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/climate/pdfs/MackeyLi_ClimateReport2007.pdf

Abstract

Solving the global warming problem requires a new legally binding international agreement that

provides the targets and timetable by which total global emissions of greenhouse gases are reduced to a safe level. Voluntary agreements and agreements that include only some of the world's nations will not solve the problem.

Such a new agreement should be based on the Contraction & Convergence framework which forces governments to address three critical questions: what is a safe concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gases; when will the total global emissions of greenhouse gases be reduced to the amount needed to maintain atmospheric concentrations at the agreed safe level; how will the permissible annual amount of greenhouse gas emissions be allocated between nations? Regarding the latter, the simplest and fairest way is to give every person an equal share.

This is known as a per capita allocation which is what Contraction & Convergence calls for. Many governments are reluctant to commit to the action needed to solve the global warming problem based on a narrow understanding of the community for whom they are morally responsible. Promoting a world ethic of universal responsibility such as the Earth Charter can help generate the necessary motivation and political will needed for national governments to support the negotiation of such a strong agreement.

With the certainty provided by a Contraction & Convergence agreement, and a growing ethically motivated global community, all sectors can focus in earnest on meaningful mitigation and adaptation actions. Mitigation cannot be achieved only through technological means.

The role of natural processes, in particular forest ecosystems, must be recognized and an appropriate economic value given to the carbon they sequester and store. Adaptation means to build resilience and minimise costs by changing those business-as-usual practices that deplete limited natural resources.

Adaptation measures will depend on the different types of climate variability each area experiences, and is a 'win-win' solution in both economic and ethical terms. They will bring new business opportunities once people's mindsets have changed and accepted that a certain amount of global warming is now inevitable. Adaptation is also a key action to advance equity among people of the current generation and between generations. Both mitigation and adaptation will require we address the root causes of global warming and promote a shift to sustainable development.

http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/climate/pdfs/MackeyLi_ClimateReport2007.pdf

Ian Dunlop [ANWCF Chair] on C&C Aubrey Meyer

Apr 14, 2007 07:40 PDT

Following the C&C Report to the Earth Charter from Dr Brendan Mackey of the ANU and Song Li of the World Bank, here is another report by another distinguished Australian, Ian T. Dunlop, chair of the Australian National Wildlife Collection Foundation. Climate Change and Peak Oil:

An Integrated Policy Response for Australia

Full Report at: -

<http://www.aspo-australia.org.au/References/Bruce/ITD-Climate-Policy-0307.pdf>

Ian Dunlop was formerly a senior international oil, gas and coal industry executive. He chaired the Australian Coal Association in 1987-88, chaired the Australian Greenhouse Office Experts Group on Emissions Trading from 1998-2000 and was CEO of the Australian Institute of Company Directors from 1997-2001. He has a particular interest in the interaction of corporate governance, corporate responsibility and sustainability. An engineer by qualification, he holds an MA (Mechanical Sciences) degree from the University of Cambridge, he is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and the Energy Institute (UK), and a Member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME (USA).

His article reads: -

Recent reports have confirmed what has been intuitively and practically evident for many years, namely:

* Carbon emission from human activity is leading to increased atmospheric carbon concentrations.

This is very likely to be causing major climate change, particularly temperature increases, which will become dangerous and potentially catastrophic if carbon concentrations are allowed to continue rising.

- * The evidence is sufficiently clear that urgent precautionary measures should be taken to reduce human carbon emissions if dangerous consequences are to be avoided.

- * The cost of doing nothing far outweighs the cost of action to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

There is a high probability that the peak of global oil production will be reached within the next 5 years. Oil does not run out, but it is the point at which further expansion of oil production becomes impossible because new production is fully offset by the decline of existing production, irrespective of the oil price.

It may take the form of a sharp peak, from which oil availability declines rapidly, or it may be an undulating plateau spread over a number of years if, for example, oil demand drops as a result of climate change impact.

Climate change and peak oil are inextricably linked. Each one is a major issue in its own right, but their convergence has received minimal attention, which is unfortunate as it is likely to have far greater impact than the sum of the individual parts. Policy must ensure that solutions to the one reinforce, and do not conflict with, solutions to the other.

Globally and nationally there must now be rapid agreement on, and implementation of, measures to stabilise atmospheric carbon concentrations by reducing emissions substantially and to prepare for peak oil. This requires clear, binding, deliverable targets against which to measure policy effectiveness.

Current piecemeal government policy is totally inadequate to meet the challenges of climate change. Emissions trading is now, reluctantly, under discussion but it is only one component of the comprehensive policy required. Peak oil is barely on the agenda, although it may be the issue which has the greatest impact in the short-term.

This paper suggests a comprehensive, integrated policy, at both global and national level, which will provide a coherent response to both issues, built around:

- * Stabilising global atmospheric carbon concentrations at 450ppm CO₂e by contracting annual global carbon emissions from 8GTC today to 3.5 GTC by 2050

- * Equitably allocating the contraction task between nations by converging linearly from today's unequal per capita emissions to equal per capita emissions globally by a date to be negotiated, say 2040. Australian emissions would have to reduce by 50% by 2025 and 90% by 2050.

- * Using a modified Kyoto Protocol to provide the framework for the contraction and convergence process, and for international emissions trading.

- * Meeting the national carbon reduction budget by a system of Tradeable Energy Quotas (TEQs) within Australia.

- * Negotiating a global Oil Depletion Protocol to allocate available oil equitably between nations, determining national oil descent budgets and providing for international trading.

- * Allocating oil domestically via a similar TEQ concept to emissions reduction. (TEQs are also applicable to the management of scarce water resources, although this is not the subject of the current paper).

The transition to a low-carbon economy, stabilising atmospheric carbon concentrations and managing the declining availability of oil, will fundamentally alter the lifestyle of the entire community. It will only be achieved if there is strong leadership and a whole-hearted commitment to achieving these objectives. To build this commitment will require extensive community awareness programmes. Rather than a problem, it is a unique opportunity to set humanity on a new course, built on sustainable principles.

Above all, visionary, principled, long-term leadership is needed from government, the community and business. Short-term political or corporate expediency is no longer acceptable; bi-partisan coop-

eration is essential. Action is required in the next 6-12 months, not in the 3-5 years favoured in political debate.

Full Report at: -

<http://www.aspo-australia.org.au/References/Bruce/ITD-Climate-Policy-0307.pdf>

Cold Warriors in a Warming World Aubrey Meyer

Apr 17, 2007 02:47 PDT

For reference here is the Report from the Cold Warriors of the US Military: -

"National Security and the Threat of Climate Change".

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/US_Military.pdf

GENERAL GORDON R. SULLIVAN, USA (Ret.)

Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Chairman, Military Advisory Board

ADMIRAL FRANK "SKIP" BOWMAN, USN (Ret.)

Former Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program;

Former Deputy Administrator-Naval Reactors, National Nuclear Security Administration

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LAWRENCE P. FARRELL JR., USAF (Ret.)

Former Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force

VICE ADMIRAL PAUL G. GAFFNEY II, USN (Ret.)

Former President, National Defense University; Former Chief of Naval

Research and Commander, Navy Meteorology and Oceanography Command

GENERAL PAUL J. KERN, USA (Ret.)

Former Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command

ADMIRAL T. JOSEPH LOPEZ, USN (Ret.)

Former Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and of Allied Forces, Southern Europe

ADMIRAL DONALD L. "DON" PILLING, USN (Ret.)

Former Vice Chief of Naval Operations

ADMIRAL JOSEPH W. PRUEHER, USN (Ret.)

Former Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) and Former U.S. Ambassador to China

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD H. TRULY, USN (Ret.)

Former NASA Administrator, Shuttle Astronaut and the first Commander of the Naval Space Command

GENERAL CHARLES F. "CHUCK" WALD, USAF (Ret.)

Former Deputy Commander, Headquarters U.S. European Command (USEUCOM)

GENERAL ANTHONY C. "TONY" ZINNI, USMC (Ret.)

Former Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM)

SHERRI W. GOODMAN

Executive Director, Military Advisory Board

This co-incides with the attempt by the UK Government today to put Climate Change on the agenda of the UN Security Council, against the wishes of IA the Russians, who look forward to a warmer Siberia.

MAD has never until now acquired such dreadful meaning. Then, fingers were poised over the but-

tons. Now, feet are flat on the accelerators. Prevention assumes there is a cure. Is Al Gore turned Billy Graham all that's left?

Will it be the military?

2000 All Party Parliamentary Group DVDs of "The Incontestable Truth - Contraction and Convergence; The Irreducible Response to Climate Change" have been circulated. A few are left and are now at a premium. These can go to people who will make good use of them.

"Climate Change - Slow Genocide" Aubrey Meyer

Apr 19, 2007 12:56 PDT

17th April 2007.

"Climate Change - Slow Genocide"

At the behest of the UK [current Chair of the UN Security Council] the Council was convened to its 5663rd Meeting. Mrs Margaret Beckett Minister at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office [FCO] chaired the meeting.

The Washington Times – 18th April 2007 – reported on the meeting, saying, "Participants in the conference . . . framed climate change as a destabilizing force that threatened international peace and security and amounted to 'a slow genocide'."

<http://washingtontimes.com/world/20070417-101212-9986r.htm>

The UK's 'concept paper' circulated for this meeting is readable here: -

http://unfccc.int/files/application/pdf/ukpaper_securitycouncil.pdf

or here

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ukpaper_securitycouncil.pdf

The full sessions are video-streamed from here: -

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/sc/sc070417am.rm>

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/sc/sc070417pm.rm>

Listen to find out who said, "Climate Change - Slow Genocide"

To many participants it is obvious that the situation is increasingly dangerous as the rate of climate change is accelerating faster than the international process to cope with it. But the political situation is too as some parties support this view and some don't.

The UK's concept paper was supported but also attacked. Supporting it, the European Union statement for example stressed the increasingly urgent need for a truly global framework post 2012. On the other hand some Developing Countries, as grouped in G-77 and the Non-Aligned Movement, especially Egypt Qatar India and Venezuela for example, who vigorously objected to the discussion of the problem in the 'non-democratic' [too narrowly representative] context of the UN Security Council and even being taken as a 'security' issue at all. Some insisted that climate change is primarily an issue of Sustainable Development and properly addressed by the more representative General Assembly and the UNFCCC.

Both sides cited the Stern Climate Economics of Climate Change Report as a resource that is variously helpful or unhelpful. It is against this background that C&C is proposed as the Constitutional basis on which to seek the global settlement we all need. And It is against this background that the FCO has now invited GCI to collaborate with the Cambridge Programme for Industry, the Tyndall Centre, Chatham House and others on providing an extended programme of education on "The Economics of Climate Change" for their programme for students from abroad – the Chevening Fellowship Programme - in the years ahead.

To uphold the growing global support that C&C enjoys, it has never been more important to illustrate and adhere to the global rationale of the C&C logic. This is where the 'contraction' global emissions must be organised fast enough to avoid runaway rates of climate change and the rate of international convergence to the equal per person sharing within this is *constitutional* before it is *economic* and must also be fast enough to achieve the global political consensus that is

sine-qua-non to success.

This is what is articulated in the C&C animations on the now widely circulated DVD circulated by the All-Party Parliamentary Group chaired by Colin Challen MP [very few copies left now].

To thicken the plot, Nicholas Stern and Colin Challen have now been tasked by the UK Government with organising the Climate Conference on Post-Kyoto Frameworks. This process will be fundamentally tested on this issue. So if arguments for and against the Stern Report are to be resolved, Stern himself needs to move beyond his dismissal of C&C as an "unsupported assertion" and see that Challen may actually hold the C&C key to the unlocking the international dilemma.

Earth Charter Debates C&C Aubrey Meyer

Apr 22, 2007 02:17 PDT

The Earth Charter [EC]: -

<http://www.earthcharter.org/>

has published the paper about climate change by Brendan Mackey and Song Li.

http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/climate/pdfs/MackeyLi_ClimateReport2007.pdf

The EC has also started a website-based debate: -

http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/climate/2007/04/comments_on_brendan_mackeysong.html

The Mackey Li paper advocates C&C and the debate arising is visibly engaged with that dimension of their argument.

All are asked to comment.

GCI limited remarks to registering that the definition statement for C&C is here: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

General referencing for the C&C provenance is here: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/links/detail.pdf>

A context animation is here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Final_presentation.exe or

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CandC_model_context_animation.swf

[Note: - touch buttons to advances *within* scenes and touch logos to advance *between* scenes].

A heuristic animation of C&C and risk is here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Contraction_and_Convergence_Risk_Analysis_Sink_Failure

A DVD for the risk analysis with numerous eminent spokespersons endorsing C&C, has been distributed by the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change [who commissioned it] widely, including to all UK MPs and Peers.

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Contraction_and_Convergence_Challen_et_al

Copies of the DVD are available on request for 10.00GBP name and address required.

C&C at SBSTA in Bonn Aubrey Meyer

May 10, 2007 08:51 PDT

"Envisioning a Post-2012 Contraction and Convergence (C&C) Regime to Prevent Dangerous Climate Change"

Side Event Bonn SBSTA 3.30 - 5.30 Saturday 12 05 07

Colin Challen UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change

Grace Akumu Climate Network Africa

Deepak Rughani GCI

Chaired by JoDee Powers GCI USA

APPGCC C&C DVDs available to all participants

"Climate change unchecked has the potential to destroy much of human society. While the global community must relatively adapt to the climate changes that we cannot prevent, we must absolutely prevent the dangerous rates of climate changes to which we cannot adapt.

With Africa now in the frontline of climate change damages - this as recognised by the IPCC Third and Fourth Assessment Reports - is based on limits, precaution and equity. No development is sustainable without these.

This inevitably requires us all to create, demonstrate and enact a strategic global emissions Contraction and Convergence (C&C) agreement at rates that are seen to resolve this problem faster than we still continue to create it."

For this event, Climate Network Africa and Global Commons Institute are joined by the eminent All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change (UK) [APPGCC], to demonstrate how this agreement can be structured to work for the common good.

APPGCC will also show some of the growing support the C&C now enjoys.

Contact in Bonn: Grace Akumu (Ms)

Email: gak-@yahoo.com or cn-@cnaf.or.ke

Contact in U.K: Aubrey Meyer

Email: aubrey-@btinternet.com

Yesterday GCI gave C&C evidence to the Institute of Civil Engineers UK.

Full speakers list was: -

- Rt Hon Elliot Morley
- Chris Mottershead, Distinguished advisor for energy and environment, BP
- Dr Anthony White, Managing Director, Climate Change Capital
- Aubrey Meyer, Director, Global Commons Institute
- Simon Harrison, Energy Director, Mott MacDonald
- Peter Head, Director, ARUP
- Rodney Hacker, Associate Director, Halcrow Group Limited
- Scott Steedman, Director of Group Strategy, High Point Rendall

APPGCC Newsletter and C&C DVDs plus the following materials were distributed to the over 60 participants. C&C was used to frame the debate under the precise chairmanship of Tom Foulkes the Director General of ICE.

Here are the user-controlled files used by GCI - as at URLs below - these are self-executive flash-animation - look at menu-heading "control" to get keyboard instructions: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/Part_1_white.exe

http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/Part_2_white_v2.exe

This file - a generic over view of the issues: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/Final_presentation_white.exe

is also user-controlled but also has: -

- [1] on screen buttons - to advance/regress within scenes and
- [2] logo [right-hand side and GCI name [left hand side] to advance/regress between scenes

This graphic animation is graphically summarised on the chart at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Deepat_Bonn.pdf

All the above are also being distributed at the Bonn Session Saturday.

C&C Here, C&C there . . . Aubrey Meyer

May 17, 2007 04:46 PDT

As the state of the UK Union falters

Scotland's National now governing Party advocates C&C

"We should be proud that it is already SNP policy to support the internationally recognised principle of Contraction and Convergence where developed nations agree to take the burden of emissions cuts until the developing world catches up with the developed world."

<http://www.snp.org/press-releases/2006/it-s-time-for-a-greener-scotland-1/>

SNP's Richard Lochhead will present at Findhorn [see below]

C&C England

IEMA & C&C 16 05 07

The Environment Society's Board unanimously agreed that the Contraction and Convergence framework provides an important step forward in helping all sectors of community, business and government to understand how we can move forward together, on a global scale, to tackle climate change.

John Brady, Chair of the Society welcomed this approach and said, "On behalf of the Society for the Environment I am proud to endorse the 'Contraction and Convergence' framework which will be important in helping us to work towards a sustainable and equitable future, not just for the UK but communities and economies worldwide."

<http://www.iema.net/news/envnews?aid=17155>

C&C Scotland

C&C Concert in the Municipal Hall, Biggar

6.00pm till 10.00pm, Sunday 17th June

Tickets £10 Adults £5 Children & OAPs

Tickets available from Atkinson Pryce, Brydens News Agents or online at in-@carbon-neutral-biggarr.com or Tel 01899 229429

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Biggar_C&C_Concert.pdf

More C&C Scotland

A UNITAR [UN Information Training and Research] Seminar

CIFALFINDHORN

19-21 June, 2007

Backed by the Scottish Executive

Findhorn Ecovillage, Forres, Scotland

Global Climate Change and the Sustainable Energy Revolution

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Findhorn_C&C_Sust_Energy_Conference_Concert.pdf

Global Climate Change: The Evidence

Dr Gary Campbell, Lecturer, The Moray College UHI

Global Climate Change: The Sustainable Energy Revolution

Alex Walker, Director, Findhorn Wind Park Ltd.

Global Climate Change: The Empowerment of Communities to Renewable Energy Sourcing and Production

Eric Dodd, Manager and Nicholas Gubbins, Chief Executive, HICEC

Global Climate Change: Enforcing Change by Regulation

Donald Lunan, Planning and Development Manager The Moray Council

Global Climate Change: Scotland Taking the Lead

Sue Kerns, Head of Renewable Energy and Consents Policy, Scottish Executive

Global Climate Change: Financing the New Technologies

Steve Moore, Loan Manager Triodos Bank

Global Climate Change: Strategic Partnerships to Meet Target Emissions

Richard Lochhead, MSP, Scottish Parliament

Global Climate Change: Responding through Contraction and Convergence

Aubrey Meyer, Director of the Global Commons Institute

Special extended C&C event the evening of the 20th of June.

John Lanchberry of the RSPB and strategist for the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition [SCCC], has finally confirmed that SCCC will after all *not* have a 'position' on the future of global climate policy as the movement cannot apparently agree what the position should be.

"We do not think," he said in Bonn earlier this week, "that it is helpful to have an organising principle in this matter."

US - New C&C Book from Mayer Hillman Aubrey Meyer

May 19, 2007 02:43 PDT

The Suicidal Planet: How to Prevent Global Climate Catastrophe Mayer Hillman, Tina Fawcett and Sudhir Chella Rajan. St. Martin's/Dunne, \$22.95 (320p) ISBN 978-0-312-35355-1

This book presents a clear-eyed and well-documented overview of global warming, and an optimistic but practical plan for avoiding the worst of the damage. Drawing on scientific consensus, Hillman, Fawcett and Rajan describe the havoc global warming will likely wreak in 20 to 100 years if we do not act: a rise in infectious diseases and outbreaks of desert across the American plains and western Europe, as many as 150 million environmental refugees and possibly 95% species extinction.

Their conclusion: to keep atmospheric carbon dioxide to a safe level, U.S. citizens will have to cut their carbon emissions by 80% by 2030. With governments and individuals in a "near-universal state of denial" on the topic, the authors propose what they consider the only realistic and fair solution. Each person on earth would be given an equal, tradable "carbon allowance" that would steadily shrink over time, they suggest, to keep atmospheric carbon dioxide in check to avert unacceptable climate change.

Environmental activists may already be familiar with these ideas, but this comprehensive, concise and beautifully organized overview of an undeniably important issue make it a must-read for anyone even slightly concerned about our future on this planet. (PW Apr.)

Interviews with PW and Fabian Society here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/reviews/Hillman_PW_and_FABIAN_interview.pdf

2nd All Party Climate Enquiry Aubrey Meyer

May 22, 2007 08:05 PDT

All Party Climate Group Second Enquiry: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/APPCCG_2nd_Inquiry.pdf

CALL FOR EVIDENCE

In proposed UK domestic legislation, at the European Union level and globally we are witnessing the development of policies to tackle climate change which have at their heart a clearly understandable and logical goal – to achieve a safe and sustainable level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Achieving this goal will depend on finding the best timetable, the right apportionment of responsibilities (the correct balance between developed and developing countries), and overcoming supply and demand barriers. Climate change policies based on achieving this goal will also depend on making timely use of the best scientific evidence available.

In the UK and the EU it has been agreed that a temperature rise of no more than two degrees Celsius is a goal which is commensurate with achieving a safe and sustainable level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

This APPCCG inquiry seeks evidence from all who have an interest in this issue. It will seek to present a clear and precise pathway for a UK CO2 reduction by 2050. The inquiry seeks evidence on, but not exclusively:

- What is the UK's share of responsibility?
- How is that to be calculated?
- How does it reflect the latest scientific evidence?
- What is the history of the current widely promoted 60% CO2 reduction target?
- What allowance (if any) should be made for 'non-linear' threats, e.g. sink failures, positive feedbacks?
- What allowance (if any) should be made for offsetting UK emissions and how does that affect developing countries' CO2 targets?
- What in any case is the importance of having a long term target?

Other questions will naturally arise. Evidence is not sought on technologies, adaptation measures or financial issues. The question is simply put: what is the right CO2 emissions reduction target for the UK (and elsewhere if that is integral to the evidence).

Submitting evidence

Evidence should be submitted by the 27th July 2007, either in electronic (preferred) or written form. It should be sent to:

Colin Challen MP
Chair (APPCCG)
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

(envelope to be marked "2nd APPCCG Inquiry")

e-mail: colinch-@parliament.uk (Subj "2nd APPCCG Inquiry")

Unless requested otherwise, evidence may be published. The evidence will be assessed and a report published in Autumn. On the basis of evidence submitted the APPCCG may at its discretion, convene witness session(s) to take oral evidence.

GCI's definition statement for C&C is here: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

General referencing for the C&C provenance is here: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/links/detail.pdf>

A context animation is here: -

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http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CandC_model_context_animation.swf

[Note: - touch buttons to advance *within* scenes and touch logos to advance *between* scenes].

A heuristic animation of C&C and risk is here: -

www.gci.org.uk/images/Contraction_and_Convergence_Risk_Analysis_Sink_Failure.mpg

[large file - overnight download].

A DVD for the risk analysis with numerous eminent spokespersons endorsing C&C, has been distributed by the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change [who commissioned it] widely, including to all UK MPs and Peers.

[large file - overnight download].

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Contraction_and_Convergence_Challen_et_al.mpg

Copies of the DVD are available on request for 10.00GBP name and address required.

Top Tory - "G-8: Where's C&C?" Aubrey Meyer

Jun 10, 2007 03:34 PDT

Tim Yeo, Conservative MP for South Suffolk,

Chairman of the all-party Environmental Audit Committee

The Independent on Sunday

10 June 2007

"Remember Neville Chamberlain. And don't forget Kyoto - the G8 summit's inability to agree targets to cut emissions, represents a failure of leadership."

"Of course, action by the G8 countries alone won't avert climate change. But it's almost certainly a prerequisite for getting other countries to join in the solution.

Engaging China, with its rapidly expanding economy and determination to use its coal, is essential. The best way to do this would have been for the G8 to have accepted that contraction and convergence."

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/commentators/article2640334.ece>

"Tony Blair and Angela Merkel put a brave face on the G8 summit, but the truth is that the world is more likely to experience dangerous climate change than it was a week ago. Even rose-tinted spectacles cannot conceal the fact that the outcome falls woefully short of what is needed. Far from being a breakthrough, President George Bush's belated acceptance that the United States must be involved in discussions about the post-Kyoto framework was the least he could do. The American Congress, much of the business community, and many US states are now far ahead of the President in recognising the urgency of the climate change threat and the commercial opportunities that its solutions offer.

Although Bush's plan for US-sponsored meetings to advance the agenda for 2012 and beyond has been junked, the G8's failure to agree targets for a maximum rise in temperature and a halving of carbon emissions by 2050 (let alone the action needed to reach them), represents a failure of leadership. It is the world's poorest citizens who will pay dearly for this.

Merkel's intentions were good, but that is what the road to hell, or to a frazzled planet, is paved with. Since Bush will soon be history, it might have been better if the other G8 countries had made commitments that recognised how much the science has moved on in the two years since G8-Neagles. This would have exposed his isolation and intensified the domestic pressure on him. The G8 leaders apparently saw Bush's long-overdue concession as a triumph, but instead of patting themselves on the back they should have ridiculed his morally bankrupt and commercially unwise insistence that America won't act until countries like China do.

When you're the richest person around and someone comes to you raising money for a good cause, it isn't either smart or ethical to refuse to give unless poorer people give first. It wouldn't have been smart for Britain to argue that in 1938 the costs involved should stop us rearming in response to Hitler unless other countries agreed to share the burden of doing so first. As it happens, China is already acting. Its regulations relating to motor vehicles are in some respects now more demanding than America's. It means that some vehicles which are legally permitted in America are too dirty for China.

It's unlikely that in 19 months the next US President will be as intransigent as the present one. If he or she turns out to be, then with any luck Britain's new Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, won't be as afraid as Tony Blair seems to have been to speak up. But, either way, the uncomfortable truth is that G8 countries have per capita carbon emissions vastly greater than those of China and India. American per capita emissions are a hundred times greater than those of some African countries. Against this background, it's up to the West to give the world a lead.

Of course, action by the G8 countries alone won't avert climate change. But it's almost certainly

a prerequisite for getting other countries to join in the solution. Engaging China, with its rapidly expanding economy and determination to use its coal, is essential. The best way to do this would have been for the G8 to have accepted that contraction and convergence, the process through which per capita emissions in all countries around the world converge on a level consistent with climate stability, is the right long-term goal. It should have mandated the negotiators of the replacement for the Kyoto Treaty to keep this in mind.

Accepting that climate change needs a global solution, and that the fairest basis for that solution involves sharing the burden between the world's nations, would ensure all countries approach the negotiations in a positive spirit. But delaying the actions needed to tackle climate change is bad economics as well as bad politics. The International Energy Agency published a report last month projecting how much carbon emissions will rise on present trends over the next few decades. It emphasises the unreality of an important international gathering whose conclusion is that merely acknowledging there is a problem is a reason for self-congratulation. It's as though someone driving at 50mph suddenly sees a concrete wall ahead and congratulates themselves on recognising that this is not the moment to accelerate to 70.

Even stabilising emissions at present levels won't prevent climate change affecting the world this century. The unprecedented level of international migration this could produce would almost certainly cause serious international conflict. The reality will soon be clear even to the modern equivalent of the flat earthers. Climate change is happening. The action required to avert it will have to be more dramatic than anything yet seen. And as the economist Nick Stern pointed out, the longer that action is delayed the more expensive and disruptive of lifestyles it will be.

Part of the solution will be global emissions trading. Here Europe has an advantage because it has the first international system up and running, albeit not very effectively. It would have been helpful if the G8 had explicitly recognised that a cap and trade system covering emissions from sectors such as power generation, heavy industry, shipping and aviation is needed.

It's also clear that, as the success of the Toyota Prius and other products show, first-mover advantage in the commercial sector is considerable. Countries that incentivise (through the tax system and in other ways) investment in low-carbon technology will reap a big economic advantage. If the health of the planet is not a sufficient spur for the self-interested, there is also a more naked economic one. The components that make homes and other buildings carbon neutral will enjoy widespread demand. The technology that captures carbon from a coal-fired electricity generating station and stores it safely will have a worldwide application.

China, whose economy will soon be the largest in the world, sees this more clearly than many in the West. If the world's biggest economy turns out to be the one leading the way on products that address climate change, the rest of us will be at a disadvantage. Time is not on our side. The build-up of greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere, the direct trigger for climate change, will continue even if emissions are cut significantly at once.

The epitaph on the 2007 G8 summit may say that on climate change they agreed cutting carbon emissions was necessary. This generation of world leaders may soon be seen as modern- equivalents to Neville Chamberlain. They can redeem themselves by bringing to the talks this year about the post-Kyoto framework an urgency and determination to show leadership hitherto absent. If they don't succeed, we will all suffer."

Tim Yeo, Conservative MP for South Suffolk, is chairman of the all-party Environmental Audit Committee

C&C in House of Commons today Aubrey Meyer

Jun 11, 2007 19:05 PDT

Today, Tuesday 12 June, Colin Challen Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change has been granted an Adjournment Debate in the House of Commons on the subject of, "The Government's carbon dioxide reduction target."

The House will sit in Westminster Hall between 9.30am-2.00pm and then again at 2.30pm where

the order of business will be: -

Oral Questions – Scotland; Communities and Local Government Ten Minute Rule Bill - Freedom of Information (Amendment) (No.2) - Tom Brake

Legislation – Serious Crime Bill [HL] – Second reading Adjournment – Government’s carbon dioxide reduction target.

Minima, Colin Challen will make a statement to the House and the Minister will read the government’s position on this matter.

The transcript in Hansard will be available by Wednesday 13th 08.00 hours on the parliament.uk website

Tuesday 12th June is also the deadline for submissions to the UK Government’s consultation on the draft Climate Bill.

GCI’s response to it is here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/Climate_Bill/response.pdf

HSBC&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 27, 2007 10:13 PDT

HSBC on C&C in today’s UK Independent Newspaper ask if the global stand-off on emissions control can be resolved . . . [“Can this circle be squared?”].

“ . . . Absolutely. Providing the biggest polluters cooperate, a new global agreement on much deeper cuts is not just possible but likely. Time, however, is desperately short. The best evidence suggests that, if dangerous climate change is to be avoided, worldwide emissions must start to fall within a decade, which would involve making a deal in the next year or two.”

“Over the longer term, the best and fairest solution -dubbed “contraction and convergence” - would entitle everyone on the planet to the same share of a safe level of emissions and would apportion them to each country appropriately.”

Full page advert reproduced at: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/hsbc.pdf>

CIBSE C&C Aubrey Meyer

Jun 30, 2007 22:43 PDT

Engineering in a world of climate change

Construction Industry on Contraction and Convergence

Published: June 2007

http://www.modbs.co.uk/news/fullstory.php/aid/3460/Engineering_in_a_world_of_climate_change.html

The role of engineers in social awareness and influence — CIBSE’s new president, John Armstrong.

CIBSE’s new president, John Armstrong, believes that reducing the energy consumption of buildings is increasingly a key role of building-services engineers — with convergence driving the engineering and technology of the future.

Reducing the energy consumption of buildings in the UK in response to the threat of climate change demands that the building-services industry must not be afraid to look back at previous projects. In doing so, they must learn from successes and failures.

Value of experience

That is how John Armstrong, the new president of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers sees the value of experience and history. And he has considerable experience of operating buildings — rather than designing them or building them, having spent his working life in the management, care and maintenance of buildings and their engineering services. Indeed, he is

currently a self-employed property consultant specialising in engineering maintenance. His previous experience includes 18 months with Ove Arup & Partners in facilities management, 11 years in the property division of Barclays, seven years in the building operators section at the Building Services Research & Information Association (BSRIA) and eight years in the health service.

Little wonder that he is a recognised specialised authority in building-services maintenance.

Among the publications he has produced are the 'CIBSE guide to owning, operating and maintaining building services'.

Rare

Presidents of CIBSE tend to be consulting engineers. A few have been contractors, and even fewer have been manufacturers. But a CIBSE president specialising in the operation of buildings, rather than design and construction, is rare — if not unique.

In his presidential address last month, John Armstrong argued the case for a better understanding between facilities managers, building operators and those undertaking design. He explained, 'Facilities managers and building operators have a wealth of experience and knowledge which is not readily sought by designers. It may be that historically, those taking on the role of facilities managers did not have the confidence to meet the services designers as equals, but that must be a thing of the past.'

'To fully complete the circle, we must as a profession be prepared to judge how buildings have performed in practice, acknowledging where there have been significant successes, but also recognise that not all buildings have been perfect and there is considerable room for improvement.'

Influence

The objective is, of course, to make a major dent on the 50% of energy used in the UK to provide heating, cooling, lighting and power for buildings. Part of the challenge is to influence the people who occupy, run and operate buildings. John Armstrong says, 'I contend that CIBSE needs to be part of the understanding process of how behaviour can be influenced to reduce energy use and carbon-dioxide emissions.'

Once a building has been designed and built, he explains, 'The day-to-day use of these services is the responsibility of the building users, but, though some of them are influenced by energy managers, this is a role and opportunity that could be said to not have achieved its full potential.'

And it is at this point that John Armstrong stresses that facilities managers play an important role in how buildings meet the needs of owners, operators and building occupants. 'Facilities managers must be regarded as important people in the operation, management and maintenance of our building stock. A growing number of CIBSE members now work in the FM arena.'

Contraction and convergence

John Armstrong sees the drive to reduce energy consumption in the UK as not just in response to the Building Regulations and the Government target to reduce carbon emissions by 60% by 2050 but the worldwide perspective of contraction and convergence.

He explains that the Global Commons Institute defines contraction and convergence as a framework for a smooth transition to a low level of greenhouse-gas emissions from human activity.

Contraction means stabilising greenhouse gases at a safe and stable level, with annual reductions towards that target.

Convergence defines an equitable distribution of carbon-emission rights among states — the allocation for each nation and the change that nation must make each year to reach the safe target.

'For developed countries such as the UK, this means a reduction.'

Perspective

'To put this into some perspective, in one week this year, average UK householders are responsible for the same amount of carbon emissions as the average person in the world's poorest countries would produce all year.'

'The World Development Movement suggests that each person should be limited to 1.1 t of carbon dioxide per year. By my calculations, at our present use, that means that by mid-February, we

had more than used up our allowance.'

On the role of CIBSE and its members in addressing contraction and convergence, John Armstrong is concerned that CIBSE sees convergence as an economic process that must follow a political agenda. 'CIBSE does not see itself sitting comfortably in this arena when its role is to be a learned society of an engineering discipline. Yet it is people who occupy, run and operate buildings. I contend that CIBSE needs to be part of the understanding process of how behaviour can be influenced to reduce energy use and carbon-dioxide emissions.'

It is against the backdrop of contraction and convergence that John Armstrong believes that CIBSE and building-services engineers are, whether they like it or not, moving into area of social awareness and influence.

'It is safe and easy to claim that convergence is an economic and political issue, but it is convergence which will drive the engineering and technology of the future.'

John Armstrong is concerned that engineers will be left out of the debate if they do not modify their stance. 'We will also deprive the communities in which we live of the unique contribution we can make to solving the problems.'

'Climate change presents CIBSE's membership with the greatest, most important responsibility this institution has ever faced. We must not shirk that responsibility for fear of getting our hands dirty.'

Related stories

- www.cibse.org

Parliament's Enquiry into Climate Bill Aubrey Meyer

Jul 05, 2007 11:14 PDT

GCI to Lords/Commons Joint Climate Committee

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Joint_House_Climate_Committee_Evidence.pdf

Chaired by Lord Putnam, this committee, in 12 key questions, canvasses for views on the UK's Draft Climate Bill.

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/jcclimatechange.cfm

GCI asks whether the Bill will be "Ending Global Apartheid?"

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Joint_House_Climate_Committee_Evidence.pdf

"While the Indian Government calls for the ending of global apartheid in the Daily Telegraph saying that the case for C&C is 'unassailable', they reject in perpetuity being positioned as second class climate 'petitioners', promising instead as 'partners' never to let their average per capita emission go above the average of the developed countries."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml?xml=/earth/2007/06/12/eaindia12.xml>

"While the UK Prime Minister calls for developed and emerging economies to work together towards a new binding and inclusive post-Kyoto framework where each country, its businesses and its people play their parts, the Environment Minister of Pakistan Malik Amin Aslam] came to Chatham House in London and said that C&C is an idea whose time had come."

<http://www.globaldashboard.org/>

http://pdf.wri.org/opc_chapter8.pdf

GCI says . . .

"The very grave danger we now face is that vacuous 'sustainable development' defaults to the futile model of 'separate development' that nearly led to a racial conflagration in 'apartheid' South Africa."

"For the UK lead to be clear and credible it must embrace this lesson as a global constitutional truth. The bill needs to enshrine C&C like a global bill of rights."

"It flies in the face of sanity to go on defending internationally unequal claims on the atmosphere and violate the global limits that are needed to save us all from what the Prime Minister has called

a looming 'climate catastrophe'. Defending inequality sustains a conflict that has festered at the UN for the last 15 years. Unless stopped, it will soon end in tears."

"Only when the Government rises to this constitutional challenge by referencing C&C-logic to the emissions control aspirations in the climate bill, can they rightfully claim to lead with the global example that ensures reconciliation with each other and the planet."

Jonathon Owen of the Independent asks for your views on the Rock Concerts this weekend - write to j.o-@independent.co.uk

Here are some thoughts from GCI

Are the concerts really going to achieve anything?

They will perhaps spread more awareness of the, "we have a problem" phase now and belatedly being popularised by Al Gore.

In that he [Al Gore] has become so iconic in this phase, it is the long history of his refusal to engage with the "we have solution" of the international politics [the very un-united nations] that taints this phase and earns the taunts from Bob Geldof ["we know we've got a f . . . problem Mr Gore; what are we going to do about it?"]. In other words, building the partial and even divisive awareness that means that 'sustainable development' defaults to the canard of 'separate development' that nearly wrecked South Africa during 'apartheid'. On his past and present performance he is still involved in the canard.

Gore was not the hero at Kyoto in 1997. He arrived there in the second week of the negotiations with orders from the Senate to get the rest of world on board Kyoto's emissions-control schedule ["otherwise don't come home"]. He refused this and instead halved the European commitment to control knowing full well that this would wreck the European position and also be of no interest to the US Senate [which is why it was never sent there] as this didn't involve developing countries. [It wasn't of any interest then or now].

More to the point, the developing countries demanded Contraction and Convergence (C&C) [see references below - essentially global equity under the emissions limits that avoid dangerous rates of climate change - in a phrase 'ending global apartheid'] and the US delegation responded positively because for them it meant that the deadlock [about all countries in with emission-trade, or no deal] could be broken. [I was there and have the verbatim transcript].

Ten years on Gore still avoids this whole issue [see recent evidence www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml?xml=/earth/2007/06/12/eaindia12.xml and so is not [for me] a hero now either, as the issue of the global settlement is increasingly urgent.

Gore now blames the scientists for having failed to come to consensus about the problem, while he avoids coming to the consensus about the C&C solution. This is where the rock-concerts could make a difference - i.e. civil society does support C&C [along with many others] but green imperial NGOs waive this because it is a challenge to their [somewhat rhetorical and self-serving] record.

What is your take on the whole carbon offsetting debate?

There are three tests in the management of the emissions that are changing the climate: - as in sex [1] is it consensual? [2] is it safe? and [3] is it fair to third parties? Without a C&C deal offsets are a bit like a visit first to a brothel and then the priest on the way home to the habits of a life-time.

Do you think too much is being invested in the greening of celebrities at the expense of sustainable and practical grassroots change?

The issue always is the meaning of 'greening' - the issue of conceptualising and actualising global equity under the limits that save us from runaway climate change is a rational constitutional process and this is the 'greening' that needs every unit of political support available. The 'greening' that ignores, avoids and even specifically refuses this is what will make an increasingly probable calamity into the reality that overwhelms us all.

Are the sheer number of NGOs campaigning on climate change starting to get in the way of one

another now?

If the NGOs united around this agenda: - "Poverty and climate change are two sides of the same coin. C&C solves climate change and poverty within the same constitutional instrument" – when the NGOs unite around this understanding, we will all be coming to the way in which we can avert the two-faced calamity of believing they are separate and that can be dealt with separately.

I'd be interested in getting comments as well as any news that you may have that we could consider for inclusion in our reporting.

Thanks and best,

Jonathan

j.o-@independent.co.uk

A DVD commissioned by the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change presenting Contraction and Convergence has been distributed to all UK MPs and Peers. It is endorsed by numerous eminent spokespersons who are interviewed at length on the DVD.

Copies of the DVD can be obtained by written request to GCI aubrey.meyer [at] btinternet.com

Alternatively, as a large file [overnight download] interview material is retrievable at this link: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Contraction_and_Convergence_Challen_et_al.mpg

The DVD also includes a heuristic animation of Contraction and Convergence for a risk analysis of different rates of sink-failure endorsed by prominent industry persons. This is a large file [overnight download] and is retrievable at this link:

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Contraction_and_Convergence_Risk_Analysis_Sink_Failure.mpg

A context animation the arguments, presented at the Royal Institute of British Architects [RIBA] international conference in Venice last October, is here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Final_presentation.exe or

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/CandC_model_context_animation.swf

[Note: - touch buttons to advances *within* scenes and touch logos to advance *between* scenes].

GCI's definition statement for C&C is here: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf>

General referencing for the C&C provenance is here: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/links/detail.pdf>

A concept/context map of C&C comparing three rates of change for

[a] Contraction and Concentrations

[b] Contraction and Convergence

[c] Benefits of Growth versus Damages from Climate

[d] Contraction and Conversion

is here: - http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Deepat_Bonn.pdf

Some promotional material is here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/Movies/Contraction_and_Convergence_Promo.mpg

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

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DEFRA recruits top C&C Advocate Aubrey Meyer

Jul 06, 2007 05:39 PDT

While Defra recruits Bob Watson former Chair of the IPCC and a C&C Advocate

Published: 06 July 2007

http://environment.independent.co.uk/climate_change/article2739751.ece

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Watson_2004.pdf

Johann Hari: Independent's Journalist of the Year

<http://news.independent.co.uk/media/article2739747.ece>

. . . says the future of the Earth depends on C&C . . . and China

Published: 05 July 2007

http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists_a_l/johann_hari/article2737089.ece

"There is one simple concept that shows us the way forward, allowing the world's poor to develop without dooming us all. It is called Contraction and Convergence (C&C), and it was invented by the Global Commons Institute. The inventors of C&C point out that we already know that the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere needed to stay below a C20 rise, the point of no return. They call this amount of greenhouse gas emissions the world's "carbon budget".

The only fair way to divide out the world's carbon budget is to allocate an equal amount to each living human being. So under C&C, each country would be given a budget based on their population per head. There are then two stages. First, the rich countries would have to buy the right to their far higher emissions from the poor - in the process

compensating the poor for the warming we have already caused. Second, the poor countries would gradually increase their emissions while the rich whittled them down, until we eventually converged in the middle.

The stance of the rich world at the moment - we emitted millions of tons while developing, but you had better not - is simply an insult, certain to fail. C&C is the only framework that could conceivably persuade the Chinese people to limit their emissions over time - and thereby save the world from runaway warming."

"If you had said a decade ago that Al Gore would be organising the biggest rock concert in history, with two billion people watching and worrying about climate science, you would have been swiftly sectioned. But here we are: this weekend, the democratically elected 43rd President of the United States will be cheered on to the LiveEarth stage by hundreds of millions of viewers eager to know more about how we are, together, drastically altering the physical and chemical composition of our atmosphere.

Watch out on Saturday for the very first venue, because it is rapidly becoming the most important: Shanghai. This year, China overtook the United States as the biggest single emitter of greenhouse gases - way ahead of all the predictions. This tipping point is one of the biggest news stories of the year, and it's only the start: if current growth trends continue, China's emissions will exceed that of all industrialised countries combined by just 2030. But we have yet to redraw the map of green campaigning to catch up with this epochal shift.

The transformation of China today is so vast that it will be recorded by history as the Third Industrial Revolution. The positive consequences are plain to see: over 100 million people have been lifted out of near-permanent hunger in the past decade alone. But this is at the cost of an ecocide that will soon see that hunger return in ever-more vicious form if we don't adapt, fast.

China's cities are now lost in a permanent haze of smog that can render skyscrapers invisible at 100 feet. If you live in Beijing and simply breathe the air, it has the same effect on your lungs as smoking 20 high-tar cigarettes a day. Five of the country's largest rivers are now so toxic that it is dangerous to even touch them. The Pearl River has been renamed "The Black Dragon" because it runs black with toxins.

The effect of global warming on China is more vast still. Half of China's population live on the country's eastern seaboard - which will be drowned by just one metre of rising sea levels. The country's major rivers only flow because glaciers in the Himalayas catch snow in the winter and it melts off in the spring. But these glaciers are rapidly disappearing. How will the hundreds of mil-

lions of people dependent on this water - for growing their food, as well as for drinking and sanitation - survive?

So how can we adjust green campaigning to take account of all this? Should Hu Jintao - the Chinese dictator - become as intense a hate figure for greens as George Bush? The Climate Action Network ranks China 54th out of 56 countries for its response to global warming. Although the Chinese Communist dictatorship talks tough on global warming, the leeway given to green groups to make them act on their rhetoric is extremely limited. Only last year, an ordinary citizen called Tan Kai was tossed into prison for trying to set up a local environmental monitoring group called Green Watch.

But there are a few caveats here too. The average Chinese person still emits only a quarter of the greenhouse gases of the average American citizen, and half the gases of a European. They also point out that many of these Chinese emissions are, in fact, ours. We in Europe have mainly cut our greenhouse gas emissions not by cutting back our consumption but by transferring our polluting activities to Chinese factories. Your home is full of products made in these belching factories, and so is mine.

Nor should we buy into the racist rhetoric of seeing the Chinese as "faceless masses" represented by the government that oppresses them. Across China, brave citizens are rising up to fight their government over the environment. Last month, for example, a huge environmentalist demonstration was convened through forwarded text messages in the tropical seaport of Xiamen. More than 20,000 people faced down threats by the government that they would be fired from their jobs or even fired on.

So how do we side with these ordinary Chinese citizens who can foresee the looming disaster for their country and their planet? And - a logical next step - how do we lock China into a global agreement to reduce global warming emissions?

There is one simple concept that shows us the way forward, allowing the world's poor to develop without dooming us all. It is called Contraction and Convergence (C&C), and it was invented by the Global Commons Institute. The inventors of C&C point out that we already know that the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere needed to stay below a C20 rise, the point of no return. They call this amount of greenhouse gas emissions the world's "carbon budget".

The only fair way to divide out the world's carbon budget is to allocate an equal amount to each living human being. So under C&C, each country would be given a budget based on their population per head. There are then two stages. First, the rich countries would have to buy the right to their far higher emissions from the poor - in the process compensating the poor for the warming we have already caused. Second, the poor countries would gradually increase their emissions while the rich whittled them down, until we eventually converged in the middle.

The stance of the rich world at the moment - we emitted millions of tons while developing, but you had better not - is simply an insult, certain to fail. C&C is the only framework that could conceivably persuade the Chinese people to limit their emissions over time - and thereby save the world from runaway warming.

But there is a complicating factor. Even if we persuade the Chinese people, can we persuade the Chinese Communist Party? The CCP is acutely aware that its power is dependent on providing breakneck economic growth, because this anaesthetises the population against its lack of political freedom by providing higher incomes. They will resist any limit, even further down the line. This is why, when China's greatest green writer, Tang Xiyang, was asked what the country's biggest environmental problem was, he said: "Democracy. If you don't have democracy, you can't have real environmental protection."

So we need a two-pronged approach to China's swelling emissions: offer the Chinese people a fair deal, and support the democracy activists inside the country so they can force the dictatorship to accept it. We could start by shaming and stopping the Western corporations - including Yahoo and Google - who collaborate with the Chinese dictatorship in erecting the Great Firewall of China that prevents ordinary Chinese citizens from clicking on green groups' sites.

So, yes, it is appropriate that LiveEarth starts in Shanghai. The fight against global warming will flare or die in that smoggy, angry city, and hundreds like it. The future of Earth depends now on how well we woo them."

j.hari@ independent.co.uk

Al Gore Espouses C&C? Aubrey Meyer

Jul 11, 2007 09:29 PDT

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it Al Gore espousing C&C?

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Gore_C&C_Live_Earth.pdf

Words and numbers full of wonder . . .

C&C Cream gets CAT Report Aubrey Meyer

Jul 13, 2007 02:35 PDT

The Centre for Alternative Technology [CAT] presented this report - Zero Carbon Britain - to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change this week.

<http://www.zerocarbonbritain.com/images//zerocarbonbritain.pdf>

The report advocates C&C and TEQs.

But read it to see the rates at which CAT advises on how to achieve the transition needed to survival.

One of the authors spent time in Tibet. This report puts the UK Government on notice wo stop dithering - this is a CAT-can-do classic and should be obligatory reading in all our schools.

Climate Incredible - UK Government Aubrey Meyer

Jul 15, 2007 08:39 PDT

"Is the 'emissions control' figure in the UK Government's credible?"

The control figure is minus 60% UK emissions by 2050 against a 1990 baseline.

It isn't credible as it is randomly generated and inadequate. It also flatly contradicts the scientific view of safety provided by the IPCC on the extent of emissions control now needed to avoid runaway climate change.

In a nutshell, DEFRA - the Ministry responsible - are promoting a number that is too little too late. The Fourth Assessment of the IPCC science working group contains for the first time, coupled modelling [some climate system feedbacks now included] that comes from the UK Hadley Centre, DEFRA's first source of expert analysis.

The 450 ppm atmospheric CO2 concentration threshold is the now widely cited value beyond which runaway climate change becomes unavoidable. The coupled results show that the total weight of global CO2 emissions contraction needed to stay below this threshold should be reduced by about a third of the previously published values. [IPCC FAR WG1 Chapter Ten p 791].

This projects the need to achieve nearly zero emissions globally by around 2050: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/images/IPCCaaa.pdf> [see p2] and this analysis corroborates the C&C risk-analysis on the All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change DVD: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Contraction_and_Convergence_Risk_Analysis_Sink_Failure.mpg

It should be noted as a matter of concern that the negative-albedo consequent on ice-melt - another positive-feedback from the system as a whole - is still omitted from the coupled models cited.

Small talk in Whitehall policy circles still persists with the myth that it is too soon to achieve a global deal, while this evidence shows that it is virtually too late to get one that might yet be effective.

A view still cited here is that developing countries just don't yet take the problem seriously

enough. This view is refuted by the recent HSBC poll:

<http://www.hsbc.com/1/2/newsroom/news/news-archive-2007/hsbc-launches-international-survey-of-public-attitudes-towards-climate-change>

The Government's control figure is simply not credible. It flatly contradicts the expert view from its own Hadley Centre. It also interestingly contradicts the advice of their big name climate advisor Al Gore in that he wants a 90% cut for the UK within a generation [typically 30 years]. Will he fire them up, or will they just fire him?

To get support the government has to be seen to be attempting to do enough soon enough nationally as a function of a coherent international and global study. They have this and know appalling consequences of failing to do this will be felt as increasing desperation. Is this why we also hear that the Ministry of Defence now argue for enhanced measures to deal with the insecurities arising.

To seek support for what is palpably inadequate loses time and trust and possibly the match itself. Perhaps the arrival of Bob Watson may help . . .

"Facing Hard Truths" - NPC&C? Aubrey Meyer

Jul 22, 2007 06:05 PDT

Here's a hill to climb.

US National Petroleum Council [NPC - Chair Lee Raymond] are calling for a global carbon emissions framework [NPC&C?] in a report just out called, 'Facing Hard Truths': -

"As policymakers consider options to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, the United States must provide an effective global framework for carbon management, including establishment of a transparent, predictable, economy-wide cost for carbon dioxide emissions."

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Facing_Hard_Truths-Report_a.pdf

This letter and report was sent by Lee Raymond et al to: -

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman

Secretary of Energy

Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In response to the questions posed in your letter of October 5, 2005, the National Petroleum Council conducted a comprehensive study considering the future of oil and natural gas to 2030 in the context of the global energy system. The complexity of today's integrated energy markets and the urgency surrounding today's energy issues demanded a study that included:

- An integrated view of supply, demand, infrastructure, technology, and geopolitics
- A comprehensive review of public and aggregated proprietary energy outlooks
- In-depth analysis of technology trends and opportunities
- Policy options viewed through economic, security, and environmental lenses
- More than 350 participants from diverse backgrounds and organizations
- Dialogue with more than 1,000 persons and groups actively involved in energy.

The Council found that total global demand for energy is projected to grow by 50-60 percent by 2030, driven by increasing population and the pursuit of improving living standards. At the same time, there are accumulating risks to the supply of reliable, affordable energy to meet this growth, including political hurdles, infrastructure requirements, and availability of a trained work force.

We will need all economic, environmentally responsible energy sources to assure adequate, reliable supply.

There is no single, easy solution to the global challenges ahead. Given the massive scale of the global energy system and the long lead-times necessary to make material changes, actions must be initiated now and sustained over the long term.

Over the next 25 years, the United States and the world face hard truths about the global energy future:

- Coal, oil, and natural gas will remain indispensable to meeting total projected energy demand growth.
- The world is not running out of energy resources, but there are accumulating risks to continuing expansion of oil and natural gas production from the conventional sources relied upon historically. These risks create significant challenges to meeting projected total energy demand.
- To mitigate these risks, expansion of all economic energy sources will be required, including coal, nuclear, biomass, other renewables, and unconventional oil and natural gas. Each of these sources faces significant challenges including safety, environmental, political, or economic hurdles, and imposes infrastructure requirements for development and delivery.
- “Energy Independence” should not be confused with strengthening energy security. The concept of energy independence is not realistic in the foreseeable future, whereas U.S. energy security can be enhanced by moderating demand, expanding and diversifying domestic energy supplies, and strengthening global energy trade and investment. There can be no U.S. energy security without global energy security.
- A majority of the U.S. energy sector workforce, including skilled scientists and engineers, is eligible to retire within the next decade. The workforce must be replenished and trained.
- Policies aimed at curbing carbon dioxide emissions will alter the energy mix, increase energy related costs, and require reductions in demand growth.

The Council proposes five core strategies to assist markets in meeting the energy challenges to 2030 and beyond. All five strategies are essential—there is no single, easy solution to the multiple challenges we face. However, we are confident that the prompt adoption of these strategies, along with a sustained commitment to implementation, will promote U.S. competitiveness by balancing economic, security, and environmental goals.

The United States must:

- Moderate the growing demand for energy by increasing efficiency of transportation, residential, commercial, and industrial uses.
- Expand and diversify production from clean coal, nuclear, biomass, other renewables, and unconventional oil and gas; moderate the decline of conventional domestic oil and gas production; and increase access for development of new resources.
- Integrate energy policy into trade, economic, environmental, security, and foreign policies; strengthen global energy trade and investment; and broaden dialog with both producing and consuming nations to improve global energy security.
- Enhance science and engineering capabilities and create long-term opportunities for research and development in all phases of the energy supply and demand system.
- Develop the legal and regulatory framework to enable carbon capture and sequestration. In addition, as policymakers consider options to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, the United States must provide an effective global framework for carbon management, including establishment of a transparent, predictable, economy-wide cost for carbon dioxide emissions.

The attached report, *Facing the Hard Truths about Energy*, details findings and recommendations based on comprehensive analyses developed by the study teams.

The Council looks forward to sharing this study and its results with you, your colleagues, and broader government and public audiences.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee R. Raymond Chair

Andrew Gould Vice Chair, Technology

John J. Hamre, Vice Chair Geopolitics & Policy

David J. O'Reilly Vice Chair, Supply

Daniel H. Yergin Vice Chair, Demand

UK EAC&C Aubrey Meyer

Jul 30, 2007 05:11 PDT

UK House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee

Advocates C&C for inclusion in UK Climate Bill

Beyond Stern:

From the Climate Change Programme Review to the

Draft Climate Change Bill

Seventh Report of Session 2006–07

Report, together with formal minutes, oral and written evidence Ordered by The House of Commons to be printed Tuesday 10 July 2007

http://www.gci.org.uk/EAC/Beyond_Stern_Climate_Report.pdf

"Above all, the Government must draw attention, at home and abroad, not just to percentage targets for the annual emissions in a certain year, but even more to the absolutely crucial issue of the cumulative total budget of greenhouse gases that the world can afford to emit by 2050 if it is to have a reasonable chance of holding global warming to 2 degrees Celsius.

In terms of the way in which this cumulative global budget is divided up among individual nations, we recommend that the Government explicitly endorses, and promotes internationally, the Contraction and Convergence method, or a method similar to it.

Under this method, emissions budgets allocated to each nation would be progressively amended until all would arrive at an equal per capita level, consistent with an internationally agreed stabilisation level. As we have previously noted, the government has implicitly accepted this principle by endorsing the RCEP's Recommendation for a 60% cut in UK CO₂ (which was based on C&C).

We have also concluded that any framework which involves radical emissions reductions would in practice resemble Contraction and Convergence, given the current imbalance in per capita emissions between the developed and developing world, and the resultant necessity for the bulk of emissions cuts to come from developed nations in order to meet a global stabilisation target."

EACom really calls Gov Bill to account Aubrey Meyer

Jul 30, 2007 09:14 PDT

"The Government's policy towards the UK's 2050 target is clearly incoherent."

http://www.gci.org.uk/EAC/Beyond_Stern_Climate_Report.pdf

"The Government remains committed to limiting global warming to a rise of 2oC; but it also acknowledges that, according to recent scientific research, a cut in UK emissions of 60% by 2050 is now very unlikely to be consistent with delivering this goal.

It is true that where the Stern Review talks about the required distribution of emissions cuts between developed and developing countries, it does (just about) correspond to the Government's existing line on its 2050 target. Referring to research which analyses four different mooted ways of apportioning emissions cuts - including Contraction and Convergence - Stern concludes that "for all developed countries, action to meet a 450ppm CO₂e goal would require quotas to be set in line with a reduction in emissions of 70-90% on 1990 levels by 2050, and for a 550ppm CO₂e goal the reduction would be at least 60%."

But while the Office of Climate Change was justified in telling us that the "at least 60%" target in the draft Bill is within the range discussed in the Stern Review,⁹⁴ this is clearly the minimum in emissions reductions which the Stern Review sets out.

In fact, Stern states that this would correspond to a 63%-99% chance of exceeding a warming of 2oC, and describes this level of global warming as "a dangerous place to be, with substantial risks of very unpleasant outcomes".

We recommend that the 2050 be strengthened to reflect current scientific understanding of the emission cuts required for a strong probability at stabilising warming at 2oC.

We recommend that the Government publishes the rationale for its 2020 and 2050 targets, preferably including the central formula upon which they are based, in the Climate Change Bill. This rationale should make clear the size of complementary caps on annual emissions required of other blocs of nations, the stabilisation target for global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, and the resulting projected temperature rises, which are implied by the Bill's targets for annual emissions from the UK, as well as the central assumptions used by the Government in making these correlations.

The Bill should state that if the Secretary of State proposes to revise these targets, he must publish the rationale for the new target in like manner.

Above all, the Government must draw attention, at home and abroad, not just to percentage targets for the annual emissions in a certain year, but even more to the absolutely crucial issue of the cumulative total budget of greenhouse gases that the world can afford to emit by 2050 if it is to have a reasonable chance of holding global warming to 2oC.

In terms of the way in which this cumulative global budget is divided up among individual nations, we recommend that the Government explicitly endorses, and promotes internationally, the Contraction and Convergence method, or a method similar to it."

Lord's et al like Climate-Lottery Aubrey Meyer

Aug 03, 2007 08:55 PDT

Joint Committee on the Draft

Climate Change Bill

House of Lords

House of Commons

Volume 1 Report

Print order - 24 7 07

This committee has reported on the Bill. It received and heard of lot of evidence on the [minus 60% emissions by 20050] emissions control target in the Climate Bill.

They debated it too. They acknowledged the target's derivation in Contraction and Convergence [GCI-1990/RCEP-2000] and they acknowledged that the figure is now [seen in the light of improved scientific understanding in 2007] clearly inadequate [see below].

They also had an internal disagreement over whether the revision of the number required a new one to be picked daringly out of a hat [how about 80% by 2050] or revised as a function of C&C linked a coupled reading of the Contraction requirement for 450 ppmv.

Clearly the former was better because the 'majority' of these Lords, Ladies and MPs preferred that option called the climate-lottery and [as one does] hoping for the best. [But well done David Howarth for trying to get some sense into them – the abstentions are interesting too].

Doubtless DEFRA will feel this assuages their pain because of the message from the Environmental Audit Committee ["your bill is incoherent" on this point] and will going on claiming that the UK leads the world hoping no-one notices that the Hadley Centre [AR4] has pointed up the need for zero emissions by 2050 to keep below 450 ppmv, and that the bill's 60% cut in the UK by 2050 does lead the way to disaster.

http://www.gci.org.uk/Reports/J_Com_Report_on_Climate_Bill.pdf

pp 17 – 18

"A key feature of the draft Bill is the long-term target of a 60% reduction in carbon dioxide by 2050. This target was first announced in the Energy White Paper of 2003, and, as the Government acknowledged in its oral evidence to us, was in response to a recommendation by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) in its influential report, Energy: the Changing Climate,

published in 2000 39.

The 60% target which the RCEP recommended was based on the adoption of the 'contraction and convergence' approach first advocated in 1990 by the Global Commons Institute. Contraction and Convergence involves calculating the maximum global level of emissions which could be regarded as 'safe', and apportioning these emissions to countries on an equal per capita basis. Some countries, in particular the carbon-intensive developed nations, would currently be well in excess of their apportioned amounts and would need to radically reduce their emissions, while less developed countries would be allowed to increase their emissions.

Since the RCEP made this recommendation in 2000, understanding of climate change has increased significantly. Research carried out in recent years, most notably, as far as many of those submitting evidence are concerned, the Tyndall Centre, has indicated that the risks of climate change are greater than previously assumed, and that the 'safe' level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is lower than previously thought."

C&C at UN General Assembly Aubrey Meyer

Aug 06, 2007 03:57 PDT

Climate change: a development perspective

A Note for the Special UN General Assembly Session on Climate Change

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/MartinKhor_UNGA.pdf

by Martin Khor,

Director,

Third World Network

"In a post Kyoto regime, the CDR principle should remain central. Developed countries should take the lead in contributing most through reduction commitments. Their record has to improve tremendously from the performance so far in this Kyoto period. The equity principle and the related principles of "fair shares for environmental space", "emission entitlements", "contraction and convergence", should guide the process."

A. Background and Latest Scientific Information and Scenarios Climate change is a genuine and serious crisis. The latest IPCC reports have done valuable service by placing the scientific and other aspects on the global agenda in a more scientifically clearer manner.

It shows that "business as usual" will lead to temperatures rising by 3°C to 6°C, with catastrophic results in the form of rising sea levels, melting glaciers, water shortages, floods and decreased agricultural yields. It would take only 3% of world income in 2030 to carry out the major changes needed. That works out to a reduction in the growth of gross domestic product (GDP) of only 0.12% per year until 2030. However major changes are needed changes needed to energy systems, technology, transport, buildings, industry, agriculture, how we treat forests and seas, and to lifestyles, aimed at quickly bringing down the emissions of greenhouse gases. The IPCC's third report (May 2007) shows that Greenhouse gas emissions have grown by 70% between 1970 and 2004. The largest growth has come from the energy supply sector (an increase of 145%), transport (120%), industry (65%) and land use, land use change, and forestry (40%). With current policies, global greenhouse gas emissions will continue to grow with carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from energy use rising by 45% to 110% between 2000 and 2030. That would be disastrous in the effects it would have on raising temperatures. The present global temperature is already 0.7°C above the pre-industrial level. There is near scientific consensus that if the global temperature increases by more than 2°C above the pre-industrial level, there would be irreversible climate changes. With changes above 3°C, there would be catastrophic changes. An interesting table in the IPCC report shows what could happen with different scenarios. In order to keep temperatures from rising more than 2-2.4°C, the greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere has to be contained to 445-490 parts per million (ppm). And for that to happen, CO₂ emissions must be cut by 2050 to 50-80% below the year 2000 level. And to keep on track to this timetable, the emissions must peak by 2015. This is the IPCC's the best scenario, but even then many scientists and

environmentalists would claim it is not enough.

In the next scenario, the temperature rise is restricted to 2.4-2.8°C, the greenhouse gas concentration must be contained to 490-535 ppm, and emissions must be cut by 30-60% by 2050. In the next scenario, temperature rises by 2.8-3.2°C, with gas concentration at 535-590 ppm, and emission changes range from 5% rise to 30% cut. A worse scenario is where the CO₂ emissions rise by 10%-60%, causing greenhouse gas concentration to be 590-710 ppm, with temperatures rising by 3.2 to 4°C, resulting in runaway climate chaos. In the most disastrous scenario, emissions rise by 25% to 140%, the greenhouse gas concentration rises to 710 to 1130 ppm, and temperatures rise by 4 to 6.1°C. Human life is almost certainly impossible in many parts of the world. In order to keep to the first and best scenario, the IPCC estimates that 3% of the world's GDP is required to be spent by 2030, not a very large sum compared to how it would prevent damage worth much more. Changes required to bring down greenhouse gas emissions would include the use of current technology:

- ENERGY supply - improved efficiency, switching from coal to gas, nuclear power and renewable energy (hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal, bioenergy);
- TRANSPORT - More fuel-efficient vehicles, hybrid vehicles, cleaner diesel vehicles, biofuel, shift from road transport to rail and public transport systems, non-motorised transport, and land-use and transport planning;
- BUILDINGS - Efficient lighting and day-lighting, more efficient electrical appliances and heating and cooling devices, improved cook stoves, improved insulation, solar heating and cooling design, and alternative refrigeration fluids;
- INDUSTRY - More efficient end-use electrical equipment, heat and power recovery, material recycling and substitution, control of non-CO₂ gas emissions, among others;
- AGRICULTURE - Improved crop and grazing land management to increase soil carbon storage, restoration of cultivated peaty soils and degraded lands, improved rice cultivation techniques and livestock and manure management, improved nitrogen fertiliser application techniques, and dedicated energy crops to replace fossil fuel use;
- FORESTRY - Afforestation, reforestation, forest management, reduced deforestation, wood product management, and use of forestry products for bio-energy; and
- WASTE - Landfill methane recovery, waste incineration with energy recovery, composting of organic waste, controlled waste water treatment, and recycling and waste minimisation. Some of these proposals are controversial. Environmentalists for example decry the proposed shift to nuclear power, which brings its own massive problems. The role of bio-fuels, positive and negative, is still to be assessed. The IPCC report also advocates changes in lifestyle and behaviour patterns so that resource conservation is emphasised. This will contribute to developing a low-carbon economy.

B. The need for major change in developed countries.

The most important contribution to change has to come from developed countries. This is because they have been historically most responsible for Greenhouse Gas emissions; they are still the most important emitters, especially per capita; and they have more financial and technological resources.

The Kyoto Protocol recognized this by requiring Annex I countries to cut their emissions. The Kyoto Protocol requires industrialized countries to reduce greenhouse emissions by an average of 5% below 1990 levels in its first commitment period between 2008 and 2012. However generally the developed countries have not so far made enough progress in meeting up to their targets.

The Greenhouse Gas Data 2006 report by the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) secretariat (which was issued in October 2006) reported a "worrying" upward trend in the 2000-2004 period.

Although the overall emissions by these countries dropped 3.3% in the 1990-2004 period, this was

mostly due to a 36.8 per cent decrease by economies in transition of eastern and central Europe (EITs). Most worrying was that the other industrialized Parties of the UNFCCC registered an increase of 11%.

"The worrying fact is that EITs, which were mostly responsible for the overall emissions reductions of industrialized countries so far, as a group have experienced an emission increase of 4.1% in the period 2000-2004," UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer said when launching the report in Bonn. "This means that industrialized countries will need to intensify their efforts to implement strong policies which reduce greenhouse gas emissions," he added.

Emission reductions are urgently required in the transport sector but they seem to be especially difficult to achieve, growing by 23.9% from 1990 to 2004, the report noted.

Thus, the UNFCCC data is really gloomy as it shows an overall lack of action on the part of industrialized countries, and even then excluding the US, which itself has one of the poorest records. According to one estimate, the United States' emission level in 2005 was 12% above the 1990 level and could rise to 30% above that level in 2012.

There is need for action in developed countries to deeply cut their emissions. The mechanisms such as carbon trading and clean development mechanism should not be used as "escape routes" from this. That escape route is for those under-performing developed countries to fund climate-friendly projects in developing countries and thus earn "credits" allowing them to continue emitting Greenhouse Gases above their permitted level.

The recent initiative in the EU to set targets for its emission cuts 2020 is a good start, though many would agree it is not enough. The G8 Summit 2007 also set targets for emission reduction, although it did not bind all G8 members. Those are numbers to be worked further on.

C. The equity perspective and North South relation

Historically and presently the developed countries have been most responsible for Greenhouse gas emissions, and have greater resources and technical capacity, and thus should contribute most in terms of (1) changes in their own countries; (2) assisting developing countries to move onto a sustainable path.

According to United Nations statistics, in 2003 there was a total of 27.5 billion tons of CO₂ emissions worldwide. Major emitting countries included the US (5.8b tons, 21% of total), China (4.2b tons, 15%), EU (3.8b tons, 13.7%), Russia (1.5b tons, 5.4%), India (1.3b tons, 4.6%), Japan (1.2b tons, 4.5%).

However, what is more important are the data for per capita emissions. In 2003, according to UN statistics, the CO₂ emissions per capita were US 19.8 tons, Australia 18, Canada 17.9, Germany 9.8, Japan 9.7, UK 9.4, China 3.2, Brazil 1.6, Indonesia 1.4, India 1.2, Pakistan 0.75, Nigeria 0.42, Zambia 0.19, Tanzania 0.1 and Chad 0.01.

It is more equitable and fair to consider the per capita emission concept and data. This is because some countries have large total emissions mainly because of their huge population sizes, and not because of the emission intensity.

The principle of "contraction and convergence" would be equitable and thus more capable of winning support by more people. In this principle, the world as a whole has to contract or reduce its total emissions. In doing so, an equitable principle is used. Take the total maximum emission level that is sustainable, i.e. that the world is able environmentally to sustain. Divide this total by the world's population. That level of emission per capita could be considered the "emission right" or "emission entitlement" per person.

In countries where this level is exceeded, there should be targets and plans to bring down the emissions aimed at reaching the average per capita entitlement level. In countries where this level is not yet reached, there is the possibility to expand up to that level; however this should be done in the most efficient manner so that the level of economic activity can be higher at each per capita emission level.

In fact, there is a strong case that the developing countries should be allowed to exceed the per capita entitlement level, while the developed countries should reach an equilibrium below the enti-

tlement level. This is because of the superior technological level that the latter have reached, and also because of the much extra "space" that they enjoyed since the industrial revolution to grow and to emit. Due to this historical and present reality, the developing countries can argue that they require the extra "space" to catch up especially technologically.

As they develop their technology and become more climate-efficient, the developing countries could go down to the average entitlement level. The principle of "fair shares for environmental space" should be coupled with the principles of "common and differentiated responsibility" and "contraction and convergence."

D. Guidelines for future action

The UNFCCC has been the multilateral forum for global action on climate change. It should remain so, as it has universal membership. The Kyoto Protocol is the main instrument of the UNFCCC at present, and a post Kyoto regime should be established within the UNFCCC framework. This is the best chance to continue international cooperation on the climate issue.

UNFCCC and Kyoto are based on a central principle, that of common and differentiated responsibility (CDR). This should remain the central principle of a post Kyoto regime.

The articulation of this principle in Kyoto called for developed countries (Annex I countries) to undertake emission reduction according to time-bound targets, while all countries would undertake relevant programmes to be less carbon dependent, and report on them. Developed countries would also assist developing countries through financial resources and technology transfer.

In a post Kyoto regime, the CDR principle should remain central. Developed countries should take the lead in contributing most through reduction commitments. Their record has to improve tremendously from the performance so far in this Kyoto period.

The equity principle and the related principles of "fair shares for environmental space", "emission entitlements", "contraction and convergence", should guide the process.

Developing countries for their part should recognize that there is a serious climate crisis, and upgrade the priority they put in mitigating and adapting to this crisis. This calls for high-level coordination between various Ministries and agencies, and a strong implementation plan and capacity.

The developing countries will not be able to undertake this major task themselves. They have to be assisted through financial resources for both adaptation and mitigation.

Since new climate-friendly and energy-efficient technologies are crucial, there must be worked out multilaterally a scheme for equitable sharing of the technologies and the benefits from them.

In this the issue of intellectual property of these technologies is key. The full operation of the IP system can and is likely to hinder the transfer of climate-friendly technology to developing countries. One option is that patents on climate-friendly technologies be exempted. Another is that they be provided in developed countries but that developing countries can exempt them. In any case, the climate crisis should not be seen as a business opportunity to make monopoly profits especially from the developing countries. It should be an occasion to demonstrate the human capacity to cooperate especially in the face of life-threatening phenomena.

Guardian Today - Al Gore, C&C Aubrey Meyer

Aug 08, 2007 02:41 PDT

Guardian Today on Al Gore on C&C

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/green/comment/0,,2143375,00.html>

At last, Gore says what is needed: Contraction and Convergence (C&C). Citing the US bill of rights, Al Gore stated during the recent Live Earth concerts: -

"We should demand that the US join an international [climate] treaty within the next two years that cuts global warming pollution by 90% in developed countries and by more than 50% worldwide in time for the next generation to inherit a healthy Earth."

At last, Gore says what is needed: contraction and convergence (C&C). This is the concept that came from the Global Commons Institute, based in the UK, which I set up in the early 1990s. It

says that dangerous rates of climate change can be avoided only by countries agreeing to work together to safely limit the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and agreeing that emissions entitlements converge at a level that is equal, per capita, for all countries under that limit.

As we advance into worsening climate insecurity, C&C is becoming the most widely cited and advocated model needed to avoid climate catastrophe and worsening poverty.

But why didn't Gore, when he was US vice-president, back C&C at the 1997 UN climate negotiations in Kyoto? He claims to have known the seriousness of climate change since the 1980s. When he became vice-president, he knew that the US Senate required all countries to be in the treaty for it to be effective - either reducing or limiting their emissions, and internationally trading their entitlements.

In Kyoto, the US delegation said C&C was the sort of deal needed. But where was Gore? He arrived in the second week intending to persuade the European governments that they had to relax their emissions control by half, which they did. He then inexplicably went home early and missed the key exchanges. India, China and the Africa group all responded to C&C before, during and after Kyoto, saying they would have accepted C&C because it addressed poverty and climate change constitutionally in the same mechanism.

When C&C has been raised with Gore since then, he has said he doesn't buy it. But this is odd because he now appears to be selling it, and, by citing the bill of rights, he helps improve the odds further for C&C.

Beyond this, Gore recently got a job with the UK government to advise Britain on climate change awareness, communications and education. This puts him in a perfect position to challenge the government's new draft climate bill, which demands a mere 60% cut in UK emissions by 2050.

Parliament's environmental audit committee last week heavily criticised the government's climate bill. Encouragingly, however, the department for the environment is now led by Hilary Benn, who in the past has advocated C&C. And it has recruited the former chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Bob Watson, as scientific adviser. Watson made C&C fundamental when advising the World Bank on dealing with climate and achieving the millennium goals.

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/green/comment/0,,2143375,00.html>

As the UK's new climate advisor Mr Gore might now consider: -

[1] What he didn't hear the US say about C&C at the Kyoto negotiations in 1997 [see ICE below and at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3_Transcript.pdf

[2] That many in the UK, through evidence to both parliamentary committees:

http://www.gci.org.uk/Reports/J_Com_Report_on_Climate_Bill.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/EAC/Beyond_Stern_Climate_Report.pdf

and in responses to the UK Climate Bill,

<http://ruscombegreen.blogspot.com/2007/08/latest-correspondence-with-defra-on-c.html>

are asking, "60% off and in what global total?" i.e. the figure could well be too little too late and meaningless without a global ghg concentrations rationale; in a nutshell as both committees asked, where is C&C?

[3] Hilary Benn the bright new Minister at DEFRA [and probably the busiest man in the country right now with floods and cows] has committed publicly to addressing this carefully: -

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/green/story/0,,2141194,00.html>

RIBA confirmed C&C as the basis for its climate change policy in October 2006

"The RIBA Council has unanimously approved the adoption of Contraction and Convergence (C&C) as the basis for the institute's policy to guide targets for reduction in emissions." But the Institute of Civil Engineers [ICE] have a long and still inconclusive process with C&C

"We urge an international response to the issues of climate change based on the themes of limiting overall global emissions and setting equitable emission rights between nations – the "Contraction and convergence" model."

<http://www.ice.org.uk/downloads//SUBMITTED%20Climate%20Change%20-%20G8%20%20EU.pdf>

"The Kyoto Protocol runs until 2012 and discussion continues on what further policy measures should be put in place. An alternative concept of "Contraction & Convergence" has attracted interest. In outline, this requires developed nations to reduce (contract) their relative emissions whilst developing nations, although initially increasing emissions, are also on a pathway to converge with the developed nations' emission rates. There are many options for detailed implementation."

<http://www.ice.org.uk/downloads//BS%20-%20Energy%20Review%202005%20-%20Climate%20Change.pdf>

"The Environment Society urges the government to ensure that targets are robust and remain flexible in light of up to date science, particularly given recent reports from the IPCC that a tougher target (rather than the proposed 60% reduction in CO2 emissions) may be necessary. In this matter the Environment Society supports the 'Contraction and Convergence' (C&C) framework to provide an open and transparent rationale for target setting and, if necessary, target revisions.

We were delighted to be joined by Aubrey Meyer, Director of the Global Commons Institute, at our Annual Reception on 6 June this Year. Aubrey treated our Board members and their guests to a presentation about Contraction and Convergence (C&C) set to a backdrop of emotive images and live music performed by Aubrey himself, a classical musician and composer."

For C&C as music, see: - http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/AMEN_2.pdf

For information on C&C see: - www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ICE.pdf

<http://www.ice.org.uk/downloads//SocEnv%20Summer%20Newsletter%202007.pdf>

The 'Contraction and Convergence (C&C) Strategy' proposed by the Global Commons Institute offers such a process, drawing widespread interest and support, for example from the Indian Government, the Africa Group of Nations and the USA. In December 1997 at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Kyoto – and shortly before they withdrew from the Kyoto negotiations – the USA stated:

"Contraction and convergence contains elements for the next agreement that we may ultimately all seek to engage in." The US Delegation to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto
"The UK should be prepared to accept the contraction and convergence principle as the basis for international agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and should adopt a long-term strategy for reducing its own emissions."

The UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution The integrity of the C&C approach was reinforced by the 2000 report of the UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution⁴², which concluded: - "Given current knowledge about humanity's impact on climate and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's findings, we support 550 ppmv as an upper limit on the carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere. Major reductions in global emissions are necessary to prevent that limit being exceeded. The UK should be prepared to accept the contraction and convergence principle as the basis for international agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and should adopt a long-term strategy for reducing its own emissions."

<http://www.ice.org.uk/downloads/ICE%20Brunel%202006%20section%203.pdf>

Daily Telegraph - "C&C or bust - TINA!" Aubrey Meyer

Aug 09, 2007 15:34 PDT

UK Main Broadsheet 'The Daily Telegraph'

[circulation ~ 1,000,000/d]

Truly historic . . . "C&C or bust! There is no Alternative."

. . . the whole article here: -

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml?xml=/earth/2007/08/09/earthlog109.xml>

Green NGO's - heads in sand, now in shame . . . [had to happen].

" . . . the Government and its Climate Change Bill - the chief oeuvre of egghead David Miliband's brief period in charge of our environment. In the bill, ministers charge their successors with cutting our CO2 emissions by 60 per cent by 2050. They say this is based on good science and is necessary to keep warming below 2°C, thus preventing dangerous and perhaps irreversible climate change.

But they have a problem; their science is dodgy. A parliamentary committee - chaired, improbably enough, by David Puttnam - pointed out last week that most government scientific advisers say rich countries need to make cuts nearer 80 per cent. And even that will only work if it is combined with a global compact in which all nations aim for emissions targets strictly in line with their populations.

Aficionados call this "contraction and convergence" [C&C]. I am a big fan, because it is based on logic. Global CO2 emissions have to contract dramatically. And, to make this fair, national emissions have to converge on a single per-capita figure. Say, one tonne per head per year. In practice that means our emissions have to fall to let undeveloped nations' emissions rise.

Idealistic? I call it practical. Why would fast-industrialising countries like China sign up to anything else? Of course, the path would be eased by trade in pollution permits. Good. The market will drive down emissions. This is such obvious good sense that even Tim Yeo has signed up to C&C.

So why not the Government? One answer is stupidity among officials at Defra. But even more troubling is the failure of mainstream environmental activists. For more than a decade, Britain's green hegemony has set its face against C&C.

And the boys at Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth have run something close to a vendetta against the guy who has developed and tirelessly promoted the idea - a pony-tailed, violin-playing, South African exile called Aubrey Meyer. You tell me why, because they won't.

The truth - and Gordon Brown and Hilary Benn and Miliband badly need to be told this - is that, to borrow a phrase from our first green-minded prime minister, there is no alternative. Ultimately, it is C&C or bust. And if they don't get the message quick, then the footpaths of Sussex will be filled with people heading for the hills."

Charles Clover is away. Fred Pearce is author of Confessions of an Eco-Sinner, to be published next spring.

And just in case you need a cold reminder of how serious this is all set to become, try the Telegraph Science Editor on the latest from the Hadley Centre: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml;jsessionid=T1Y0CZH2N3LARQFIQMFSFF4AVCBQ0IV0?xml=/earth/2007/08/09/ea-clim109.xml>

C&C Makes Front Page in Guardian-Web Weekly Aubrey Meyer

Aug 20, 2007 10:09 PDT

The Quest for Truth

Aubrey Meyer explains how he left a career in music to develop a theory that would turn into a major campaign against global warming

<http://www.guardianweekly.co.uk/?page=editorial&id=112&catID=8>

Guardian starts serious C&C debate Aubrey Meyer

Aug 24, 2007 08:18 PDT

Guardian starts a serious debate about C&C.

The ultimate carbon offset

Leo Hickman on how rich nations plan to pay developing countries to do emissions cuts on their behalf

http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/climatechange/2007/08/for_better_for_worse_for_riche.html

Have your say - As the UNFCCC Executive Secretary admits the intergovernmental climate process is floundering and the inter-non-governmental process to "Stop Climate Chaos" can't agree what to do, the Guardian starts a serious on-line debate to start C&C.

August 24, 2007 10:45 AM

Looking back now, it all seems so sepia-tinted, naïve even. When climate change was first beginning to make significant political ripples back in the early 1990s, the Global Commons Institute formulated a solution for how the world's nations might work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The institute, founded by Aubrey Meyer and others, came up with the concept of "Contraction and Convergence". Put simply, its goal is to reach a point where per capita emissions across the globe are equalised. Carbon is emitted both equitably and sustainably. To achieve this, the more developed nations must reduce their overall emissions much harder and faster than developing nations who have yet to benefit from the "development" that the mass burning of fossil fuels has brought others over the preceding decades. In fact, some of the least developed nations are allowed to increase emissions, with the aim of meeting the developed nations at some hypothetical mid-point. Harp music fades away...

Screech. Fast forward to this week at the UN and Yvo de Boer, head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, says he has come up with a new proposal that better reflects the reality we now collectively face: "We have been reducing emissions and making energy use more efficient in industrialised countries for a long time." (Er, are you sure about that, Yvo?) "So it is quite expensive in these nations to reduce emissions any more. But in developing nations, less has been done to reduce emissions and less has been done to address energy efficiency.

So it actually becomes economically quite attractive for a company, for example in the UK, that has a target to achieve this goal by reducing emissions in China."

Basically, what Yvo de Boer is proposing is largely sticking to the status quo, or - to bastardise Meyer's original term - "Expansion and Divergence". In other words, we, the most polluting countries, have tried all we can to do our bit about this climate change thing, but to be honest it's a pain and an expensive, inconvenient pain at that. Would you poorer, less developed countries mind ever so terribly if you did the emissions cuts on our behalf. Here's lots of money to help persuade

you. That's better. Problem sorted. Now, back to the party.

This attitude, coming from a senior UN climate change official no less, really doesn't bode well for what kind of post-Kyoto world we might be entering. (All eyes are now on the UN's climate change "road map" summit being held in Bali in December.) He is pretty much saying that it's pull-up-the-drawbridge time. It's the ultimate carbon offset, whereby the rich pay for the privilege to race on ahead and leave the poor spluttering behind them in their exhaust fumes. What's more, the rich determine themselves how much compensation the poor are afforded.

But perhaps the original Contraction and Convergence model is too idealistic? After all, even Kyoto's mandatory emission limits have been too hard for most nations to achieve. And we keep hearing how countries such as the UK have virtually no chance of meeting their current reductions targets, let alone any future commitments. Maybe we now have to enter a by-any-means-necessary mindset to tackle the threat of climate change, no matter how unpalatable the selfish and inequitable consequences might be? Do we now live in an age where the polluter does indeed pay - but pays someone?

World Service BBC&C Aubrey Meyer

Aug 26, 2007 03:06 PDT

We are already in a global climate emergency. With fires raging in Greece and the 'Beast of the BBC' asking itself what's it for? . . .

The import of this [and Panzers in Surrey] was debated yesterday [25 08 07] on the BBC world service News Hour [standardising carbon footprints] . . a link to listen to a radio show using the

BBC Radio Player. Probably won't stay there long but click on this link to listen . . . :
http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/noscript.shtml?/radio/aod/wservice_aod.shtml?wservice/news-hour1300

To listen you will need to have a programme called RealPlayer installed on your computer. Download it for FREE from our audio help page - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/help/install/>

C&C "the only way" - UK Lib Dems Aubrey Meyer

Aug 28, 2007 22:19 PDT

The UK Liberal Democrats back a global treaty with fair carbon shares for all. They say the only just basis for carbon-sharing is where each person is entitled ultimately to emit the same total: contraction and convergence.

They say they are the first party to set out a comprehensive plan to curb carbon emissions and that Labour's policies are full of contradictions and that the Tories do not have firm plans.

Party leader Sir Ming Campbell and Environment spokesman Chris Huhne have issued a detailed statement in time for debate at their autumn conference.

<http://www.libdems.org.uk/media/documents/policies/zero%20carbon.pdf>

Summary

1. Make Britain carbon neutral. The Liberal Democrats are the first party to aim for a carbon neutral Britain where we absorb as much carbon as we emit by 2050. The Government is aiming for a 60 per cent cut, and the Tories for an 80 per cent cut.
2. Build a high speed rail line and back rail improvements. The Liberal Democrats are the only credible party on rail investment because we identify a way of paying for it - tolling lorries on motorways.
3. Set up a leapfrog fund to back clean energy in developing countries. There will be no solution to climate change if the developing world has to choose between prosperity and the planet. We must back cheap renewables to power their growth.
4. Boost flood defences and other changes to respond to climate change. New threats need to be met with new responses in a UK national adaptation plan.
5. Commit to 100 per cent carbon free, non-nuclear electricity by 2050. Provide new incentives for renewables and micro-generation through appropriate guaranteed prices.
6. Introduce 'green mortgages' to fund the upgrading of our housing stock. On present progress, the Government would take 125 years to meet modern energy efficiency standards. The Tories have no plans.
7. Tax pollution not people. The Liberal Democrats want to reverse the decline in green taxation under Labour, and use the revenue to cut income tax. The Tories have not come up with specific plans.
8. Toughen up the EU emissions trading scheme by auctioning permits. The Conservatives cannot admit the EU is key to tackling climate change, whilst Labour is in the back pocket of the CBI.
9. Back a global treaty with fair carbon shares for all. The only just basis for carbon-sharing is where each person is entitled ultimately to emit the same total: contraction and convergence.
10. The Liberal Democrats are the first party to set out a comprehensive plan to curb carbon emissions. Labour's policies are full of contradictions whereas the Tories do not have firm plans. We will reform Whitehall to ensure all departments take climate change seriously.

African NGOs say James Cameron coming round to C&C! Aubrey Meyer

Aug 29, 2007 04:54 PDT

African NGOs want Contraction and Convergence (C&C).

They propose the C&C constitution – saying if emissions rights are equal per person and sustain-

able, then they should be tradable in these new 'carbon-markets'-in-the-air.

They are apparently now joined by Carbon Trader James Cameron who apparently asks with them, what is the morality of having blood-stained wealth?

http://www.gci.org.uk/press/CNA_Viewpoint2_9_AUG_07_VIENNA.pdf

Is this encouraging? Watch this case.

Since 1996, along with the Africa Group of Nations at Kyoto, African

NGOs have asked where is C&C. At that time and since then, Mr James Cameron begged to differ and advised the UK government, which he then advised, to ignore C&C. He did this even though the Chinese, the Indians and the Africa Group called for it and were supported by the US at Kyoto! [Yes it was and still is a surprise].

http://www.gci.org.uk/temp/COP3_Transcript.pdf

Even Mr Cameron's recent view at the UK Royal Society of Arts was simply: -

"The Africans are in a perilous position. They will not be rescued by 20 years of debate about C&C. Nor will they be rescued by the Carbon Market [or] beneficiaries of [it]. They're going to have to really look to the possibilities that do exist in altering their economies to cope with very high fossil fuel prices and Climate Change at the same time . . . some combination of looking at land use and land use change issues; of coping more effectively with the water resources which are there; of growing bio-crops; of ensuring that renewable energy technology is made available at low cost."

Now, in an apparent change of attitude, Mr Cameron put a strong case to balance public interest in reduction of GHGs and private interests of wealth creation towards achieving, 'wealth that is worth having' through the UNFCCC framework. [Figure that out].

The Africa NGOs say that African civil society would like to add their voice that they do not want a lopsided framework designed to serve the interest of the rich North at the expense of the poor South. African CSOs are against mechanisms and frameworks that perpetuate poverty and suffering to the poor.

http://www.gci.org.uk/press/CNA_Viewpoint2_9_AUG_07_VIENNA.pdf

"Clearly, though the private sector has been encouraged to take advantage in the Climate Change Convention, the ultimate goal should be reduction of GHGs and assisting vulnerable communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

There is the likelihood that the scramble for the global commons in the carbon markets, may ignore the equally valid and moral case about what should be done about parties that cannot effectively take part in the markets but have tradable assets currently and deliberately excluded from the markets namely: sinks and rights to the unpolluted atmosphere.

That is why Cameron argued that debates must go beyond wealth creation potential through carbon markets to the moral question of what to do with those who did not cause the climate change problem in the first place [but are bearing the costs]."

Some of this record and much more, is discussed in the forthcoming book "Surviving Climate Change" from PLUTO PRESS [October]

<https://www.plutobooks.com/cgi-local/nplutobrows.pl?chkisbn=9780745325675&main=&second=&third=>

Angela Merkel Proposes C&C Aubrey Meyer

Aug 31, 2007 01:53 PDT

Angela Merkel Proposes C&C

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and current President of the G8 on a visit to China and Japan has proposed Contraction and Convergence (C&C).

Behind the scenes Contraction and Convergence was proposed at the June G8 by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. It was not reported at the time, but was reported later in the UK Daily

Telegraph as an undertaking never to let their per capita emissions to rise above those of the West.

On the path to the Climate Summit in Bali in December this years, Mrs Merkel has now responded publicly saying, "I can't imagine that the newly industrializing countries one day will be allowed to produce more carbon dioxide per head than the industrial countries, if we want to come to a fair agreement".

She proposed calculating the carbon-dioxide output of each country by its population instead of the measurement used at present, according to the text of a speech to an economic symposium in Tokyo on Thursday.

"C&C - its bullet-proof" - Reuters Aubrey Meyer

Aug 31, 2007 10:49 PDT

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L31449186.htm>

Merkel revives emissions proposal to unite world

31 Aug 2007 16:30:55 GMT

Source: Reuters

by Gerard Wynn

LONDON, Aug 31 (Reuters) - German Chancellor Angela Merkel won support on Friday for backing a climate change proposal that would eventually allot equal emissions rights to individuals, wherever they lived in the world.

Negotiators are struggling to agree emissions-cutting guidelines in Vienna in long-running talks to agree a global climate change deal to succeed the Kyoto Protocol after 2012.

Merkel said developing countries should be allowed to increase their emissions per capita while industrialised nations cut theirs, until both sides reached the same level.

"Once (developing countries) reach the level of industrialised countries, the reduction begins," she said on Friday in the Japanese city of Kyoto.

Aubrey Meyer, a climate expert at the Britain-based Global Commons Institute, is credited with bringing into common currency in 1995 the notion of per capita quotas. He welcomed Merkel's proposal.

"People have rained abuses on it but they can't knock it down, it's bullet-proof in its methodology," he told Reuters on Friday of the idea, which he terms contraction and convergence.

"It's a constitutional standard. All social revolutions have committed to straight equity: one person, one right."

Merkel has focused on climate change while Germany chairs the G8 group of leading industrialised countries, brokering a statement in June calling for substantial emissions cuts.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh raised the issue of per capita targets at that G8 summit.

India and China are fuelling their rapid economic growth by burning fossil fuels, especially coal, causing ballooning emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide as a result.

But they are reluctant to accept emissions limits because they blame the problem of climate change on the rich, who have benefited from more than two centuries of industrialisation.

CONSTITUTION

Global carbon emissions are growing at nearly 3 percent annually. A panel of U.N. scientists said in May these must peak within eight years to keep the world on a course which the European Union says would avoid dangerous climate change.

Merkel's suggestion received a cautious welcome on Friday from the U.N.'s top climate change official, Yvo de Boer, who is leading this week's talks in Vienna.

"It's probably the only equitable, ultimate solution," he said. "The question, though, is over what

time frame could you get there and is a short time frame realistic?

"You'd have to do a lot... to get to the same point by the middle of the century."

Meyer wants to see tough action soon, entailing U.S. citizens, for example, cutting their per capita emissions to one fifth of their present levels by 2020.

Other climate experts are worried such a plan would put people off because it appears an impossible task.

"You are not going to achieve climate goals by selling them as an austerity programme," said John Ashton, special representative for climate change at the British Foreign Office.

Setting quotas per person smacked of rationing, he said.

Meyer envisaged a system with some in-built flexibility, where everyone in the world would get the same quota of emissions permits, but people who couldn't meet that level could buy from others who did not use theirs.

For a table of global per capita emissions please go to this <http://www.reutersinteractive.com/CarbonNews/73074>

(Additional reporting by Alister Doyle in Vienna and Claudia Kade in Kyoto)

More Merkel C&C Press Reaction Aubrey Meyer

Sep 01, 2007 02:19 PDT

In the German Press TAZ.DE

<http://www.taz.de/index.php?id=start&art=4062&id=umwelt-artikel&cHash=856de0addf>

Also John Ashton, of the UK Foreign Office, has just confirmed to me that the remarks ascribed to him in the Reuters report on Merkel C&C yesterday, weren't made by him in response to this story. He is on holiday and didn't even know that Mrs Merkel had launched this C&C initiative, which he says he is very interested to learn about. The remarks seem to have been trawled from some other place/time . . .

C&C - Cat In or Out of Bag? Aubrey Meyer

Sep 05, 2007 04:13 PDT

1. C-CAT out of the bag?
 2. "C&C is Beautiful" Facebook
 3. German Government Affirms C&C
 4. Bush tries a caress on Angela Merkel [G8 video]
 5. Africa NGOs affirm C&C in Vienna
 6. C&C at Findhorn Sustainable Energy Revolution Conference
 7. Sustainability South West C&C Fairshares campaign.
 8. C&C champion, Sunand Prasad takes over at RIBA UK
 9. Kay Weir C&C submission to New Zealand Government
- Contraction Convergence Allocation and Trade [C-CAT]

Is this CAT out of the bag?

Eco Soundings

John Vidal

Wednesday September 5, 2007

The Guardian

"Dream coming true

Later this year, there will be an almighty dust-up in Bali, Indonesia, where countries will meet to try to work out how to combat climate change when the Kyoto treaty ends. Any agreement must

bring in developing countries such as China and India, as well as rich nations such as the US and Australia. But so far, there has been no consensus. Coming up on the inside track, however, is the simple but contentious idea of equal emissions, dreamed up almost 20 years ago by the extraordinary Aubrey Meyer, of the Global Commons Institute.

Called C&C, or contraction and convergence, it is based on population size rather than a country's total emissions, and would mean poor countries committing to reducing their emissions only as their wealth increases.

Now Meyer has an important new backer in the German chancellor, Angela Merkel, who called last week for the introduction of C&C. So, it's over to you, Hilary Benn, environment secretary. Eco Soundings understands that when he was head of the Department for International Development (DfID), Benn commissioned a report that was very much in favour of C&C, but, inexplicably, no one can get hold of a copy, and all freedom of information attempts to extract it have failed."

As they say, is it in the bag or out . . . or both?

Friends of C&C gather at Dave Hampton's

"C&C is Beautiful" Face-Book website.

Don't know quite how this works but you can join: -

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5409540089>

German Government affirm C&C – per capita-based climate strategy: -

http://www.bundestkanzlerin.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2007/08/2007-08-30-bundestkanzlerin-in-japan__en.html

Thu, 30.08.2007

Chancellor Angela Merkel launches a new climate initiative

Accepting shared responsibility for climate change

The Chancellor gives her address

"On her visit to Japan, Chancellor Angela Merkel has made a new proposal for reducing global emissions of greenhouse gases. She suggested that CO₂ emissions should be measured in terms of population numbers. On her second day in Japan the Chancellor was received by Emperor Akihito – with him too she discussed climate protection.

According to Merkel's proposal, CO₂ emissions would be measured per capita. The maximum CO₂ emissions of a country would thus be measured in terms of population numbers. The larger the population of a country, the more CO₂ the country would be permitted to emit. This would mean that every individual in the world would be entitled to emit the same volume of carbon dioxide.

To date only the absolute CO₂ emissions have been taken. Using these measurements both Germany and China for instance are two of the world's worst producers of CO₂ emissions.

It is not enough for everybody to claim that they are "doing their best", said the Chancellor at a symposium organised by the Nikkei media business. We need "qualifiable reduction goals" for emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

Per capita CO₂ emissions meet in the middle

In her proposal, Merkel presupposes that the industrialised countries cut their share of energy consumption as far as possible, thus reducing per capita emissions of carbon dioxide.

The emerging economies, on the other hand, need to grow if they are to reduce poverty. The downside is, of course, that their emissions of CO₂ will continue to rise in the years to come. In the final analysis the per capita emissions in emerging economies will meet those of industrialised countries.

If the agreement is to be just, one thing must be clear, however, stressed the Chancellor, "I cannot imagine that the emerging economies will one day be permitted to emit more CO₂ per capita than we in the industrialised countries".

If the emerging economies were to accept this proposal, they would face the task of braking the

rise in their CO2 emissions. This is possible with "intelligent growth", explained Merkel thinking of the most modern of environmental technologies – many of which come from Germany.

With Merkel's proposal, the emerging nations with rapidly expanding economies could be brought on board the global climate negotiations scheduled for 2009.

The USA must be part of the agreement

The Chancellor also pointed out the vitally important role of the USA. "The USA will be part of it. It must be part of it," she said.

If the USA refuse to be part of the follow-on agreement to the Kyoto Protocol, India, China and other high-emission countries too will walk away. The Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012.

The aim is to halve global CO2 emissions by 2050. To achieve this objective, every country in the world must pull its weight – otherwise average temperatures around the globe are set to rise by more than two degrees. This would be a climate disaster which could no longer be brought under control, as evidenced by scientists in the IPCC study published a few weeks ago."

Irresistible - chuckle at President Bush's affable but fallible attempt to 'massage' Angel Merkel and the Heiligendamm G8 Conference last June:

<http://www.bild.t-online.de//BTO/news/aktuell/2006/07/18/merkel-bush-liebes-attacke/video/merkel-bush-attacke-neu,layout=2.html>

African NGOs in Vienna Climate Talks do too: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/cna/CNA_Viewpoint_31_AUG_07_VIENNA.pdf

"Consequently, we the African civil society present in Vienna demand:

1. A Post-Kyoto regime not only anchored on real stabilization of GHG emissions but also one which will deal with equity in its implementation. The current Kyoto Protocol has failed to reduce GHG emissions to levels that would guarantee climatic stability due to its faulty architectural design and structural problems in implementation. Current suggestions on the building blocks of a future regime, through the current Dialogue, contain the same inherent architectural and structural problems.
2. A Post-Kyoto regime in which both polluters and non-polluters will participate on equal footing. The present regime is only meant for polluters at the expense of non-polluters who are suffering from actions of others.
3. A Post-Kyoto regime which will deal with greenhouse gas emissions reductions based on per capita entitlements.
4. A Post-Kyoto regime which will allow trade in unused entitlements modelled along the concept of Contraction and Convergence."

Findhorn Conference "Sustainable Energy Revolution"

18-19 September - Universal Hall – 20.00 – 22.00

Supported by UNITAR – CIFAL - Scottish Executive and others.

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Findhorn_Sustainable_Eenergy_Revolution_Schedule.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Aubrey_Poster_Findhorn.pdf

Aubrey Meyer

Renowned climate campaigner, composer and author And founder of Contraction and Convergence Doing Enough, Soon Enough to avoid Dangerous Climate change

18 September - Universal Hall – 20.00 – 22.00

"Understand why Aubrey receives widespread recognition for "Contraction and Convergence", the science-based, global policy framework.

Gain a deeper understanding of his theories; "The atmosphere is global and something we all depend on. The GCI has proposed its protection by 'shared ownership' of the green-house gasses emissions limits necessary to avoid the concentrations and warming being raised too far".

"If ever there was an initiative that deserved recognition and support, it is the brilliant and relent-

less campaign waged by this fiercely independent, creative and apparently tireless individual' - The R. Hon Michael Meacher MP."

contact: - cifalfi@findhorn.org

UK NGO 'Sustainability South West' operationalises C&C in a real trend-setting local campaign

http://www.fairsharesfairchoice.com/the_science.asp

Fair AND square...here comes the science

Contraction & Convergence or 'C&C'

"Minimising manmade climate change is almost certainly the biggest challenge faced by humans. Some impacts are happening right now (often in parts of the world least equipped to deal with them) because of greenhouse gases already released into the atmosphere. We have to act quickly and decisively to avoid really dangerous climate effects.

Developed by Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute, the Contraction and Convergence (C&C) model is a widely accepted global framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) to safe levels in a socially just way. The model provides a global 'carbon budget' with annual reduction targets for CO₂ emissions, based on levels considered safe to avert dangerous climate change. Once in the atmosphere, GHGs can take up to 200 years to decay, so to stay within safe levels we'll have to continue to reduce, or 'contract' emissions year-on-year, to near zero by around 2080. The diagram (below, right) illustrates the scale of worldwide reductions required to achieve C&C.

Global equity is a governing principle of the C&C model. Historically, levels of emissions have been related to a nation's wealth. As a result, per capita emissions ('per person' averages) in rich countries are well above the global average and in poor countries, well below. In the C&C Framework everyone is given an equal right to emit CO₂. In order to resolve current inequalities, individuals in developing countries would initially be entitled to emit relatively more CO₂, and those in developed nations relatively less, until per capita emissions from all countries 'converge' at an agreed annually reviewed level.

In applying the C&C model, the UK's permitted emissions have been divided by its projected population to give a per capita figure. This indicates how much carbon individuals within the UK are entitled to emit, otherwise referred to as our individual 'carbon budget' or 'Fair Share'. In 2007 our individual carbon budget has been calculated at just over 4.2 tonnes of CO₂ emissions, falling to 3.2 tonnes by 2017.

The C&C model has also been used to work out an overall carbon budget for the South West which again would need to reduce year-on-year. This reveals that in broad terms the region's current CO₂ emissions are approximately 10% above its fair carbon share for 2007 and that CO₂ would need to be reduced by nearly a third by 2017 to be 'within budget'. See the SW budget for more."

C&C champion, Sunand Prasad takes over at RIBA

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=659&storycode=3094078&c=1>

Sunand Prasad

2007 Issue 35

By Martin Spring

Politician and academic – not to mention architect – the new RIBA president certainly has the CV to tackle the top post in British architecture. But does he have the policies?

Trim in physique, dapper in dark suit and brilliant white shirt, and with his hands communicating as expressively as his mouth, Sunand Prasad chats away in his practice's office at the fringes of the City of London.

Whether it's about statement buildings, design-and-build contracts or the RIBA's grapples with the

government, he lets flow a stream of insights with the easy manner of a skilled politician. Which is precisely what he is: the Indian-born architect has been a CBE commissioner for seven years and RIBA vice-president for policy and strategy for three. Indeed, Prasad has been RIBA president in waiting for so long that he can be viewed as the Gordon Brown of the architectural fraternity.

Like Brown, Prasad will be quick to set out his vision for the organisation when he finally takes over from the incumbent, Jack Pringle, next week. And, so far, that vision sounds fairly radical: "I think that, rather than as a professional group, we need to see ourselves as knowledge communities," he says. "We are trying to foster specialist groups of interest within the RIBA covering sustainability, housing, procurement and conservation, for example."

"People get very enthusiastic when talking about their subject and the best service the RIBA as an institution can provide is to enable that knowledge transfer through these specialist groups."

Prasad comes across as the thinking man's architect, combining those political skills with a deep-thinking, academic air and talent as a designer. On the architectural front, the specialist hospitals, health centres, schools and sheltered housing produced by his 29-year-old practice, Penoyre & Prasad, are regular winners of top design awards. Academically, he has a PhD based on research into Indian courtyard housing, traditional and modern.

And politically, his heritage stretches back way beyond his time at Cbe. "I grew up in the middle of India in a Gandhian community. That's because both my parents were involved in the independence struggle. So the house was full of political discussion and that does trickle into your brain. In particular, the idea that you should be useful was very strong."

These days, Prasad the politician is focused on discussions with the Treasury and its Office of Government Commerce (OGC) over new forms of procurement, particularly PFI. This campaign, he stresses, continues the "Smart PFI" line initiated by Pringle in which a high-quality design for a building is agreed before the contract to build and manage it is put out to tender.

"The battle over public sector procurement isn't won yet," he says. "The tack is shifting in the sense that it's no longer enough to talk about PFI in general. Already we're talking in a more specific way, such as what would be a smart way to procure schools in the Building Schools for the Future programme."

Partial success has already been achieved, he thinks. "The Treasury bought the intellectual argument a long time ago. But unfortunately on the ground, people are not following the OGC guidance. As a culture, we seem to be really bad at implementing good practice."

In his discussions with the government, Prasad deploys his experience with Cbe to full effect. "The biggest lesson I've learned from Cbe is how to approach government and what gets their ear. How to condense the argument for people with short attention spans. How to deliver that argument that is both intellectually credible, but is also on their agenda."

"You have to make your aims and agenda match those of the government. In order to do that, you have to look at some big headlines such as long-term value of a building rather than initial capital costs. The design quality argument with the Treasury was won on the basis of long-term value."

With Prasad as its behind-the-scenes powerhouse, the RIBA has raised its political profile in other ways too. "The RIBA is a very changed organisation compared with a few years ago," he says, before reeling off

a list to prove his point. "Look at the recent response to government initiatives, white papers and so on. Look at the Manifesto for Architecture, published in April 2005, and the recent half-term report, the so-called Blueprint for Brown."

"The biggest lesson I've learned from Cbe is how to approach government and what gets their ear"

"Look at our presence at the party conferences and our collaboration with other bodies to make joint approaches to government on matters of common interest."

"They include the RICS, the Institution of Civil engineers, the British Property Federation. On the housing front, they include the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships on space standards,

and the Home Builders Federation on climate change and zero-carbon housing.”

It is perhaps no coincidence that this year’s RIBA conference, to be held in Paris from 25-27 October, will be on the theme of collaboration.

Prasad’s other deep-seated concern is climate change and sustainable development. This also stretches back to his childhood in Dehradun in the Himalayan foothills. “The community I grew up in was a very much an idealistic, self-sufficient one with very strong notions of living in balance with the environs and the earth. In fact, there was methane gas production from domestic waste and solar-powered cookers and water heaters.”

Within the RIBA, Prasad helped set up the combatting climate change working group at the end of last year. The institution’s current climate change policy is based on the principle of contraction and convergence, which has a similar sharing philosophy to that of the Gandhian community in which he grew up. “We believe overall global emissions of carbon-dioxide should contract and also converge towards an equitable distribution.

“But those CO2 emission targets can only be delivered if we’re tooled up. The next thing for us to produce is a toolkit to skill up every architect, their colleagues, co-professionals and clients to help deliver those targets.”

The toolkit is being devised with Peter Rickaby of Rickaby Thompson as consultant. Prasad says the first tranche will be published next month, with the subsequent bits published for the small practices conference in October.

The president-elect doesn’t want to impose strictures on the RIBA’s members, though, but work with them. A laudably democratic ambition, but wouldn’t the diffusion of opinions emanating from grass roots architects blur the focused, top-level collaborations he plans to continue with government and other industry bodies?

Prasad sees no conflict here, as it is where his vision of the RIBA as a network of knowledge communities comes into play. “There’s no point in having a policy that’s not deliverable and the people who know most how to deliver it in the RIBA are the people on the ground – their opinion is vital.

“You actually find that when it comes to it, consensus emerges, because there are always better ways that we can agree on. In my experience, people do make their input, though you have to filter that input.”

Keeping the discussion bubbling away at the grass roots, then sifting it for distribution to the world at large and for influencing government will be quite a task, but surely one that Sunand Prasad, the architect-politician-academic, can get his head around.

Climate Change: Session on future international action

Organised by Adrian Macey,

Climate Change Ambassador,

Environment Division,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

Lambton Quay,

Wellington,

16 August 2007.

Democracy at the international level – the basis for global climate action.

<http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Foreign-Relations/1-Global-Issues/Environment/Climate-Change/climchangetalk16aug07.php>

Talk by Kay Weir, editor Pacific Ecologist

Global warming emissions are still rising in New Zealand, and they are

still rising globally, contrary to best scientific advice over many years. If the trend is not reversed soon, temperatures will reach a dangerous level as early as 2035, the Stern report noted in 2006, and other reports note similarly. Unchecked greenhouse gases will lock us into terrible conse-

quences, floods, droughts, hurricanes, and ultimately sea levels rising 25 metres higher than they are today, destroying the lives of hundreds of millions of people, mostly in vulnerable developing countries like Africa which have done little to create climate change.

Even before the end of the century, small island nations, including many of our Pacific neighbours, who also have done little to create the problem, may well be submerged with a one-to three meter rise seeing to this.

Our historic responsibility for global warming pollution and damage to date morally obliges New Zealand and other rich industrialised countries to reduce emissions first, strongly and urgently. We can do this by being sharply aware of the harm we are doing to our fellow human beings and other species and by changing the way we do things, living cooperatively and equitably rather than competitively with divisions of great wealth and grinding poverty.

The fact is, if we don't have a just over-arching, mandatory global plan, with all country's responsibilities clearly defined, we will not achieve reduction of warming emissions to a safe level of 450ppm CO₂e maximum atmospheric carbon concentrations in time to prevent catastrophes where the world is reshaped; millions of people die, and millions of other species are made extinct. In view of the serious dangers being created with continually rising emissions both in New Zealand and globally, we should not wait until 2012 to develop a "new comprehensive arrangement." This should be negotiated within the next year to 18 months with New Zealand initiating action and discussions nationally and internationally to incorporate the 450ppm CO₂e maximum atmospheric carbon concentrations.

New Zealanders belong to a privileged industrial country, we also have a bent for social justice, giving women the vote first and creating the social welfare state. We should lead the way with climate action and discussions as we have done with the nuclear issue. Global warming and global inequity are linked, as global warming exacerbates poverty. Even now it's far more devastating globally than terrorism, which currently distracts western powers, the Oxford Research group finds. Trillions are found for weapons of war, when less than half that money would be enough to address many of the problems of the third world in just a few years. Inequity is growing, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, already badly hit by global warming, yet funds can't be found to meet even agreed limited targets to help developing countries adapt.

Justice, equity and compassion are core principles treasured by all civilised nations. We must cherish them to restore our conflict-ridden global society. By applying the equity principle, enshrined in the UN Charter and the U.S. Declaration of Independence, we could avoid the tide of rising global warming calamities, and increasing inequity. Aubrey Meyer and the Global Commons Institute's action plan of Contraction and Convergence is a globally inclusive, transparent framework, fair and equitable to all nations.

Averting climate change means ending the global apartheid of the rich, less numerous, historically highly polluting, industrial countries and poor, populous third world countries with much lower per capita emissions who are only beginning to develop. Under the plan everyone gets a fair share of emission entitlements, with the total capped at a sustainable level and moderated by convergence to the global average of equal shares per capita over 20 to 30 years to ease the transition. Shares created this way allow poor countries to finance their defence against climate change and for clean energy by trading their unused emissions rights with rich countries.

The sooner an agreement to converge to equality is set, the better prospect we have for a healthy, sustainable planet, where the goal of world poverty reduction has a chance of succeeding. Without equity and justice in the climate change forums, there will be no incentive for developing countries to want to reduce emissions when they know full well it's the rich world, which industrialised much sooner, and is responsible for most of the global warming pollution causing the havoc being suffered to date. If the issue of equity in the climate forums is not taken up by New Zealand, then the question is, how many millions of people are we prepared to let die to keep our country "competitive?"

[It's not so difficult to accomplish a just, sustainable world as many seem to assume. A very useful plan to deal with the linked problems of global warming and peak oil, based on equity principles

of contraction and convergence, tradeable energy quotas and an oil depletion protocol has been devised by Ian T. Dunlop, former international coal and gas executive. Interestingly he says, a Tradeable Energy Quota System could be quickly established within 12 – 18 months using existing financial and banking sectors and it would be built on work already undertaken by the Australian Greenhouse Office and others in developing greenhouse gas metrics, monitoring systems etc. Such a plan could be useful for New Zealand to adopt. – See Pacific Ecologist issue 14, Climate Change & Peak Oil and integrated Strategy for Australia by Ian T Dunlop for an article on this, or type into Google Climate Change & Peak Oil: an Integrated Policy Response for Australia by Ian T. Dunlop.]

References:

1. Contraction and Convergence, Aubrey Meyer, The Global Commons Institute, London [external link] –see Pacific Ecologist issue 13 for article on this.

2.. If everyone on earth contributed as much global warming emissions as the average New Zealander or Australian, around 4 earths would be required; if the US is our model, 5 planets are require- ..see also Ecological Debt: The Health of the Planet & the Wealth of Nation by Andrew Simms

3.. Very useful article dealing with peak oil and global warming, based in equity principles, Tradeable Energy Quotas, and Oil Depletion Protocol is abridged in Pacific Ecologist, issue 14 and is also available at Australian Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas [external link] or by typing the title in Google, Climate Change & Peak Oil: an Integrated Policy Response for Australia by Ian T. Dunlop.

Oz Press C&C at APEC Aubrey Meyer

Sep 10, 2007 09:06 PDT

Australian Press gets behind Contraction and Convergence (C&C)

The AGE

APEC's agreement is a good start to tackling climate change

September 11, 2007

Bendan Mackey

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/opinion/apecs-agreement-is-a-good-start/2007/09/10/1189276630657.html>

THERE are positive aspects to the Sydney Declaration on climate change. It helps re-establish Australia as one of the good guys working to solve the global warming problem, and essentially re-aligns Australia's position with that of progressive nations including the European Union. Admittedly, much of the declaration simply recommits APEC countries to the principles and aims of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. But this achievement will be warmly welcomed by the international community.

Aspirational targets are also useful in signalling that the 21 APEC leaders now acknowledge global warming is the mother of all environmental problems and must be tackled sooner rather than later.

But we will be sadly and dangerously misled in thinking that aspirational targets, and promoting particular technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, provide a suitable framework for the post-Kyoto protocol. In the rush to act, we risk ending up with a new international agreement that fails to address the specific actions needed to actually solve the global warming problem.

First, let's be clear about the problem. Humans are releasing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere at a faster rate than natural processes can absorb them. The global warming problem will be solved when we have reduced the total annual global emissions of greenhouse gases so that their atmospheric concentration is stabilised at a safe level that does not cause significant climate change.

This will not be achieved in the absence of a legally binding international agreement that leads to

global greenhouse gas emissions being reduced to a safe level over a time that minimises harm to people and nature. In its absence, national initiatives will not solve the problem. Nor can there be any guarantee that efforts by individuals and organisations to voluntarily reduce their carbon emissions will actually lead to the problem being solved.

Fortunately, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change commits all nations, including Australia, to work together to solve the global warming problem through negotiation of additional agreements.

The Kyoto Protocol is one such agreement committing nations to take some baby steps (albeit important ones) along the road to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (a total of about 5 per cent during the period 2008 to 2012). But governments now need to start negotiating a new post-Kyoto protocol that will solve the global warming problem. What should such a new protocol look like?

The answer is called "contraction and convergence", a framework for crafting a new protocol that forces governments to agree on three vital questions.

First, what is a safe concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gases? Many scientists argue a safe concentration is what it was during the 1960s. Once a safe concentration is agreed on, it is then easy to calculate the total global amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted each year to achieve that target.

The second question that contraction and convergence forces governments to answer is: "When will the total global emissions of greenhouse gases be reduced to the amount needed to maintain atmospheric concentrations at the agreed safe level: in 2020; 2100; next year?"

The third critical question governments must reach agreement on is how the global permissible amount of greenhouse gas emissions will be allocated between nations. This is the most politically difficult problem to resolve in negotiating a new international agreement. Contraction and convergence's answer to this problem is that every person should be given an equal share, that is, emissions should be distributed at a national level on a per capita basis. A per capita allocation is the only allocation principle that is likely to be accepted by India, China, Indonesia and other developing nations with large populations.

Once a new protocol is in place based on the contraction and convergence framework, national governments can then begin the difficult and complex task of negotiating their way through the various implementation issues and working out how to most efficiently and fairly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to the agreed safe level, such as through a national carbon market. Contraction and convergence does not tell us how to reduce carbon emissions to a safe level, but provides a framework so that all our actions to reduce carbon emissions will count and lead to the global warming problem being solved.

A new contraction and convergence framed international protocol will ensure all nations are working together in a co-ordinated way and that everyone's efforts to reduce carbon emissions make a real difference.

This certainty will be of great benefit to investors, solidify national carbon markets, and encourage the next generation of greenhouse friendly technologies. We can make our personal and organisational contributions to reducing carbon emissions confident that the problem will actually be solved in due course. Without such an agreement, all our individual and collective efforts may be to no avail and we will fail to solve the problem.

However, solving the global warming problem will require a level of international co-operation not seen since the Allied nations' response during World War II. Australia, with the APEC nations, can play a critical leadership role in the international diplomatic campaign that will be needed to secure a new contraction and convergence-framed agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Brendan Mackey is a professor of environmental science at the Australian National University

"Planet Unliveable" White House to BBC Aubrey Meyer

Sep 14, 2007 03:18 PDT

White House to Whitehall [BBC]

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/listenagain/>

"The world could become unliveable if we do not stop increasing the amount of carbon dioxide we use. CO2 accumulates in the atmosphere and there is no end-point; it just gets hotter and hotter. So at some point the planet becomes unliveable."

White House chief scientist Prof John Marburger

[Full live interview on BBC - transcript below].

Green NGOs assess UK Political Parties

<http://www.thegreenstandard.org.uk/uploadedFiles/How%20green%20are%20our%20parties.pdf>

"The foundation stone of the Liberal Democrat approach is the concept of contraction and convergence. This is a laudable approach, particularly the recognition of the need for the EU to commit to a 30 per cent reduction target."

[Full report at link - extract below].

Tory Quality of Life Report

<http://www.qualityoflifechallenge.com/documents/fullreport-1.pdf>

"Plausible long-term framework . . . the intellectually and morally coherent principle of Contraction and Convergence."

[Full report at link - extract below].

Is this circling around C&C an improvement? Look closer and its still D&D [dither and drift]. None of it yet seriously asks, let alone answers, the question 'can we do enough soon to avoid dangerous rates of climate change?'

If you want examine the detail, it is below and at the links. They all say the planet is unliveable unless . . . what? Where is the rigour of analysis and the logic in the replies. "Getting the politics right," means facing reality, not postponing it.

This is what the UNITAR and Scottish Executive supported conference at Findhorn will hear in Scotland on next at a special session next Tuesday evening.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/SustEnergyRevol.pdf>

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/FIndhorn.pdf>

"Contraction & Convergence answers the strategic question, "can we do enough soon enough to avoid dangerous rates of climate change?" This remains the absolutely key challenge and this becomes ever more urgent as we all now enter the so-called 'post-Kyoto' negotiations.

The global community remains caught in trends of causing climate to change faster that we are organising to prevent it. Arguments about rising global inequality and climate damages have wrecked the climate negotiation for nearly twenty years and we remain caught in the destructive trends of 'Expansion and Divergence'. 'Contraction and Convergence' – 'C&C' - makes it possible to analyse, agree and implement what it takes to answer 'yes' to that key question.

C&C starts with the concentration of greenhouse gas [ghg] in the atmosphere and stabilising this at a safe level. This is the key indicator and has been the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 1992.

Contraction relates to rapid reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from all human sources as a full-term event necessary for achievement of the objective of the UNFCCC. As 'sinks' for ghg are now beginning to fail, the science now clearly supports the case that ghg emissions need to be cut by nearly 100% globally within fifty years to stabilise ghg concentrations and prevent dangerous [runaway] rates of climate change. As we are still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels for energy, the scale of this challenge is without precedent.

Convergence relates to the principle of equity in the UNFCCC and the international sharing arrangement of what is required by contraction. AS defending inequality breeds global failure, under contraction, convergence assumes the constitutional norm where the future entitlement to emit is

equal per person globally. This can be achieved by a smooth transition where the rate of convergence is deliberately accelerated relative to the overall rate of contraction.

These rights are valuable as they have been deemed globally tradable. Since wealth is directly correlated with ghg emissions, under C&C wealthy 'over-consumers' of fossil fuel can where necessary, purchase emissions permits from 'under-consumers' to strategically hasten the general advance of clean and sustainable development globally

Without C&C, global growth is a double jeopardy and increasingly uneconomic as it escalates poverty, climate deaths and damages. Obviously, while a rational adequate and fair agreement post-Kyoto agreement is needed, the truth and reconciliation of C&C makes it possible."

White House to Whitehall [BBC]

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/listenagain/>

"The world could become unliveable if we do not stop increasing the amount of carbon dioxide we use. CO2 accumulates in the atmosphere and there is no end-point; it just gets hotter and hotter. So at some point the planet becomes unliveable." White House chief scientists Prof John Marburger

Its something of a contrast to what some others in the White House – not least the Vice President Dick Cheney – have been saying. Mr Cheney is so unpersuaded that he wants a debate on the causes of climate change.

Prof John Marburger has been talking – he doesn't often give interviews – to our environment analyst Roger Harrabin.

"The climate is a hugely complex biological and physical system and I am afraid that we've seen so much reporting that's over-simplified the condition that everyone's confused and even parts of the scientific community, but that said I think that there is widespread agreement on certain basics and one of the most important is that we are producing far more CO2 from fossil fuels than we ought to be and its going to lead to trouble unless we can begin to reduce the amount of fossil fuels that we are burning and using in our economies."

RH "you said that there's widespread agreement professor. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) used the words 'unequivocal climate change' and 'more than 90% likely that the most recent climate change has been caused by our emissions. Would you agree with that?"

JM "Yes I would; yes of course. We strongly agree with the IPCC Reports and support its conclusions."

RH "You say if we carry on this way we're going to be in trouble . . "

JM "Yes"

RH "How much trouble will we be in?"

JM "Well the climate is in fact sensitive to these CO2 emissions and as they increase the anthropogenic [man-made] contribution to global warming a climate change, we'll simply progress this. CO2 accumulates in the atmosphere and there is no end-point; it just gets hotter and hotter. So at some point the planet becomes unliveable."

RH "There are some scientists – some American scientists – who believe that the effect of CO2 in the atmosphere will actually flatten out; there will be a point beyond which the CO2 doesn't warm the planet any more."

JM "It could be but we haven't seen that in the modelling."

RH "So from your point of view, what do you think would be a limit beyond which we should not over-shoot?"

JM "This is where the difficulty begins. We know we're producing too much CO2, we know we have to change our energy technology for example in the way we produce things in our economies. What we don't know is exactly what the impacts will be and whether they will be too fast to accommodate smoothly or exactly where they will occur. There's still quite a lot that we don't know. It is in fact very difficult to use the science that we know to make definite predictions about

the future that can allow us to put price tags on things and so forth. These are not questions that are answerable by science and it's not clear that we'll be in a position to predict the future accurately enough to make policy confidently for a long time. I think that two degrees is rather arbitrary, and it's clear to me that the answer shouldn't be three degrees or more or less. We don't have a scientific basis for selecting the two degree number. That's a hunch, it's a guess."

RH "Well let me give you another arbitrary number, that is fifteen years, that is the number that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the third report out this year [he means the fourth] to which the US was a signatory, said was the timescale by which we should have stopped increasing emissions. Do you agree with that?"

RH "I'm not sure. We signed on to it but I don't know that I could give you a scientific basis for that number."

RH "No it might be twenty years; we might already have passed the threshold."

JM "It might well be and in a way, once again, if you can't demonstrate that that is the number, then you can't really use it as a device to get the change that's necessary. I say, let's forget about these artificial numbers and get on with the business of changing the energy technology. That's what we need to do."

Green NGOs assess UK Political Parties

<http://www.thegreenstandard.org.uk/uploadedFiles/How%20green%20are%20our%20parties.pdf>

"The foundation stone of the Liberal Democrat approach is the concept of contraction and convergence. This is a laudable approach, particularly the recognition of the need for the EU to commit to a 30 per cent reduction target."

<http://www.thegreenstandard.org.uk/uploadedFiles/How%20green%20are%20our%20parties.pdf>

Recent statements by Chris Huhne, shadow environment secretary, have indicated that the Liberal Democrats support the need to limit warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels, that this means stabilisation of emission levels below 450ppm, and that a 60 per cent cut by 2050 will not be enough. Zero carbon Britain confirms this.

The Liberal Democrats' proposed strategy on international action, as outlined in a Zero carbon Britain, is based on the EU implementing a 30 per cent greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, a continuation of the current international multilateral climate regime beyond 2012, and continued engagement with countries currently outside the Kyoto Protocol, specifically Australia and the US. The foundation stone of their approach is the concept of contraction and convergence. This is a laudable approach, particularly the recognition of the need for the EU to commit to a 30 per cent reduction target. However, given the resistance of a number of key countries to the concept of contraction and convergence a strategy based exclusively around this is unlikely to be successful.

Tory Quality of Life Report

<http://www.qualityoflifechallenge.com/documents/fullreport-1.pdf>

"Plausible long-term framework . . . the intellectually and morally coherent principle of Contraction and Convergence."

<http://www.qualityoflifechallenge.com/documents/fullreport-1.pdf>

There is no shortage of plausible frameworks for a long term global deal on the table, not least the intellectually and morally coherent principle of Contraction and Convergence. However their champions underestimate the need first to get the politics right if we are to get a sustainable agreement.

The scale of ambition and equity that is required will not make an effective agreement easy and only incrementalism can deliver. The ideal will be the enemy of the good if it delays us from getting agreement on what really counts now.

Statesman/Scotsman - Merkel; C&C Mr Benn? Aubrey Meyer

Sep 20, 2007 08:42 PDT

New Statesman - Merkel, C&C Mr Benn?

<http://www.newstatesman.com/200709200027>

Scotsman - Call for urgent action to cut emissions

<http://news.scotsman.com/scitech.cfm?id=1498202007>

New Statesman - Mark Lynas

"Britain's policy on global warming remains mired in confusion, with too much debate and too little action. But there is a solution ...

When the most powerful woman on the planet speaks, it's a good idea to listen. Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, who recently knocked Condoleezza Rice off Forbes's top spot for powerful women, suggested an innovative solution to climate change late last month. Speaking in the Japanese city of Kyoto, where the 1997 protocol was signed, the German chancellor proposed an equal-rights framework for carbon emissions, where each country would get emissions entitlements assigned on the basis of its population.

The UK's Environment Secretary, Hilary Benn, shows no sign of having heard Merkel's words.

The idea that a global deal to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions must involve a convergence to equal per-capita allocations is not new: it is textbook "contraction and convergence" (C&C) - a climate policy framework first advanced by Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute more than a decade ago, and subsequently supported by numerous influential people, from the Indian prime minister to the Archbishop of Canterbury. As Merkel pointed out, only C&C offers a fair basis for bringing developing countries such as India and China into a future post-Kyoto emissions framework. Yvo de Boer, the UN's top climate-change official, believes the plan to be the "only equitable, ultimate solution".

We have only eight years to go before the UN's target date when greenhouse gases must start to decline if we are to have a realistic chance of limiting eventual global warming to 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels (as the EU, among many others, demands). Yet Britain's climate policy remains mired in confusion.

Gordon Brown and Hilary Benn have inherited Blair's old target of a 60 per cent reduction by 2050, but the truth is that, under an equitable framework such as C&C, Britain would need an 85 per cent cut because of our relatively small population and high emissions. This is a simple piece of mathematics that government ministers show no sign of having considered.

At this year's Labour party conference, with policy proposals flying around for every issue under the sun, this is perhaps the most important. If Brown's government were to join Germany, India and most African countries in proposing a C&C framework to supersede Kyoto when its first phase expires in 2012, the world would have taken its biggest step forward since the Climate Change Convention was first agreed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, way back in 1992.

Brown talks of equity as one of his guiding moral principles, and global warming provides a chance like no other. Equity is not just desirable, but essential if climatic equilibrium is to be maintained.

To their credit, the Liberal Democrats have already recognised this. Their Zero Carbon Britain policy document, released to media indifference last month, explicitly puts C&C at the heart of government policy - recognising that without setting a global framework for calculating Britain's fair share of a worldwide emissions budget, any UK target is meaningless.

Even without a clear long-term target, some very big decisions are looming that will have consequences for decades - and, indeed, centuries - to come. First, Gordon Brown needs to make it clear to the electricity industry that the era of coal as a fuel source for power generation is over. It is insane that, while we lecture others at international gatherings about their need to go low-carbon, a single British power station (Drax in Yorkshire) is allowed to continue emitting more CO₂ from a single chimney than at least 100 countries.

Worse, the government seems poised to agree to a new round of coal-fired power generation: RWE npower is proposing to spend £1bn on building a coal-burning plant at Tilbury in Essex, while E.ON UK (which owns Powergen) wants to replace its ageing Kingsnorth plant in Kent with

two new 800-megawatt coal-burning units. Other power companies are watching closely, ready to advance plans for yet more new coal plants. Never mind the bitter row over nuclear power: the government's decision on whether to allow this new coal rush is far more significant in terms of Britain's impact on climate change.

Blue-sky thinking

With dirty power plants on the horizon, the clean energy revolution looks stalled. Onshore wind-farms are held up by Land Rover-driving nimbies worried about their postcard views; offshore wind investment is languishing because of a lack of government incentives. The Renewables Obligation scheme is complex and gives little long-term certainty and most experts now agree it should be replaced by a feed-in tariff system as used in Germany and Spain.

Tellingly, both these countries have surged ahead with renewable power in recent years. For small generators, government policy has been little short of disastrous: the poorly funded Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) has succeeded so far only in putting off prospective householders and driving solar companies into bankruptcy. Here, too, a feed-in law could help, by guaranteeing a high long-term return on investment for anyone who decides to make the leap of investing in rooftop solar arrays or other microgeneration technologies.

Every mile of M1 widening soaks up the same amount of government money as the entire LCBP, as I have written before. Yet this hosing of public funds at hugely polluting motorways may be about to get worse: the government is considering awarding a £3bn contract - the largest ever - for widening the M6 between Birmingham and Manchester. This appalling waste of money can still be stopped, and we should look to this decision as a true indication of whether Labour intends to get serious about global warming.

The long-awaited Climate Bill is supposed to straighten out these contradictions by setting a national budget for carbon emissions and then forcing the government to make us all stick to it. Whether this is done by ramping up carbon taxes or by bringing in personal carbon allowances, the government is going to have to take measures at some stage to discourage excessive carbon consumption at the individual level.

The Climate Bill as proposed also contains a loophole - one big enough to fly a jet airliner through. By exempting aviation from our national carbon budget, the government will allow millions more tonnes of carbon to leak into the atmosphere, negating efforts in other sectors of the economy. International negotiations will be key to closing this loophole but, in the meantime, Brown could send a clear sign of the changing times by putting the brakes on airport expansion. This is where true climate policy is made - in tarmac and hard cash, not green papers and white lies."

Sctosman

POLLUTION in Scotland rose last year, despite efforts to tackle global warming.

At a conference in Edinburgh yesterday, Stewart Stevenson, the climate change minister, highlighted a fall in carbon emissions of 12.5 per cent since 1990, almost double the UK average of 6.4 per cent. However, this reduction was largely due to Scotland's de-industrialisation and the closure of big polluters, such as the former steelworks at Ravenscraig.

Annual figures on carbon emissions show only a 1.6 per cent decrease in 2005, but they predict that emissions will rise in 2006. Duncan McLaren, chief executive of Friends of the Earth, said people "should not believe the hype" about falling emissions. He continued: "The bulk of the emissions cuts since 1990 are not down to the action of any government, but can be attributed to the closure of places like Ravenscraig."

The Scottish Government is due to start consulting on a Climate Change Bill by the end of the year. The legislation will call for an 80 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050 and introduce mandatory annual reports on meeting the target.

Despite the Scottish National Party's pre-election promises to reduce carbon emissions by 3 per cent annually, the Scottish Government is not in favour of annual targets as the figure can fluctuate between years according to the weather. Instead, it is considering a five-year target of a 15 per cent cut.

But Mr McLaren said it is essential that the new legislation brings in an annual target. "With emissions looking like they will rise, it is critical that the forthcoming legislation on climate commits Scotland to annual cut of no less than 3 per cent. Every time we fail to make the required pollution cuts, it becomes much harder to meet the target the next time. If anything, we probably need to be making the biggest cuts as early as we can.

"If Scotland is to play its part in tackling climate change, it needs to be cutting emissions by at least 3 per cent every year. Sadly, emissions are falling by only half the required amount."

Patrick Harvie, the Green Party MSP, said the Scottish Government must take "urgent action" to tackle climate change.

"We need deeper cuts [in emissions] now," he said. "Because it was only down 1.6 per cent in 2005, and on the rise, then we need to make a greater than 3 per cent decrease this year. That means there are major question marks over projects that will increase carbon emissions, such as the Aberdeen bypass, the M74 extension and the expansion of airports."

Mr Stevenson said the Scottish Government was working towards reducing climate change.

"We all need to make efforts to cut energy and water use, reduce waste and reduce travel emissions," he said.

"For our part, the government will invest in public transport infrastructure and support actions to develop green and renewable energy technologies."

CLIMATE EXPERT CRITICAL OF SNP

A WORLD-renowned expert has claimed the SNP has gone back on a pre-election pledge on tackling climate change.

Aubrey Meyer is the founder of the Global Commons Institute which proposed the "contraction and convergence" (C&C) method to tackle global greenhouse emissions.

It suggests that all countries must act together to set a limit on emissions and then calculate the amount of pollution each country should be allowed based on its population.

He said before the election, the SNP "explicitly" supported C&C in its manifesto and accepted the support of the Green Party to form a government in return for making climate change an important part of its agenda.

"They [the SNP] said 'we are happy to do that and by the way we already support contraction and convergence'. But when it came for the SNP to make its statement [on climate change], the minister, John Swinney, made no reference whatsoever to C&C."

Mr Meyer, who yesterday addressed a seminar at the Findhorn Foundation eco-village in Moray, added: "I imagine that now they are the government and they are looking at the enormous challenge of all of this, they are realising that you have to change a huge amount of infrastructure, ways of living and so on. It is not going to be easy."

A Holyrood spokesman said: "Contraction and convergence is a concept which would set a long-term international framework for regulating greenhouse gas emissions. In line with the objective of contraction and convergence, the Scottish Government is committed to playing its part to avoid dangerous climate change."

Ch4 News 19.00 Met Office/GCI on +feedback Aubrey Meyer

Sep 27, 2007 09:59 PDT

Tonight on UK Channel 4 News at 19.00 hrs, there is a news story about climate change and positive feedback. It comes on the heels of the Hadley Centre publishing this report "Informing Government Policy into the Future."

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Channel_Four.pdf

Vicky Pope, described as the Head of Climate Policy for Government, is being questioned about new model results in the light of the Hadley Centre having just attracted the greater part of £20 million to conduct further research in this area. Central to the report is the question: - "Can we

avoid Dangerous Climate Change” which is accompanied by this graphic on the left.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Channel_Four.pdf

It shows the need to zero all ghg emissions globally by 2060 if the 2 degrees Celsius overall global temperature rise is not to be exceeded. [!] This comes on the heels of the IPCC 4th Science Assessment published

at the beginning of the years in which results from ‘coupled climate models’ were published for the first time. These we buried in Chapter 10 and are the graphs on the left hand side.

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Channel_Four.pdf

I unpacked these to look like the graphic above, [which result IPCC TSU confirmed as correct] and the relevant parts are summarised in the graphic on the right [discussion overleaf].

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Channel_Four.pdf

The need for zeroing all ghg emissions globally by 2050/60 is clearly demonstrated in the Hadley model.

Channel 4’s question is how does this square with the aspiration to merely halve emissions globally by 2050? This is the figure now bandied at the UN and supported by the UK Government. It makes a nonsense of the bill for starters [see over].

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Channel_Four.pdf

Hilary Benn has be asked to respond.

Will he?

C&C - RIBA Fellow & PLUTO Press Aubrey Meyer

Oct 09, 2007 05:01 PDT

Today, 9th September 2007, Aubrey Meyer was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects [RIBA] -

“For his challenging and inspirational promotion of environmental issues, in particular his development of the concept of Contraction and Convergence.”

<http://www.architecture.com/Awards/RIBAHonoraryFellowships/RIBAHonoraryFellowships.aspx>

This coincides with the publication of “Surviving Climate Change” by Pluto Press where Contraction and Convergence (C&C) is adopted as the central strategy in this collection of critical essays.

<https://www.plutobooks.com/cgi-local/nplutobrows.pl?chkisbn=9780745325675&main=&second=&third=>

RIBA’s citation reads: - “Aubrey Meyer is Director of the think-tank Global Commons Institute (GCI). He is chief architect of a strategic global framework for the management of the greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change called ‘Contraction and Convergence’ (C&C).

With C&C, he has made an extraordinary impact on negotiations at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) where it has been cited as, ‘inevitably required to achieve the Convention’s objective’.

C&C is now cited as one of the most important principles governing international relations. It is widely recognised as the basis for a global agreement that will unite developed and developing countries in common cause against climate change.

In 1998 Meyer won the Andrew Lees Memorial Award, in 2000 the Schumacher Award, and in 2005 a City of London Lifetime’s Achievement award. In a recent edition of the New Statesman, he was listed as one of the ten people in the world most likely to affect climate change. He was an inspirational speaker at the RIBA’s 2006 Annual Conference in Venice.” The PLUTO Press flyer for “Surviving Climate Change” readsWorld’s leading climate campaigners offer practical solutions; “An insightful and inspiring collection from some of the foremost thinkers on climate change. Not to be missed.”

Mark Lynas, author of High Tide (Flamingo/HarperCollins, 2004).

"A visionary and hopeful book -- an essential survival guide in turbulent times." Caroline Lucas, Green Party MEP for South East England Climate change is a pressing reality. From hurricane Katrina to melting polar ice, and from mass extinctions to increased threats to food and water security, the link between corporate globalisation and planetary blowback is becoming all too evident.

Governments and business keep reassuring the public they are going to fix the problem. This book brings together some leading activists who disagree. They expose the inertia, denial, deception -- even threats to our civil liberties -- which comprise mainstream responses from civil and military policy makers, and from opinion formers in the media, corporations and academia.

An epochal change is called for in the way we all engage with the climate crisis. Key to that change is Aubrey Meyer's proposed 'Contraction and Convergence' framework for limiting global carbon emissions. This book, which also includes contributions by Mayer Hillman and George Marshall, is a powerful and vital guide to how mass mobilisation can avert the looming catastrophe.

David Cromwell is the author of *Private Planet* (2001) and is co-author, with David Edwards, of *Guardians of Power* (2006). He is a researcher at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, and the co-founder of the Crisis Forum with Mark Levene.

Mark Levene is an environmental activist and a historian at the University of Southampton. He is the author of *Genocide in the Age of the Nation-State* (2005). He is also founder of *Rescue!History*, a network seeking to understand the historical origins of climate change.

Preface

Introduction: Survival Means Renewal, Mark Levene and David Cromwell -

Both University of Southampton

Part I The Big Picture

1. The Case for Contraction and Convergence, Aubrey Meyer

Part II The State and its Apparatus

2. Thinking the Worst: The Pentagon Report, Dave Webb - Leeds Metropolitan University

3. Preparing for Mass Refugee Flows: The Corporate Military Sector, Steve Wright - Leeds Metropolitan University

4. Britain, Political Process and the Consequences for Government Action on Climate Change, James Humphreys

Part III Critical Players

5. First they Blocked, Now do they Bluff? Corporations respond to Climate Change, Melanie Jarman

6. Mostly Missing the Point: Business Responses to Climate Change, David Ballard - University of Bath

7. The Mass Media, Climate Change and how things might be, John Theobald and Marianne McKiggan

8. Having the Information but what do you then do with it? The Scientific and Academic Communities, Jonathan Ward - University of Bristol

9. Asleep on their Watch: Where were the NGOs?, George Marshall

Part IV The Challenge Ahead

10. Clearing the Pathways to Transformation, Susan Ballard and David Ballard

11. Averting Climate Change: By Force, Persuasion or Enlightened Self-Interest Jim Scott

Afterword: Where Do We Go From Here? Mayer Hillman - Policy Studies Institute, London

Appendix 1: A Layperson's Glossary of the Global Politics of Climate Change, Tim Helweg-Larsen (Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynelleth, Wales) and Jo Abbess

Appendix 2: Climate Change campaigns and other relevant links

Notes on Contributors

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Forum for the Study of Crisis in the 21st Century

MPs Champion C&C - no.gov blocks . . . Aubrey Meyer

Oct 28, 2007 09:45 PST

EDM 2186 and further to the debate around C&C in the House of Commons MPs try measured face down with Government over C&C.

Please ask your MP to support this EDM

EDM 2186 - UNEP FOURTH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK REPORT

http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf

Colin Challen MP

That this House welcomes the publication of the UN Environment Programme 4th Global Environment Outlook report; notes that the report provides alarming evidence of the further degradation of the planet's sustainability, that this degradation threatens the lives and living standards of hundreds of millions of people, that the report is yet another step in a long process which has failed to produce an international framework designed to deal with climate change faster than the problem is being created, and that the Government has often referred to its study of such frameworks, without conclusion; and now calls on the Government to end this indeterminate process and publish, for public debate, its preferred option for a future framework to deal with climate change.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=34074&SESSION=885>

Westminster Hall

Thursday 25 October 2007

Ann Winterton in the Chair

Emissions Trading

Relevant documents: The Second Report from the Environmental Audit Committee, Session 2006-07, The EU Emissions Trading Scheme: Lessons for the Future, HC 70, and the Eighth Report from the Committee, Session 2006-07, Emissions Trading: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report, HC 1072.

Motion made, and Question proposed, that the sitting be now adjourned—[Mr. Watson.]

C&C Selections of debate follow below . . . full debate below at link:

www.gci.org.uk/UKParliament/EDM2186_and_more_C&C_debate_in_HoC.pdf

C&C Selections here: -

Yeo - Conservative

"In the end, the fairest solution must be based on contraction and convergence, as that would even out the amount of greenhouse gas emission for which different countries and individuals are responsible. Of course, it would be difficult to agree a basis and timetable for working towards a system of contraction and convergence, but the present situation, whereby per capita emissions are 100 times greater in a rich country, such as America, than a poor one, such as Tanzania, is unsustainable. Progress towards contraction and convergence could be facilitated by more international emissions trading. Unlike the alternative measures, such as carbon taxes, whose impact is essentially regressive on those who pay them, emissions trading offers a tool for tackling climate change whose impact is basically progressive."

Challen - Labour

"Does the hon. Gentleman agree that plans for contraction and convergence, or indeed any other framework that the Government have in mind for tackling climate change, should be published, so that we can have a proper public debate about the framework that the UK wants to develop from Bali and become the successor to Kyoto?"

Caton - Labour

I applaud the Government's intention that the EU emissions trading scheme should evolve and

emerge with other schemes, so that a global scheme is established. Like the Committee Chairman and the hon. Member for Morley and Rothwell (Colin Challen), however, I believe that if there is to be any chance of reaching an effective, one-planet approach to the threat of climate change, we need to move as fast as possible to something along the lines of the contraction and convergence model and to gain support for that from around the world. Under that model, emission budgets should be allocated to every nation and progressively amended until rich and poor countries—developed and developing countries—arrive at an equal per capita budget based on an agreed stabilisation level. In developing the ETS, we need to ensure that it facilitates, rather than impedes, progress to such an approach.

Joan Ruddock - Labour

I am not the Minister responsible for that, so I would have to check, but I understand that we have changed schemes rather than cut them. If we end one scheme, we may introduce something better—something that will go further. I will happily write to the hon. Gentleman on the matter.

The hon. Member for Morley and Rothwell spoke of contraction and convergence, as did my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, West (Mr. Bailey) in an intervention. There is currently no international consensus on that approach. We believe that it could be a way forward and certainly merits attention, but other options are more favourable.

[My comment - in fifteen years they have *never* spelled these option out . . . ! Hence the EDM . . .

Yeo

On contraction and convergence, the hon. Member for Morley and Rothwell (Colin Challen) will be as disappointed as I was by what the Minister said about there being no international consensus. Of course there is no international consensus. That is exactly the situation in which I want the British Government to give a lead. They should get out there and start selling that concept to ensure that the post-Kyoto conclusion at least acknowledges—we are not going to get there in 10 years—that as the long-term goal. That is the only fair way, in 30 or 40 years, for the world to distribute the burden of dealing with climate change. The Government have a great opportunity. As I have said, they have shown leadership, particularly under the previous Prime Minister, as did the Government under Margaret Thatcher. That has exercised a great influence on the world's view of these matters, and there is a great opportunity to do the same thing with contraction and convergence.

The FULL DEBATE at: -

www.gci.org.uk/UKParliament/EDM2186_and_more_C&C_debate_in_HoC.pdf

UK Gov. "would now support C&C" ? Aubrey Meyer

Oct 29, 2007 08:17 PST

Today the UK Government published its response to the exacting commentary on the UK 'Climate Bill' by the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee [EAC].

Government said they "would support C&C" . . . ?

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm72/7225/7225.pdf>

EAC said: -

18. Above all, the Government must draw attention, at home and abroad, not just to percentage targets for the annual emissions in a certain year, but even more to the absolutely crucial issue of the cumulative total budget of greenhouse gases that the world can afford to emit by 2050 if it is to have a reasonable chance of holding global warming to 2oC. (Paragraph 71)

19. In terms of the way in which this cumulative global budget is divided up among individual nations, we recommend that the Government explicitly endorses, and promotes internationally, the Contraction and Convergence method, or a method similar to it. (Paragraph 72)

The Government said: -

"We note the points made in recommendations 18 and 19. The UK Government would support an

allocation method or combination of methods that could achieve global acceptability, be recognised as fair by all parties and had sufficient flexibility to be able to take into national circumstances, e.g. energy mix and availability of natural resources, climatic conditions.”

The Minister [Benn] fronts the climate-bill in the media saying, “it all comes from the Royal Commission” [2000] which [he appears to have overlooked] strongly advocated C&C.

19 years ago . . . [we were only at 350 ppmv CO2]

Yesterday . . . [we are at 384 and rising fast]

Germany, India - C&C Axis of Equity Aubrey Meyer

Oct 30, 2007 21:48 PST

Merkel and Singh take centre stage in India with C&C.

“ . . . the world must come together on climate change by 2012 . . . just development in the world is only possible if every person on the planet is allowed to produce the same amount of emissions.”

With diplomatic finesse and an eye on the investment opportunities, Germany and India are creating a global axis of equity and survival with C&C.

Mrs Merkel has clearly charmed the Indians and this is becoming a really special relationship.

http://www.bundestkanzlerin.de/nn_127772/Content/EN/Artikel/2007/10/2007-10-30-merkel-in-indien-neu-delhi__en.html

But can they do enough soon enough and will Britain support this?

http://news.monstersandcritics.com/europe/news/article_1369779.php/Merkel_says_world_must_come_together_on_climate_change__3rd_Lead_

Oct 30, 2007, 11:06 GMT

New Delhi - German Chancellor Angela Merkel called Tuesday for industrialized, newly industrializing and developing nations to come to a fair climate-protection treaty while on a visit to India.

‘We should demonstrate together that we have the will to conclude an agreement that will apply after 2012,’ she said at a business forum.

The Kyoto Protocol, which requires the developed countries that ratified it to reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions, expires in 2012.

The chancellor spoke in New Delhi, whose government has been among the newly industrializing nations to balk at emission cuts, arguing that long-time industrialized countries, who have produced the bulk of greenhouse gases, bear a much larger burden in preventing climate change.

She said that how the new treaty addresses what burden developed and developing nations would have in reducing the emissions that cause global warming is of utmost importance. In the long-term, she said, just development in the world would only be possible if every person on the planet is allowed to produce the same amount of emissions.

‘But we must find a reasonable path to come to this result,’ said Merkel, who is on her first visit to India since becoming chancellor in 2005.

Such discussions would include technology transfers, improvements in energy efficiency and prevention of mistakes made by industrialized countries in the past, she said.

The chancellor said India with its 1.1 billion people belongs to those countries with a very small per-capita output of greenhouse gases, but she added that when its total output was considered, its production was far from negligible.

Merkel, who is on a four-day visit to India, said earlier that she hoped her trip would enhance strategic relations in the areas of science, business and political cooperation.

Merkel was scheduled to meet Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh later in the day. The two leaders were expected to cover a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues, including climate change, United Nations reforms, energy security and international trade negotiations.

The meeting will be followed by the signing of several agreements on defence cooperation, science and technology, and intellectual property rights, Indian diplomatic officials said.

Merkel's day began with a ceremonial welcome at the presidential palace in New Delhi with a full guard of honour.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, the Indian premier said he saw a global leadership role for the German chancellor in an increasingly unified world. 'In the German chancellor, we have a great statesman, a world statesman and a great friend of our country,' Singh said.

After the ceremony, Merkel visited the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, apostle of peace and leader of India's freedom movement, where she laid a wreath.

Merkel and Singh then flagged off a mobile science exhibition on a train that has been jointly developed by the governments of the two countries in partnership with private enterprises.

The train was scheduled to visit 57 stations, some in remote parts of the country, over the next few months, to popularize science among young Indians.

Merkel, who is a scientist, said in a world of 6 billion people that was growing by the day, she believed good use had to be made of all that science had to offer to ensure people lived without poverty, with prosperity and without destroying the planet.

Merkel was accompanied by German Education and Research Minister Annette Schavan and a 30-member delegation of top business leaders representing companies like European aircraft manufacturer Airbus, conglomerate Siemens, rail operator Deutsche Bahn and reinsurer Munich Re.

Trade and investment is a special focus area of her visit, and Merkel spent the afternoon interacting with Indian business leaders at a luncheon organized by Indian chambers of commerce and industry.

Addressing the gathering, Merkel said Indian investors would be sincerely welcomed in Germany and requested India ease trade barriers for German business and investment.

German firms are keen on a share of the 360 billion euros (511 billion dollars) that India plans to invest in infrastructure and other projects in the next five years. Besides infrastructure, sectors like science and technology, energy, research and development and information technology are the areas German firms are looking at.

Bilateral trade passed the 10-billion-euro (14-billion-dollar) mark in 2006, and Germany is the seventh-largest investor in India with a total inflow of 1.9 billion dollars from 1991 to June this year.

On Wednesday, Merkel is to head to Mumbai to take part in a meeting of German and Indian company heads and address a conference on urbanization in developing countries.

Merkel would use the final day of her trip on Thursday to view a social welfare project and meet civic groups for a discussion on India's caste system and minority rights.

Germany ready for close energy ties with India

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/000200710301968.htm>

The Hindu - New Delhi (PTI): Germany on Tuesday said it is willing to cooperate with India "very closely" in the energy sector and asked New Delhi to take a long-term view while negotiating emission reduction obligations in any global climate deal.

"In the area of energy we have to cooperate very closely ...and efforts will be made to give priority to renewable energy," Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel said addressing industry leaders here.

Merkel said India-Germany cooperation would not be narrow but broad-based. "India will be our strategic partner and we wish to enhance this relationship," she said at the jointly organised CII-FICCI-ASSOCHAM meeting.

In the area of climate change, Merkel said India should take a long-term view in international cooperation. "India's per capita emission is at the bottom of the pyramid but we have to think of future," she said.

She said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told her that in the long-term a fair solution was possi-

ble if each individual was given his or her share of emission.

She said enhancing business has to be given the top priority in the strategic partnership. Germany-India bilateral trade has crossed 10 billion euro in 2006, meeting the target four years in advance.

Merkel said while auto giant Volkswagen is enlarging its plants in India, Airbus has made "excellent offers" both for the civilian and defence aircraft.

Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath said if the EU was willing to set a pace for completing the India-EU trade and investment agreement, New Delhi would speed up the talks.

Responding to Nath's complaints about delay in EU ratifying talks on the agreement, Merkel said "if India's states have to ratify, it would take longer".

Nobels et al back C&C Aubrey Meyer

Oct 30, 2007 23:05 PST

Full Statement of Nobel Laureates

Sponsored by Potsdam and WWF

[See below]

Corporate Watchdog Radio US

Interview George Monbiot about C&C

http://corporatewatchdogmedia.blogspot.com/2007_10_01_archive.html

Potsdam Memo for Bali

<http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Potsdam.pdf>

Climate Stabilization in a post-2012 regime requires various elements

- Global target such as the 2°C-limit for planetary warming relative to pre-industrial levels or the (largely equivalent) halving of worldwide greenhouse emissions by 2050. It is useful to view those emissions as the product of two crucial factors, namely per capita emissions times population. Both of these must be appropriately addressed to attain the long-term stabilization target.
- Series of consistent short and medium-term emissions reduction targets, essential to drive investment and technology and to minimize the need for greater action later.
- Leadership role of industrialized countries, both regarding drastic emissions reductions and development of low/no-carbon technologies in order to give poor developing countries room for urgently needed economic growth within the boundaries of a global carbon regime.
- Principle of carbon justice, i.e. striving for a long-term convergence to equal-per-capita emissions rights accomplished through a medium-term multi-stage approach accounting for differentiated national capacities.
- Carbon price, as generated, for instance, through an international cap-and-trade system (of systems) based on auctioning permits.
- Establishment of a powerful worldwide process supporting climate-friendly innovation and cooperation, combined with increased funding for RD&D including basic research, to facilitate technology transfer and proliferation.
- Major contributions to a multinational funding system for enhancing adaptive capacities.
- Scaled-up efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and accelerate ecologically appropriate reforestation, achievable through the creation of new incentives for communities and countries to preserve and even increase their forests.
- Reductions of non-CO2 greenhouse gas emissions.

Participants

Nobel Laureates

Prof. Zhores Alferov (Nobel Prize in Physics 2000), Russian Academy of Sciences & Foundation Alferov, Russia

Prof. Murray Gell-Mann (Nobel Prize in Physics 1969), Santa Fe Institute
Prof. David Gross (Nobel Prize in Physics 2004), University of California, Santa Barbara
Prof. Theodor Hänsch (Nobel Prize in Physics 2005), Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich
Prof. Alan Heeger (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2000), University of California, Santa Barbara
Prof. Sir Antony Hewish (Nobel Prize in Physics 1974), University of Cambridge
Prof. Klaus von Klitzing (Nobel Prize in Physics 1985), Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research, Stuttgart
Prof. Walter Kohn (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1998), University of California, Santa Barbara
Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai (Nobel Prize in Peace 2004), Green Belt Movement
Prof. Rudolph Marcus (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1992), California Institute of Technology, Pasadena
Prof. Sir James Mirrlees (Nobel Prize in Economics 1996), University of Cambridge and Chinese University, Hong Kong
Prof. Mario Molina (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1995), University of California, San Diego (revised)
Prof. Carlo Rubbia (Nobel Prize in Physics 1984), CERN, Geneva
Prof. Amartya Sen (Nobel Prize in Economics 1998), Harvard University
Prof. Sir John Sulston (Nobel Prize in Physiology/ Medicine 2002), Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge

Contributors

Dr. Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor
Matthias Platzeck, Minister President of Brandenburg
Sigmar Gabriel, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Dr. Annette Schavan, Federal Minister for Education and Research
Prof. Johanna Wanka, Minister for Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg
Prof. Frieder Meyer-Krahmer, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Prof. Markus Antonietti, Director, Max Planck Institute for Colloid and Boundary Layer Research, Potsdam
Prof. Carlo Carraro, Chairman, Department of Economics, University "Ca' Foscari" of Venice
Dr. Peter Frey, editor in chief, Berlin studios of ZDF German television
Prof. Mohamed Hassan, President, African Academy of Sciences and Executive Director, Academy of Sciences for the Developing World/ TWAS, Trieste
Barbara Hendricks, opera singer, Honorary Ambassador For Life for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Founder of the Barbara Hendricks Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation
Prof. Sir Brian Hoskins, Former Head of the Meteorological Department, University of Reading
Prof. Daniel Kammen, Director, Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory (RAEL), University of California, Berkeley
Prof. Paul Klemperer, Edgeworth Professor of Economics, Oxford University
Jim Leape, Director General, World Wide Fund for Nature, Gland
Prof. Diana Liverman, Director of Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute
Prof. Joachim Luther, Former Director of Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE), Advisor to the German Government on research and innovation
Ian McEwan, English novelist and Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Prof. Volker ter Meulen, Professor Emeritus, Institute for Virology and Immunology, University Würzburg; President of the German Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, Halle/Saale
Prof. Jürgen Mlynek, President, German Helmholtz Association, Berlin
Prof. Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Professor of Energy Economics at Vienna University of Technology

Dr. Sunita Narain, Director, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi
Prof. Michael Oppenheimer, Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs in the Woodrow Wilson School and the Department of Geosciences at Princeton University
Prof. Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change); Director General, TERI, New Delhi
Prof. Kirit Parikh, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi; Professor Emeritus and Founding Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai
Prof. George Poste, Director, The Biodesign Institute, Arizona State University
Ambassador William C. Ramsay, Deputy Executive Director, International Energy Agency, Paris
Prof. Johan Rockström, Director, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
Dr. Karsten Sach, Director, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Berlin
Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Nairobi
Prof. Matthias Steinmetz, Director, Astrophysical Institute Potsdam (AIP)
Prof. Sir Nicholas Stern, IG Patel Professor and Director, India Observatory and Asia Research Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science
Prof. Klaus Töpfer, Former Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi
Prof. Robert Watson, Chief Scientist and Director for Sustainable Development at the World Bank
Prof. Carl Christian von Weizsäcker, Director emeritus of the Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne; Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn
Prof. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Dean, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara
Prof. Geoffrey West, President, Santa Fe Institute
Anders Wijkman, Member of the European Parliament; Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science
Convenor

Prof. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK); Chief Climate Advisor to the German Government

C&C - Vote Colin Challen MP Aubrey Meyer

Nov 02, 2007 09:19 PST

Vote for Colin Challen [see below].

The UK Government has now responded to all the 2,608 C&C 'petitioners' on the Prime Minister's website.

Lame Duck welcomes Dame Luck.

It is as if the Government's deconstructionist Titanic is hustling the Mafia's ice-berg with a deal that no-one can understand, for a crap game in Water World.

C&C Petition and response are here: -

<http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page13691.asp#content>

They are trying now but this is is not a proportionate response. It is "water-wings and 'events dear boy' "

Some candid well-aimed blog comments on this are here: -

<http://www.smokewriting.co.uk/2007/11/02/contraction-and-convergence-update/>

<http://www.smokewriting.co.uk/2007/02/09/the-climate-of-justice/>

A cold-bath assessment of the crap game versus the proportionate response is here - hi-profile

readership one-pff for UNEP: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/proportionate_response.pdf

Acknowledging that the Government is in chaos, even John Ashton of the FCO now says that zero emissions globally by 2050 is - not an 'aspiration', not an 'ambition', its an *imperative*.

This is a change of tone, but he also says, you *don't need* a: -

1. C&C framework, ["it's a graph Aubrey!" – but check the cold bath];
2. 'carbon-price' [eat your heart out Porritt's Jonathon bin Lah-de-dahden, who just rants as he flogs capitalism to life and C&C/Mayer Hillman to death at the RSA; ["bollocks, bollocks, bollocks Mayer" - <http://www.thersa.org/events/textdetail.asp?ReadID=1180>]
3. Alasdair Darling [he's Satan incarnate with more airports and more power]

John ashton says what we *do need" is Climate Capital and James Cameron [!] now working with him at the FCO with Justin Mundy and Tom Burke and who is nominated by the Daily Telegraph for Morgan Stanley's "Great Briton of the year".

Please do vote for who you like here: - <http://www.greatbritons.org/>

Along with Nick Stern, Jonathon Porritt and Hilary Benn, I am one of the judges. I ask you to vote for Colin Challen MP. I will and everyone voting for him will strengthen my hand when the judges vote for a short-list.

World reaches me that the Stop Climate Chaos board is now in chaos and has creatively having an identity crisis. They are desperately seeking some big unifying "totemic" idea to bind the movement . . . "the Future is C&C" . . . [I can hear it now].

Picking up on this, SIMPOL are shortly holding a public crisis meeting.

They say: -

"Something is deeply wrong with our movement's strategy - meanwhile the planet burns. Isn't it time we admitted this failure and discussed it openly and honestly?

If you're fed up with hearing only about global problems and want to hear about and work on practical and coherent solutions, be they local, national or global, then this forum is for you!"

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/SIMPOL_Strategy_Conference.pdf

Please come. The future is C&C.

C&C News Aubrey Meyer

Nov 07, 2007 10:40 PST

C&C News

- 1 DEFRA
- 2 Australian Election
- 3 German TV
- 4 European Economic and Social Committee
- 5 IPPNW/Lancet
- 6 Medesin
- 7 IPPR WWF RSPB
- 8 UK Greens
- 9 Public events

DEFRA Ministers ask for C&C presentation: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Benn_to_GCI.pdf

5-Star C&C campaign opens in Australian Election

Climate Change Coalition: - the 5 Star Approach to Climate Change

"The ineffectual fumbling, bumbling and stumbling from Labor and Liberals to a post Kyoto global agreement could be assisted by a 5 Star Rating opportunity to lead the world towards hope and potential solutions", said Colin Endean, lead Senate candidate in South Australia today[05 11 2007].

"Contraction & Convergence provides a framework towards 5 Star GHGEmissions negotiations.
<http://www.gci.org.uk>

The Climate Change Coalition endorses this 5 Star approach. The desired outcome will be an agreement globally by all nations to avert the Climate Crisis. We will get there only with the most far reaching, visionary and effective negotiations ever undertaken.

This is a shrewd initiative - read on here: -

<http://climatechangecoalition.com.au/news/item-view/article/climate-change-coalition-5-star-approach-to-climate-change.html>

It coincides with German TV interviews with GCI here for a read on Mrs Merkel's equally shrewd advocacy of C&C – [broadcast 22 11 2007].

With reference to climate change, the European Economic and Social

Committee has issued a communication for the European Commission over the management and the allocation of the world's common resources.

[excerpt].

"Attention starts with the need to stabilize to a long term frame greenhouse gas emissions on a "safe level" through the total of greenhouse gas emissions gradually being brought down and in which every country gets a particular quantity of emissions rights through convergence so at the end of an agreed period, the rights are equal per capita.

This approach is known as "Contraction and Convergence" and is already very widely discussed. This model can take account of population growth, industrial capacity, globalization and the demand that an honest and practical redistribution takes place from the divided resource that the global atmosphere is." [translation from Dutch]

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/nl/oj/2007/c_256/c_25620071027nl00760085.pdf

IPPNW – International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War Interview with Paediatrician Alex Rosen on IPPNW hopes for Bali.

"Contraction and convergence is an ingenious way to go about two problems facing this planet: ensuring the development of sustainable sources of energy and creating level playing fields between the countries of the world. While this concept might seem idealistic and not realizable at the moment, we will not shy away from it. A hundred years ago, a supranational organization like the UN seemed just as unrealistic, yet still it was founded - because of the pressure caused by humanity's grave mistakes."

"In the coming years, humanity will once again edge closer to destroying this planet - this time by making its climate uninhabitable. Anyone who thinks that climate change is a realistic scenario should also consider the C&C proposal as a realistic solution. At our recent Board meeting in London, we agreed to advocate C&C and look for ways in which IPPNW can further the cause of this idea, especially leading up to the climate summit in Bali this December."

"Our concrete hope is for the world's polluter countries, including Europe, the US, China, India and Russia, to sign up to an international binding agreement. We hope that the agreement will be made to reduce greenhouse gas emission and develop of mechanisms of C&C, which would create a unique system of pollution control, while at the same time addressing the issue of global equality and fairness amongst the peoples of the world. "

<http://www.thelancetstudent.com/2007/11/07/the-international-physicians-for-the-prevention-of-nuclear-war-view-on-climate-change/>

Medsin Campaigns on Climate Change

Written by Jennifer Riches

The theme of this year's National Conference was 'Population and Health', organised by Medsin Dundee. One of the plenary titles addressed the important issues of Food and Environment and highlighted the need for individuals and communities to take action to stop climate change and minimise its impact on developing countries.

Medsin members signed a giant banner reading 'Don't let our carbon footprint trample on health' with their footprints and participated in a group photo to:

Call on governments of the world to

1 put in place a global framework such as the Global Commons Institute's Contraction and Convergence to cap the emissions of greenhouse gases such that their atmospheric concentration does not rise above 450 ppm CO₂

2 transfer resources to the poorest populations of the world so that they can adapt to the climate impacts that are now unavoidable as a result of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and can meet their development needs, including population stabilisation, without further contributing to adverse health and environmental impacts at a local and global level.

3 Call on individual health professionals to measure and reduce their own carbon footprint and to push for health-related institutions to adopt sustainable practices, recognising that in doing so we will be greatly enhancing the persuasive power of our advocacy as well as contributing to the transition to a low carbon world

4 Call on research institutions to invest resources in exploring the most effective way of reducing carbon

5 Call on all health professionals and other professional groups to join in supporting this declaration and to take urgent action on this issue within their own spheres of influence

Dr Robin Stott of Medact supported these claims and congratulated Medsin members on their action on this issue.

To read more about Medsin's campaigning on climate change and to see photos of this weekend's action see the Healthy Planet webpage.

<http://www.medsin.org/news/show/208>

RSPB & WWF & IPPR . . . C&C

Report "80% Challenge" says: -

"To work out the implications at the national level, it is necessary to determine what the UK's 'fair share' of global reductions should be. There are various ways of doing this, including different versions of contraction and convergence, the 'triptych' system that takes national factors into account, used by the EU for its burden sharing agreement, and other formulations.

A recent review by Höhne et al (2007) for the UK government, based on a goal of stabilisation at 450ppm CO₂e, suggests that the UK should be aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35-45% by 2020 and by 80-95% by 2050, from 1990 levels.

This is in the same range as Baer and Mastrandrea (2006), who estimate that to be consistent with a low-to-medium risk (i.e. <25%) of exceeding 2°C, and under a contraction and convergence burden sharing model, the UK would have to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by between 88% and 94% from 1990 levels by 2050.

UK Greens pressure Government on Climate Bill - adopt C&C.

"Low level targets that we are not likely to meet do not constitute radical action on climate change. We need a Climate Change Bill which sets binding emissions-reduction targets of at least 6 per cent a year to allow us to achieve cuts in UK GHG emissions in the region of 90 per cent by 2030. This is the level of cuts required for us - in a framework of contraction and convergence - to play a fair role in delivering the global cuts needed to stabilise atmospheric CO₂ at 450 parts per million."

<http://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/3216>

EVENTS

Climate Change: The Solutions

"Something better is on the way"

Tuesday 13th November, 7pm

York House, Richmond Road,

Twickenham TW1 3AA

Speakers

International level:

Contraction and Convergence

Aubrey Meyer GCI

National level:

Tradable Energy Quotas

Shaun Chamberlin – Lean Economy Network

Local level:

Sustainable Energy Policies in Woking

Mary Holdstock

Chair: Benedict Southworth Director WDM

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/Richmond_Poster.pdf

Change of venue for SIMPOL's Strategy Forum

"What's Wrong with the Global Justice Movement?"

Saturday, 24th November 9.00am to 3.00pm

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/SIMPOL_Strategy_Conference.pdf

Venue has been changed to: -

St. Albans Centre, (Main Hall)

Leigh Place, Baldwins Gardens,

Holborn,

London EC1N 7RD.

Nearest tube: Chancery Lane.

C&C and the UK Government Aubrey Meyer

Nov 10, 2007 02:49 PST

C&C Debate in parliament last Thursday.

DEFRA's Benn and MP Challen [Longer excerpts from parliamentary debate around the climate bill below]

Hansard link here – [for Thursday 8th November 2007]

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmhansrd.htm>

C&C debate at DEFRA next Thursday.

DEFRA's Benn and Challen: - "Frameworks on a Hot-Tin Cat-Walk"

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/2007-11-07_Agenda_for_Future_Framework_Discussion.pdf

Excerpts From Hansard

HILARY BENN - "As for the 60 per cent target for emissions reduction, the truth is that the science is changing. But the truth is that Britain accounts for only 2 per cent of the world's emissions. We must persuade other countries to play their part. Some countries have not yet accepted that they have any sort of part to play, let alone that they must cut emissions by 60 or 80 per cent., yet all of us in the Chamber know that we will not be able to deal with the problem of climate change unless all countries - including developing countries as they develop - play their part."

COLIN CHALLEN - "As the former Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [Michael Meacher], the present Foreign Secretary, told the Environmental Audit Committee, "you cannot pluck a figure out of thin air."

The irony is that the Government have not plucked a figure out of thin air, but are nevertheless refusing to acknowledge the rationale for their choice. They refuse to acknowledge that the original Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution report published in 2000, which first came up with 60 per cent, did so on the basis of the contraction and convergence framework devised by the Global Commons Institute.

I sometimes tire of pointing that out to people. I am beginning to sound like a cracked record, but for some reason the Government are embarrassed by that piece of history and have answered my queries and parliamentary questions with unnecessarily evasive answers, almost as if contraction and convergence was some kind of shameful state secret and if it ever got out, the ravens in the Tower of London would fly off and never return."

[The first thing Minister Meacher said when he left DEFRA four years ago – "I was gagged on C&C" – the plot continues through thicker and thinner . . . as the planet melts, the UNEPFI rally:

-

http://www.unepfi.org/events/2007/roundtable/carbon_leadership/index.html

Longer excerpts from parliamentary debate around the climate bill below

Hansard link here – [for Thursday 8th November 2007]

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmhansrd.htm>

Colin Challen (Morley and Rothwell) (Lab):

In 2050, when a grateful nation reads the record of this historic debate, it will look in particular at the names of my hon. Friends the Members for Bedford (Patrick Hall) and for Southampton, Test (Dr. Whitehead), the hon. Members for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) and for Cambridge (David Howarth), and my hon. Friend the Member for Stafford (Mr. Kidney), who provided cross-party consensus on the Climate Change Bill. That consensus is built on a sane and rational approach, and it goes well beyond anything that we have experienced in party politics for a very long time. I, too, hope to contribute to that sane and rational approach in the remaining 10 minutes available to me.

I welcome the Bill. It builds on the leadership that Tony Blair created at Gleneagles and with the commissioning of the Stern review. However, 10 kg of good hard work can be undone by 1 g of poor work. If we try to undermine the European Union's 20 per cent. renewables target by going for the smallest possible contribution—perhaps 10 per cent. or less—that will do considerable harm to our reputation. Many speakers this afternoon said that the target of 60 per cent. in the Bill should be increased. Indeed, the Prime Minister himself has said so. There is wide consensus now about a higher figure. The Stern review, the intergovernmental panel on climate change, the Exeter science conference and informed opinion around the world all suggest that our targets must be far higher.

In a speech on Monday this week, the leading Democrat candidate for the White House said that she would negotiate mandatory targets and that that would include a cut of 80 per cent. in United States emissions by 2050. Has she not paid attention to our caution? She added that she wanted America to lead the "global green revolution" and said that such an ambitious target would help to create 5 million new jobs. She said:

"You have heard of white collar jobs and blue collar jobs...these will be green collar jobs."

At last we have somebody heading for the White House who can put two and two together. But she also said:

"This" - that is, climate change - "is too important. We cannot afford to wait two more years."

That, too, is very important. We in the United Kingdom cannot afford to wait two more years for the climate change committee to reconsider the target. There is a global consensus emerging on a far higher figure. The 60 per cent. figure looks dated. All the other Democrat candidates for the

presidency agree with Hilary Clinton.

Why must we delay, when Germany is forging ahead under Chancellor Angela Merkel? She called a Cabinet Konklave meeting in August to discuss a new integrated climate and energy programme. A target of 40 per cent. less CO₂ by 2020 was set—rather more ambitious than our own target, which is capped at 32 per cent. I fear that when we set a lower target, that is the de facto target on which we will set our sights.

Germany's existing climate and energy policies are already delivering economic growth—250,000 new jobs are one sign of that. Yet we have renewable energy resources that are generally reckoned to be 50 per cent. better than Germany's. Our ambitions, our energy resources, our technological capacity could be brought to bear to make us the world's leading green economy. Despite some successes, we are in the main too indecisive, and industry sources point out that by 2011 Germany will have 32,000 MW of wind capacity, whereas we will have just one third of that. That is not good enough.

The Climate Change Bill must be an urgent catalyst for change, and for that to happen it needs to be amended. That is not to say that a precise figure can today be inserted to replace 60 per cent. Rather, as the Joint Committee on the draft Bill and the Environmental Audit Committee recommended, the Government should publish their rationale for settling on any figure. As the former Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the present Foreign Secretary, told the Environmental Audit Committee,

"you cannot pluck a figure out of thin air."

The irony is that the Government have not plucked a figure out of thin air, but are nevertheless refusing to acknowledge the rationale for their choice. They refuse to acknowledge that the original Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution report published in 2000, which first came up with 60 per cent., did so on the basis of the contraction and convergence framework devised by the Global Commons Institute. I sometimes tire of pointing that out to people. I am beginning to sound like a cracked record, but for some reason the Government are embarrassed by that piece of history and have answered my queries and parliamentary questions with unnecessarily evasive answers, almost as if contraction and convergence was some kind of shameful state secret and if it ever got out, the ravens in the Tower of London would fly off and never return.

What appears to be the case, and why the two-year delay has come into play is that our potential support for contraction and convergence—I recognise that there is potential support for that framework or any other—must be camouflaged until we get to the United Nations COP talks in Copenhagen in 2009. That fits in with the Tyndall centre's characterisation of the previous COP talks in Nairobi as being like a race to be second, owing to the fear felt by delegations that being bold about anything might leave them up the negotiating creek without a paddle. We must build a consensus and ensure that others come with us. Many nations now support contraction and convergence; indeed, some are looking to us to lead on that.

How does our reluctance to talk about that square with our boast of being the first country with a Climate Change Bill, which seems a bit of a contradiction when we know that any such Bill has to be global? We cannot just rely on a scientist to tell us what the target has to be; we must discuss how the political responsibility for achieving it should be distributed. The fact that we will have had a Climate Change Act on the statute book for nearly two years come 2009 will be important. We will no doubt urge others to follow in our footsteps. If we do, however, we will have to share with them our wisdom, and I am afraid that that means laying our cards on the table. I strongly urge the Government to take the next obvious step, one year on from Stern, and bring together a national climate change framework convention here in the UK, which will help to formulate our position in the international arena. If the independent climate change committee is to work out the new target, it needs not only to consider the science, but to figure out how to distribute the responsibility that I have mentioned. That task should not be left to a handful of people, no matter how qualified they may be to do it.

In considering the significance of the committee and its duty to report to Parliament, I firmly believe that Parliament should play a role in its appointment. That would best be achieved by

submitting nominees' names to a Select Committee for scrutiny. I suggest that the Environmental Audit Committee is best suited for that purpose, given its cross-departmental brief and intense focus on climate change. Incorporating that step into the procedure would give the new independent committee a real boost to its credibility and mean that nobody, including the Opposition, could say later that it was stuffed full of Government poodles.

Finally, I would like to suggest another small amendment to the Bill, concerning its title. It occurred to me only last night that "Climate Change Bill" sounds rather neutral. Let us call it the "Climate Change Survival Bill". Let us clarify what we intend to do with the Bill. That would also help us to focus on the reality of climate change, which might even help us to close the gap between that reality and the political quagmire in which we all too often find ourselves.

In my remaining three minutes I would like briefly to discuss the energy Bill—I will finish in time to allow my hon. Friend the Member for Brighton, Kemptown (Dr. Turner) his 10 minutes. I have referred to the EU renewables target. The Bill will be discussed at a time when the price of oil is likely to exceed \$100 a barrel.

That is well beyond any of the assumptions made by the Government when considering transport infrastructure, for example. When the chair of Shell spoke about the reasons for the price level yesterday, he said that it was nothing to do with the level of reserves and more to do with the reduced buffers between supply and demand. They have fallen sharply and look set to remain low. Demand is shooting up, leaving world economies at the mercy of the markets. We will face a severe test at a time when developed economies are already feeling the strain from other developments, such as the great credit crunch.

Sweden has already declared its ambition to minimise its use of oil. We should follow suit, although for us that might be rather more difficult, albeit not impossible. As the Centre for Alternative Technology has proposed, there are technologies which could help to make the UK carbon-free by 2027. If we followed that route, our susceptibility to problems with both high energy costs and supply would come to an end. There are many good reasons why we should embrace the new alternative technologies and leave fossil fuels, many having nothing at all to do with climate change.

The Government have acknowledged that building new nuclear power stations will contribute nothing to meeting our energy needs until 2020 at the earliest. That means that new nuclear will contribute nothing to our share of the EU carbon reduction target by 2020, nor will carbon capture and storage be able to do much either. We are still at an early stage in research and development and many imponderables remain to be resolved. Thus, although the Bill paves the way for those things, they cannot do anything for us in the short to medium term. As we have seen, we cannot afford to rely on fossil fuels, which will become too expensive. We are therefore bound to boost our reliance on renewables.

To conclude, I am not despondent, but despairing of the news that the Government seek to make the minimum contribution to the 20 per cent. average renewables target. It could even be less than 10 per cent. if the proposal for trading in renewable allowances of some description were to be permitted. I understand that the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is arguing for that in Brussels, and I hope that we can scotch the idea straight away, because it would also damage German feed-in tariff payments and skew the market. That might make our renewables obligation certificate system look rather better, and if I had had more time, I should have liked to speak about how we should pursue the feed-in tariff system. However, I shall now hand over to my estimable colleague from Brighton.

5.20 pm

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): With your permission, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall begin by making the House aware of potentially serious flooding in coastal areas of eastern England in the next 48 days. A tidal surge of up to 3 m is making its way down the North sea and could coincide with peak high tides. There is a risk of flood defences being overtopped on the coast and in tidal rivers, especially in East Anglia, particularly on the Norfolk broads and the coast south of Great Yarmouth, including Lowestoft, and areas south of that

as far as the coast of Kent. In the area as a whole, six severe flood warnings, five flood warnings and 15 flood watches are in place. Several flood warnings and flood watches are also in place in Yorkshire.

Police incident commands have been set up in the areas most likely to be affected, especially Norfolk and Suffolk, to co-ordinate the emergency response to any flooding, including evacuation if that is necessary. They are advising residents about the situation as it develops and will continue to do so, and they will co-ordinate the emergency response, including the deployment of the fire and rescue services if required. The Environment Agency will close the Thames barrier if that is needed. We are keeping a close watch on the situation, and I shall keep the House informed of any significant developments.

Although the right hon. Member for North Antrim (Rev. Ian Paisley) is not in his place, may I say that I am sure that the whole House will wish to express its profound concern at the news of the shooting of a police officer in Northern Ireland today, and to send its condolences to the family of the young man who died as a result of drugs?

One of the glories, if I may use that word, of the Gracious Speech debates is the wide range of contributions. I fear that I may not be able to do justice to all those that we have heard today—I counted 27 in all, so this is the 28th—but I shall do my best. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government spoke eloquently about the contrast, not least in her constituency, between how life was in the 1980s and 1990s for many of our constituents and how it is today because of the practical politics of this Government, which this Gracious Speech demonstrates once again.

That change was echoed in contributions from, among others, my hon. Friends the Members for Crewe and Nantwich (Mrs. Dunwoody), for Sheffield, Attercliffe (Mr. Betts) and for Regent's Park and Kensington, North (Ms Buck), and my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong). I know that she had a long-standing charity event in her constituency to attend, and she offered her apologies for not being here for the close of the debate. She made a passionate speech, in which she reminded us of why she was on the Front Bench for 18 years, when she urged us to find ways of raising aspiration, increasing self-respect and trying to tackle child poverty.

The hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) made an entertaining, if not altogether illuminating, speech. It was entertaining because I learnt of his Independent Labour party ancestry—my respect for him is even higher than before—and heard about Nikita Khrushchev, tractors and Soviet agriculture. All that was missing was a reference to Gosplan—but no doubt that will come in time.

However, the hon. Gentleman's speech was not very illuminating, because it was not clear what he was in favour of. He raised the issue of waste—as did my hon. Friend the Member for Southampton, Test (Dr. Whitehead)—but there was a contradiction in the hon. Gentleman's argument. On the one hand, he alleged that the Government's policy was to go around telling local authorities what to do. As my hon. Friend made clear, although we have quadrupled recycling in the past 10 years or so, we need to go a lot further. Local authorities approached us and asked for a power to run incentive schemes. We consulted and 78 local authorities responded in favour, with nine against. Precisely because there are debates about how to make such schemes work—the hon. Gentleman mentioned the issues of fly-tipping and large families—and various schemes are in use in the rest of Europe, the sensible thing to do is to run some pilot schemes, and that is what we propose.

The hon. Member for East Surrey (Mr. Ainsworth) did not dwell much on the proposals in the Gracious Speech. He rightly went over the previous debate that we had on foot and mouth. On the Rural Payments Agency, he knows that we are in the process of sorting out the difficulties, and I express regret again to the House for the problems that those have created for farmers. However, a Department that is capable of producing the Climate Change Bill, which has been so widely welcomed as a framework, can hardly or fairly be described as a failing Department.

We have heard many thoughtful speeches, especially from my hon. Friends the Members for

Copeland (Mr. Reed), for High Peak (Tom Levitt) and for Eltham (Clive Efford) and from the hon. Members for Broxbourne (Mr. Walker), for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) and for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd). Several themes have emerged in the debate, including the question of how we deal with the competing pressure on our land and how we ensure that all local voices are heard. My hon. Friend the Member for Eltham made that point very forcefully.

The second theme was the impact of demographic change, migration and immigration on rural areas—the issue raised by the hon. Member for Gainsborough (Mr. Leigh)—and on our towns and cities, a point made by the hon. Members for Brent, East (Sarah Teather), for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) and for Cities of London and Westminster (Mr. Field). I thought that the hon. Lady made a good point when she drew attention, in an intervention, to the contribution that those who have made this country their home make to our economic life. If I reflect on my constituency, where that is certainly the case, if all the people who had come to Britain in the past 30 years decided not to come to work tomorrow

morning, many a lecture would go undelivered at the two universities, many a bus would not run, operations would be cancelled, people would not be cared for and business would, in part, come to a halt. It is also true, however, that sometimes people find it difficult to deal with the pace of change. We should not be afraid to debate that point, or other aspects of our more interdependent and rapidly changing world.

Many hon. Members raised the issue of housing, including my hon. Friends the Members for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell), for Sheffield, Attercliffe and for Eltham. My hon. Friend the Member for Eltham paid tribute to my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing for the work that she is doing. I have seen a change in demand for housing in my constituency in the eight and a half years that I have had the privilege of being its Member of Parliament. When I arrived, good social housing, in the form of bricks and mortar, was still being demolished in parts of the constituency, not because there was anything wrong with it—if it had been picked up and put down in one of the constituencies represented by some hon. Members present, it would have increased in value 10, 20 or 30-fold—but because it was in areas where nobody wanted to live. Those

areas are now experiencing increased demand for housing. Somehow we have to bring together the reservations that communities sometimes have—which have been reflected in speeches today—about applications to build more houses, and the concerns that many families have about how their children will be able to afford to buy or rent somewhere to live. We have to connect those two issues better. One very good way to do that is to provide more housing.

I turn now to the marine Bill, which was mentioned by the hon. Members for Cheltenham (Martin Horwood) and for Hazel Grove, as well as by my hon. Friend the Member for Brighton, Kemptown (Dr. Turner) and, a moment ago, by the hon. Member for East Surrey. I welcome their support, and reassure the House that the Government remain firmly committed to the Bill. We are in the process of drafting it, after consulting on its shape, and aim to publish the draft in the new year. I look forward to the comments when that draft appears. We need to provide for our seas, and the wonders that lie beneath them, the sort of protection that we have provided for our land over the years, as the seas are just as subject to competing pressures on their use.

I am very pleased by the welcome expressed on all sides of the House for the Climate Change Bill. It was referred to by my hon. Friends the Members for Bedford (Patrick Hall), for Southampton, Test, for Morley and Rothwell (Colin Challen) and for Brighton, Kemptown, as well as by the hon. Members for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) and for Cambridge (David Howarth). I hope that Members who have looked at the Command Paper will accept that the Government have listened. I am grateful for all the comments, observations, recommendations and advice that we have received, including from the three Committees that have examined the Bill. All that will make a good Bill better.

As for the 60 per cent. target for emissions reduction, the truth is that the science is changing. That is why my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced in September that we would ask the climate change committee to review the target. It seems to me that that is entirely the right approach, as we have heard various different figures even during this afternoon's debate. If the

target is to be tougher than 60 per cent., there needs to be a mechanism to determine what it should be. I can tell the hon. Member for Cambridge that giving that responsibility to the climate change committee demonstrates that the Government are willing to trust another organisation. Whatever the Committee has to say will have a very powerful impact on our debates.

On annual targets, I am willing to take the risk of being heckled and say that the argument against them has been won. My problem with milestones is that they sound a bit like targets by another name. In any event, all emissions in the five-year period count, and, as hon. Members will have seen from the Command Paper, there will be annual reporting of emissions. Moreover, the climate change committee will report on progress and the Government will have to respond. Both report and response will be laid before Parliament.

My hon. Friend the Member for Stafford (Mr. Kidney) asked about smart metering. We are very keen on that, and the more quickly it can come in, the better. The hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir) asked whether reductions in one part of the UK that exceed the target count towards the total, and I can tell him that they do. All contributions from all sources in all parts of the country are gratefully received.

As for international aviation, I can tell the House that we are trying to bring it into the EU emissions trading scheme. That is the sensible place to start, and the Command Paper makes it clear that, once we have succeeded in that respect, the climate change committee will be asked to look at the methodology involved in including aviation emissions in the UK targets. It will also be asked to look at what the impact would be.

As many hon. Members have pointed out, the Climate Change Bill is a framework. It is radical and groundbreaking, and one of the non-governmental organisation representatives at the launch of the Command Paper described it as historic, but we need the appropriate mechanisms to make sure that what it proposes happens. That is why we put in place the climate change levy—something that, I am sorry to say, the main Opposition party did not support—and why the Bill will make a commitment to reducing carbon emissions. It is why there will be zero-carbon homes, an energy efficiency committee and an increase in vehicle excise duty, and it is also why planning permission for the London array will be sought and a feasibility study for the Severn barrage carried out.

The Government remain absolutely committed to doing more on renewables, and to the target that we signed up to, but the truth is that Britain accounts for only 2 per cent. of the world's emissions. We must persuade other countries to play their part. Some countries have not yet accepted that they have any sort of part to play, let alone that they must cut emissions by 60 or 80 per cent., yet all of us in the Chamber know that we will not be able to deal with the problem of climate change unless all countries—including developing countries as they develop—play their part. Meanwhile, the climate is changing in a way that impacts on the poorest people in the world already. My hon. Friend the Member for High Peak was right to refer to the campaign to make poverty history. Now we need a campaign to make climate change history, too.

The debate has shown that the Government's job is to listen as well as to lead. That is true whether we are acting on climate change, regenerating local communities, or trying to make sure that people have decent homes to live in or that we take the right decisions about how we deal with the pressures on our precious and beautiful land. The measures put forward in the Gracious Speech show that the Government have listened, and that we will continue to lead.

Debate adjourned.— [Mr. Watson.]

Debate to be resumed on Monday 12 November.

HILARY BENN "As for the 60 per cent target for emissions reduction, the truth is that the science is changing. But the truth is that Britain accounts for only 2 per cent of the world's emissions. We must persuade other countries to play their part. Some countries have not yet accepted that they have any sort of part to play, let alone that they must cut emissions by 60 or 80 per cent., yet all of us in the Chamber know that we will not be able to deal with the problem of climate change unless all countries—including developing countries as they develop—play their part."

COLIN CHALLEN "As the former Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the present Foreign Secretary, told the Environmental Audit Committee, "you cannot pluck a figure out of thin air."

The irony is that the Government have not plucked a figure out of thin air, but are nevertheless refusing to acknowledge the rationale for their choice. They refuse to acknowledge that the original Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution report published in 2000, which first came up with 60 per cent, did so on the basis of the contraction and convergence framework devised by the Global Commons Institute.

I sometimes tire of pointing that out to people. I am beginning to sound like a cracked record, but for some reason the Government are embarrassed by that piece of history and have answered my queries and parliamentary questions with unnecessarily evasive answers, almost as if contraction and convergence was some kind of shameful state secret and if it ever got out, the ravens in the Tower of London would fly off and never return."

C&C - Gets UNEPFI Award Aubrey Meyer

Nov 11, 2007 09:22 PST

1. C&C Article [The AGE in Australia] and
2. C&C Award from the UNEPFI

Prof Brendan Mackey in The AGE – Australia - is on the post-Kyoto trail with C&C

"Kyoto expires in 2012. Negotiations for this new agreement begin in earnest at the December Bali conference, and it is critical that the world's national governments quickly reach agreement on three vital questions:

1. What is a safe level of atmospheric greenhouse gases?
2. When will this global reduction target be reached?
3. How will the permissible greenhouse gas entitlements be distributed among the world's nations?

Many commentators argue it should be distributed on a per capita basis - so that national entitlements would be based on the size of a country's population - the so-called contraction and convergence solution."

Full Article below and at: -

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/key-questions-to-ask-before-judging-climate-change-policies/2007/11/11/1194766509753.html?page=fullpage#contentSwap2>

The UNEP FI 2007 Global Roundtable Financial Leadership for contributions from Civil Society has been made to Aubrey Meyer

http://www.unepfi.org/events/2007/roundtable/carbon_leadership/index.html

For the first time this year UNEP FI recognized executives within the financial services who have contributed in a significant manner to the development of financial ideas, innovative products, institutional change and or the carbon markets themselves through the UNEP FI Carbon Leadership Award. Award winners were selected from a large number of entries by a small group of UNEP FI's long term climate change advisors.

The civil society category award for the most impressive commitment and innovative thinking around climate change and the financial sector with the UNEP FI Carbon Leadership Award was to Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute for Contraction and Convergence (C&C).

Prof Brendan Mackey in The AGE – Australia - is on the post-Kyoto trail with C&C

Full Article at: -

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/key-questions-to-ask-before-judging-climate-change-policies/2007/11/11/1194766509753.html?page=fullpage#contentSwap2>

Key questions to ask before judging climate change policies

November 11, 2007 - 9:54PM

AS THE weeks pass, the political parties are releasing more details on their climate change policies - a key issue for the federal election. Voters are being presented with a smorgasbord of proposals ranging from a carbon emissions trading scheme to incentives for personal action like changing to green light bulbs.

But, how can voters judge when a climate change policy is credible? How can they know when a policy is more than just "green wash" - actions designed to attract votes but not really address the problem? And can changing light bulbs really make a difference?

A good start is to be clear on the problem. The global warming problem will be solved when the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is reduced to a safe level. This can only be achieved by reducing the total amount of carbon being released into the atmosphere through burning fossil fuel and deforestation.

Voluntary agreements on arbitrary targets will not solve the global warming problem. Global action is needed and this must be coordinated through international agreements negotiated under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Kyoto Protocol is one such agreement designed to make a start.

Whoever forms the next Australian government should ratify this agreement as its carbon reduction targets are modest and can be easily met. So, the first question to ask a politician is whether their party will ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

However, a more important issue is what a post-Kyoto agreement will look like, as Kyoto expires in 2012. Negotiations for this new agreement begin in earnest at the December Bali conference, and it is critical that the world's national governments quickly reach agreement on three vital questions:

1. What is a safe level of atmospheric greenhouse gases?
2. When will this global reduction target be reached?
3. How will the permissible greenhouse gas entitlements be distributed among the world's nations?

The current level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (~370ppm) is already about 30 per cent higher than at any time in at least the last 450,000 years. It is also now clear that increasing carbon levels causes positive feedbacks to the Earth system (for example ice melt), accelerating global warming. Lags in the Earth system mean the full effect of global warming will not be felt for decades and centuries to come -our children will bear the full cost.

The higher the level we decide is safe, and the longer we wait to solve the problem, the greater the costs and the harm caused to humans and nature.

A further complication is that solving the global warming problem requires carbon emissions be reduced not eliminated. This creates an "entitlement" that allows a very specific amount of carbon to be emitted globally each year. But, how should this global entitlement be distributed among the world's nations?

Many commentators argue it should be distributed on a per capita basis - so that national entitlements would be based on the size of a country's population (the so-called contraction and convergence solution).

How this issue will be resolved is not clear but without doubt it is a very tricky political problem that to date has not been debated in Australia. Given this, the second policy issue to evaluate is the position a Howard or Rudd government will take to the Bali conference in December. Will they push for a new post-Kyoto agreement that answers the three vital questions?

National level action will then be needed to put this new agreement's commitments, along with the Kyoto Protocol's commitments, into operation.

The third consideration for assessing the credibility of national climate change policies therefore is how effectively they enable Australia to reduce its carbon emissions to the agreed target and timetable.

A fourth consideration is the scope of proposed climate policies. Carbon emissions come from

three sectors in roughly equal measure - industrial production (including land use), transportation, and heating/cooling buildings (both homes and offices). Fair and efficient policies are needed that lead to reduction in a timely manner of carbon emissions in all three sectors.

Policies must have non-trivial outcomes and result in substantial change in the way things are done. Changing light bulbs is good but buildings can now be constructed using "net positive design" - buildings that produce more energy than they use. Similarly, reducing carbon emissions in the transportation sector will not be achieved by tinkering with marginal improvements and business-as-usual thinking. Among other things, a significant investment in mass public transport is needed - not just more people driving a slightly greener car.

A final consideration in judging the credibility of national policies is whether they lead to perverse, unintended outcomes. Adaptation policies should not deflect government resolve to solve the global warming problem. This means policies for "adaptation" must be matched, hand-in-glove, with policies for "mitigation".

Furthermore, policies aimed at either adaptation or mitigation should not inadvertently cause new problems. Two big environmental problems facing Australia are water shortages and loss of biodiversity.

Inappropriate placement of plantation investments can cause catchments to dry out, and clearing native bush for plantations is bad for our wildlife. Yet, already we can find examples of such perverse outcomes, both here in Australia (deforestation for Acacia plantations on Tiwi Islands) and in Indonesia (deforestation for palm oil plantations in Borneo).

Similarly, we need cleaner energy technologies, but these should not cause new forms of pollution or threaten our security in other ways.

The following five questions will help you judge the effectiveness of each party's climate change policies:

1. Will they ratify the Kyoto Protocol?
2. Are they prepared to promote a new international agreement at the Bali climate change conference in December that answers the three vital questions about what is a safe level, when it will be reached and how will entitlements be distributed.
3. In what ways will their national policies build upon the commitments made under Kyoto and new international agreements?
4. How will their policies lead to substantial reductions in carbon emissions in the transportation, industrial and built environment sectors?
5. Can they guarantee their policies will not cause perverse outcomes for, among other things, water and biodiversity?

Brendan Mackey is a professor of environmental science at The Australian National University

C&C for UK Gov? We'll C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 15, 2007 04:09 PST

C&C presentation To Minster Hilary Benn

at DEFRA today Thursday 15 11 07.

Animation at: -

[www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_\[Tower_&_Ravens\].exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_[Tower_&_Ravens].exe)

[or for Macs http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/Benn_for_Mac.hqx]

and booklet at: -

www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Booklet_Reduced_File_Size.pdf

And debate

Agenda at: -

www.gci.org.uk/events/2007-11-07_Agenda_for_Future_Framework_Discussion.pdf

IPCC AR4 Synthesis Report - here Aubrey Meyer

Nov 17, 2007 03:07 PST

Published today, the latest IPCC Synthesis Report is here: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings/ar4_syr_spm_r.pdf

Feedback on Climate Frameworks Meeting at DEFRA

Colin Challen MP sought agreement from Minister Hilary Benn for a public Symposium on Future Global Frameworks - i.e. beyond confines of the DEFRA bureaucracy.

This agreement was achieved.

The meeting included input from various 'activity-oriented' contributors and Mr Artur Runge from the EC suggested the time-frame for global ghg emissions reductions as 50% off 1990 level of by 2050.

GCI's presentation included the Hadley coupled models which make it clear that emissions need to go down to zero by 2050/60.

The 'carbon-arithmetic' that counts this with an animation is at: -

[www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_\[Tower_&_Ravens\].exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_[Tower_&_Ravens].exe)

or for Macs http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/Benn_for_Mac.hqx

and booklet at: - www.gci.org.uk/briefings/Booklet_Reduced_File_Size.pdf

Bureaucrats appear uncomfortable with this, but Minister Benn acknowledged the imperative that all the activities have to add up to doing enough soon enough.

New Scientist backs Merkel-C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 19, 2007 06:02 PST

Why bother going green?

17 November 2007

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Fred Pearce

<http://environment.newscientist.com/channel/earth/mg19626301.600-why-bother-going-green.html;jsessionid=ONCCOIMBGPGI>

Excerpt

Cutting emissions needs to be done in as fair a way as possible, and since Earth has a limited capacity to absorb CO₂, one equitable solution would be to divide the remaining capacity among the world's population.

Many see an idea known as "contraction and convergence" as the best way forward. This idea has been kicking around for more than a decade, but is currently most associated with a British NGO called the Global Commons Institute.

If implemented, it will mean that global emissions have to contract overall, while converging on a single per-capita figure. Current emissions for a global citizen are about 4 tonnes of CO₂ per year, on average. This figure will ultimately have to drop to below 1 tonne.

The formula was initially dismissed as hopelessly idealistic, but it is now gaining new credibility. Most recently, the German chancellor Angela Merkel backed the idea of national targets based on per-capita emissions.

Earlier this year, the UK's then environment secretary, David Miliband, took the debate one step further. He said that within a decade we could all carry a card that recorded our annual carbon-emissions entitlement. Every time we filled up our cars with fuel, booked a flight or made an energy-intensive purchase, our card would be debited.

PLENTY of people say it, and the rest of us probably think it as we browse the energy-efficient light bulbs, unplug our TV or leave the car and walk to the shops instead. What's the point in cut-

ting our personal carbon footprint when more than a billion Chinese and most of the rest of the planet are jacking up their emissions as if there were no tomorrow?

It's a fair question. After all, the atmosphere doesn't distinguish between a tonne of Chinese carbon dioxide and a tonne emitted by the west. As the rest of the world carries on regardless, are the paltry savings from recycling your beer cans or insulating your roof anything more than a drop in the ocean? If you just stopped trying, would the planet notice? In this special investigation, we crunch the numbers to find out whether going green is worth all the bother.

First though, the big picture. Every year human activities add about 30 billion tonnes of CO₂ to the atmosphere, largely through burning fossil fuels but also through destroying natural carbon sinks, such as forests. Half of this CO₂ is absorbed by the remaining forests, soils and oceans, but the rest accumulates in the atmosphere.

Since pre-industrial times, the concentration of CO₂ in the air has risen by a little over one-third, from 270 parts per million to 380 ppm - or from 2.2 trillion tonnes to almost 3 trillion. Most scientists think it would be unsafe to let CO₂ concentrations rise beyond 450 ppm - an additional 500 billion tonnes. That level would be reached by around 2040 if emissions continue at today's rates. But as developing countries industrialise, global emissions are unlikely to stay the same. Last year, China hiked its emissions by 8 per cent, or around 450 million tonnes - an increase almost as great as the UK's entire annual carbon footprint. Emissions of other large developing countries like India, Brazil and Mexico are increasing at a similar pace.

Against this remorseless rise of CO₂ from the developing world, can the individual actions of a few concerned westerners really make any difference? To answer this we first need to work out what our personal emissions are. That means including items omitted from the UN statistics - particularly international air travel - and the carbon footprint of goods made in foreign countries but imported for our use. When these are taken into account, the CO₂ footprint of the average western European amounts to some 12 tonnes. For Americans and Australians, the figure is almost twice that, mainly because they drive more, in cars with bigger engines.

In general, just under half of the emissions for which each of us is responsible come from things over which we have personal control, such as how much we drive and fly and how we heat and power our homes. Of the rest, about 25 per cent of the total arises indirectly through powering our workplaces, about 10 per cent comes from maintaining public infrastructure and government, and about 20 per cent is emitted during the production of the things we buy, including food. We can still influence some of these indirect emissions through what we buy - or we could if we had access to the right kind of information - but by and large it makes sense to concentrate on the emissions we can control directly.

So how much can we realistically save and, more to the point, will it be worth it in terms of global emissions? Chris Goodall, author of *How to Live a Low Carbon Life*, believes so. He reckons it is possible to cut individual emissions by around 75 per cent without seriously altering our lifestyles. For a western European, that means slashing personal emissions from about 12 tonnes of CO₂ to just 3 tonnes.

Cutting down

So how do we do it? Like charity, reducing your emissions begins at home (see Diagram). Of course, individual emissions will vary a fair bit, depending on the size of your house, how many people live in it, and how carbon-conscious you are. But a typical western home, with a total power throughput of about 20,000 kilowatt-hours per year, might generate emissions of around 5 tonnes. For each individual in the typical household this would average 2.3 tonnes, of which 1.2 tonnes is from heating the house, 0.4 tonnes from heating water and cooking, and 0.7 tonnes from general use of electricity for lighting and appliances.

Many people are surprised at the importance of heating to most homes' carbon footprint, and clearly there are big hits to be made here. You can cut heating-related emissions by 40 per cent or more by replacing an inefficient old-style boiler with a condensing model, by improving house insulation, and by turning down the thermostat by 2 °C in winter. But the biggest gain here can be from installing a wood-burning stove in your living room. These are attractive features and heat

the house using a renewable fuel. Such a stove could cut household emissions by 2 tonnes of CO₂ per year or 0.9 tonnes per inhabitant, on average.

You can halve the emissions for heating water and cooking by cutting out baths, taking short showers (no power-showers please - they are as bad as baths) and by using a microwave or pressure cooker. You can also halve electricity bills. The big four energy guzzlers in most households are refrigerators, tumble dryers, computers and lighting. Of these, the tumble dryer is the worst offender. Using it for 1 hour less per week could cut a household's annual emissions by 0.07 tonnes, and cutting it out entirely will double that saving. A computer left switched on through waking hours but turned off at night will be responsible for up to 0.4 tonnes of CO₂ in a year. Switching to a laptop, which is more energy-efficient, could save you 0.2 tonnes.

Switching to energy-efficient light bulbs is another smart move, saving 0.25 tonnes for a household with 25 bulbs. A digital TV set-top box on standby uses enough energy to emit 0.06 tonnes of CO₂ in a year (roughly the total emissions of an average citizen of Burundi), so you can save most of that by unplugging every time you switch off the TV, and maybe half if you switch off only at night. And think about all the other kit you leave on standby. Get rigorous about unplugging every time and a typical household can save another 0.1 tonnes. It is small compared to some other savings, but significant nonetheless.

A final option is to buy into green electricity tariffs. Read the small print, though, because some companies are simply asking you to subsidise what they are already obliged to do by law. In the best schemes, however, you will be helping to ensure that more wind turbines and other green sources of electricity are built. The annual carbon savings from these greener energy sources could be as much as 0.8 tonnes of CO₂ per person.

In the UK, road transport accounts for nearly one-sixth of a typical citizen's emissions, or about 1.8 tonnes per head. In the US, at 5.6 tonnes per head, it makes up more than one-quarter of a rather larger total. The average car there, carrying an average of 1.2 people, emits 556 grams of CO₂ for every person-kilometre. A typical British car, also carrying 1.2 people, emits less than half this, at 180 grams of CO₂ for every person-kilometre travelled. There are numerous ways of getting these figures down. The average American driver could save a whopping 2.5 tonnes per year by changing to a gasoline-electric hybrid car. In the UK the gains would be lower, but still significant, at 0.8 tonnes. Buying a smaller, more efficient car running on diesel or liquified petroleum gas could cut emissions by 0.4 tonnes per car per year. Turning off car air conditioning can save 0.1 tonnes, while driving moderately and at the most fuel-efficient speeds will enable some drivers to cut emissions by 0.2 tonnes a year.

Another idea is to delay buying a new car. A typical car takes between 3 and 5 tonnes of CO₂ to manufacture. That is twice what it typically emits in a year. So even if the new model would be more fuel-efficient, it is probably better to put off buying it.

The bottom line, of course, is that we should all drive less. Getting rid of the car would be best, but is rarely practical. Sadly, cutting out short journeys to the shops does little to cut emissions. For most people it will be less than 0.1 tonnes, though cutting out a daily short journey might double that saving.

Taking public transport to work makes a much more useful contribution. With every 1500 kilometres of commuting, you save 0.5 tonnes of CO₂. Public transport is generally a greener option, but there are exceptions.

Trains, for example, are quite variable. In the UK, the average emissions are 40 grams per passenger-kilometre (g/p-km) but, depending on the engine, the source of power and the journey, the figure varies from more than 70 g/p-km down to 27 g/p-km. So going by train is usually better, but a small, fuel-efficient car with four passengers may be more carbon-efficient than taking one of the less efficient trains. Be warned, too, that taking a sleeper train from, say, London to Edinburgh or Paris to Venice may not always be greener than flying. Sleeper cars carry fewer passengers than regular carriages, and that could push the carbon footprint of the typical sleeper passenger above that of someone flying the same route at a typical CO₂ emission rate for short-haul flights of 150 g/p-km.

For longer journeys, coaches such as Greyhound in the US or National Express in the UK could be just the ticket. In the UK, this would save about 140 grams per kilometre for each passenger who would otherwise have made the journey by car - the difference between the 180 g/p-km from driving a typically laden car and the 40 g/p-km on a typical coach ride - while in the US you could save 516 g/p-km. Over a 200-km drive that amounts to nearly 30 kg per trip in the UK and over 100 kg in the US.

Truth about flying

If you fly more than once a year, cutting back on those journeys will be the best single thing you could do to cut your emissions. Cut out that long return flight from Europe to Miami, or the US to Rome, and you have saved 2.5 tonnes of CO₂ - which is probably more than you emit from your car all year. The simple truth is that frequent fliers have carbon footprints tens of times bigger than the rest of us.

Thanks to abundant cheap flights, Britons are the world's worst offenders on this score, with average emissions equivalent to 1.6 tonnes of CO₂ per person - more than double the rate for the average American. Cheap flights are booming in China and India too, but the annual carbon footprint for travel for average citizens in those two countries is still only around one-tenth of those in Europe and North America.

Of the things we buy, food makes up about another 2 tonnes of CO₂ per head. Concerned consumers often make an effort to cut their carbon footprint from food by buying locally, which reduces their "food miles". This makes some sense. A quarter of the trucks on our roads are carrying food and raw materials for the food industry. Yet many of the biggest energy inputs (and hence carbon outputs) of our food come from growing and processing food, rather than transporting it. Manufacturing fertiliser, heating greenhouses and food processing are major energy guzzlers, so buying locally is by no means automatically the greenest option. Trucking in tomatoes from sunny Spain often uses less energy than heating a greenhouse in the UK, for instance.

As a rule of thumb, meat and dairy products have high carbon footprints because of the energy needed to grow the feed for the animals. Going vegetarian could halve your carbon footprint from food to 1 tonne per year, but only if you cut back on dairy products too. If you can't go without meat and milk, you could instead halve your food footprint by going organic, largely because of the saving in fertiliser. A diet made up exclusively of locally grown, non-processed and non-packaged food can strip another 0.7 tonnes from your food-based carbon footprint, bringing an impressive total saving of 1.7 tonnes per person.

Drinks packaging matters too. Smelting aluminium is one of the most energy-intensive industries in the world, and making one beer or soda can emits 170 grams of CO₂. That's the same as running your TV for 3 hours. The average person gets through 120 cans in a year, which adds up to 0.2 tonnes of CO₂. So always recycle your cans and, for preference, buy draught beer or bottles instead. Glass's carbon footprint is rather less than aluminium's.

By making these small changes, the average western European can cut nearly 8 tonnes from their personal carbon footprint, taking their personal emissions down to around 2 tonnes. Multiply that by enough people and the impact could be significant. Take the UK, for example. If just one-third of the UK population did the same it would save 160 million tonnes of CO₂, or more than a quarter of the nation's emissions.

Yet again, given the scale of the increases in China, India and South America, is all this effort really worth it? The answer is an unequivocal yes. Emissions reductions are a bit like taxes: you may not like them, and your individual contribution may seem too measly to matter, but multiply that by several million and you can start to move mountains.

"Your contribution might not seem to matter, but multiply that by millions and you can move mountains" Scaled up to global level, these cuts become highly significant. If 100 million people in richer nations cut their CO₂ emissions by 10 tonnes per year, on average, that would save a billion tonnes of CO₂ emissions a year, or around 5 per cent of the current global total. That won't solve the problem on its own, but

it would create space for China and India to grow their economies and their carbon emissions for another year. Then we would need to add another 100 million people for the next year. And so on and so on, until new low-carbon technologies become cheap enough for developing countries like China and India to adopt them without undermining their economic development.

The global community would prefer not to allow the developing world to continue increasing their emissions indefinitely. Next month, diplomats and politicians will gather in Bali, Indonesia, to discuss what to do when the Kyoto protocol expires in 2012. Many will demand limits on the growing emissions of developing countries, including China and Indonesia, which was recently revealed to have the world's third-highest emissions - when the carbon sinks it has lost to the logging of rain-forests and the draining of tropical peat swamps is taken into account.

Negotiating limits for China will not be easy. It may be about even with the US as the top emitter of CO₂, but divide its output by its total population and the figures look rather different. The typical Chinese citizen is responsible for less than one-quarter of the emissions of the typical American: 4.8 tonnes compared to 20 tonnes. Individual Indians and Africans have emissions averaging 1 tonne or less (see Diagram).

With this in mind, a growing number of politicians are suggesting a fairer approach to cutting carbon, based not on national emissions but on setting tradeable individual carbon quotas (see "What's your quota?").

Ultimately, we will need to bring global emissions down low enough to match nature's ability to absorb them, which may be as low as 10 to 20 per cent of today's global emissions. But if a significant number of people change their ways and demand greener products, that will send a big signal to the market, encouraging the supply of green energy, low-carbon products, organic food and so on.

So while it may be tempting to think that only governments can act on the scale necessary to make real change by rationing carbon and setting tax regimes to provide the necessary carrots and sticks for development, there is no escaping the fact that individuals can make a difference by acting just a little bit greener. The big picture seems daunting but it can be done. And we have to start somewhere. So don't give up.

Climate Change - Want to know more about global warming: the science, impacts and political debate? Visit our continually updated special report.

From issue 2630 of New Scientist magazine, 17 November 2007, page 34-41

What's your quota?

Much of the carbon dioxide that is warming us today has been in the atmosphere for decades, even centuries. While developed countries only contribute about 50 per cent of emissions today, they are responsible for 80 per cent of the human-made CO₂ that is already there.

Cutting emissions needs to be done in as fair a way as possible, and since Earth has a limited capacity to absorb CO₂, one equitable solution would be to divide the remaining capacity among the world's population. Many see an idea known as "contraction and convergence" as the best way forward. This idea has been kicking around for more than a decade, but is currently most associated with a British NGO called the Global Commons Institute. If implemented, it will mean that global emissions have to contract overall, while converging on a single per-capita figure. Current emissions for a global citizen are about 4 tonnes of CO₂ per year, on average. This figure will ultimately have to drop to below 1 tonne.

The formula was initially dismissed as hopelessly idealistic, but it is now gaining new credibility. Most recently, the German chancellor Angela Merkel backed the idea of national targets based on per-capita emissions. Earlier this year, the UK's then environment secretary, David Miliband, took the debate one step further. He said that within a decade we could all carry a card that recorded our annual carbon-emissions entitlement. Every time we filled up our cars with fuel, booked a flight or made an energy-intensive purchase, our card would be debited.

Sure, the rich would be able to buy their way out of the limits. But they would have to buy the

extra carbon credits they needed for that flight to the Maldives or to light their 20 bedroom mansions. The more energy-efficient among us could make money by selling spare credits to them. At the end of the day, there would only be a certain volume of emissions allowed. And the smaller that volume, the better for all of us.

Please vote C&C! Aubrey Meyer

Nov 23, 2007 03:01 PST

Please nominate Aubrey Meyer or Colin Challen

For the Morgan Stanley Environment Prize

Simple procedure here: -

<http://www.greatbritons.org/awards/nominate/>

A group of my loving and loyal family members have initiated this, unbeknown to me. They sent the text below.

If you agree with the spirit of this, please send a nomination in your own words – or even for your own nominee . . . I nominated and vote for Colin Challen.

Over four years this remarkable MP has done more than any other parliamentarian to focus Government[s] on the need for C&C, the proportionate response to climate change.

It is a vote and the votes are counted.

"Aubrey Meyer, almost single-handedly and with minimal resources, has made an extraordinary impact on the negotiations on the Climate Change Treaty, one of the most important of our time, through his campaign to bring the threat of global warming to the attention of the public and to policy makers.

For nearly twenty years, with great determination and meticulous attention to scientific detail, he has presented his now internationally applauded strategic framework of 'Contraction and Convergence' [C&C]. This is increasingly recognized as the only logical and effective way of preventing global climatic disaster.

For this work he has been made a Fellow of Findhorn 2004 and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2007. He has received the British Media's Andrew Lees Award [1998], the Schumacher Award [2000], a City of London Life-Time's Achievement Award [2005] who cited him as the individual, "from the worlds of business, academia, politics and activism [who] has made the greatest contribution to the understanding and combating of climate change having led strategic debate or policy formation. The award recognizes an outstanding personal contribution to combating climate change at an international level through his efforts to enhance the understanding and adoption of the principle of Contraction and Convergence."

This year [2007] he received the UNEP FI Global Roundtable Financial Leadership Award who for the first time recognized executives within the financial services sector who have contributed in a significant manner to the development of financial ideas, innovative products, institutional change and or the carbon markets. The UNEP FI made the Carbon Leadership Award in Civil Society to Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute."

Most recently, Aubrey Meyer has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2008. This nomination comes from the All-Party UK Parliamentary Group on Climate Change and key actors with the UK Medical Profession who have taken this step in response to his extraordinarily effective and dedicated work with parliamentarians and medical professionals."

C&C - Africa, SIMPOL, TV Germany Aubrey Meyer

Nov 26, 2007 03:21 PST

C&C for Bali

'Climate-Africa'

'SIMPOL'

'German Television'

'Climate Africa'

Climate Conference Yaounde 19 to 22/11/07 with representatives from Kenya, Nigeria, Benin, Chad, Central African Republic. Special contributions from CNA [Kenya], Comfort Hassan from NEST [Nigeria] and Prof. Ganta [Benin Republic] and support from French Cooperation [Cameroon] and the British High Commission.

Conference Technical Documents and Resolutions go forward to Bali COP13: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Climate_Network_Africa_Bali.pdf

http://www.gci.org.uk/Conferences/Yaounde_Conference_Report.pdf

Contact Raphael Hanmbock of Climate Africa: -

climateaf@yahoo.co.uk

'Simultaneous Policy Group'

The now global 'Simultaneous Policy Group' group [SIMPOL - based in the UK] are formally behind C&C now. The group adopted C&C at their weekend conference with an overwhelming majority. It is seen as a definitive example of the kind of political solution that SIMPOL was created to canvass for. SIMPOL have around 30 UK MPs signed up to their programme and are now seeking to link this with the existing C&C network in parliament.

Contact John Bunzl: - <http://www.simpol.org.uk/>

Interviews on German Television RE Bali

<http://www.3sat.de/mediathek/?obj=7064>

and Mrs Merkel Backing C&C in Bali

<http://www.3sat.de/mediathek/?obj=7070&mode=play>

UK Gov calls for C&C Aubrey Meyer

Nov 28, 2007 23:55 PST

New British High Commissioner to India – Mr Richard Stagg - tells 'The HINDU' [one of India's largest daily broadsheets] the UK wants to implement a shared strategy of C&C.

"Regarding the other global deadlock on climate change, Mr. Stagg said that the U.K. wanted to implement a shared strategy of "contract and converge", with developed nations contracting their CO2 emissions immediately, and developing countries ultimately converging toward the same goal, with the understanding that the compulsions of economic growth will initially lead to rising emissions in countries like India and China."

[Full text and Link Below]

This comes as GCI puts C&C to LSE next Monday evening

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/lse.pdf>

Film, Music and Full exposition of C&C as at: [http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_\[Tower_&_Ravens\].exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_[Tower_&_Ravens].exe)

But Nicholas Stern declines to attend [as he told LSE last year, "there's no such thing as a right to emit - its just too difficult to get your head around"].

GCI shares C&C platform with Climate Network Africa at COP-13 in Bali – Indonesian Environment Minister gives keynote.

http://www.gci.org.uk/events/AFRICAN_PREP_MEETING_COP13_BALI.pdf

UNDP Report under the editorship of Kevin Watkins ex-OXFAM, makes a pig's ear of C&C, actually repeating Nicholas Stern and there's no such thing as a right to emit . . . its like saying there's a right to vote!

- I kid you not; read it for yourself: -

Contraction and Convergence

"One school of thought argues that every person in the world ought to enjoy an equivalent right to emit greenhouse gases, with countries that exceed their quota compensating those that underutilize their entitlement.

Although proposals in this framework are often couched in terms of rights and equity, it is not clear that they have a rights-based foundation: - the presumed 'right to emit' is clearly something different than the right to vote, the right to receive an education or the right to enjoy basic civil liberties." [62 Stern]

They then lay out a prospectus that seeks to halve global emissions by mid-century – weirdly then calling this Contraction and Convergence (C&C)

If you compare this with the Hadley Centre's coupled carbon cycle modelling [using this animation] you can see why its too little too late: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_\[Tower_&_Ravens\].exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_[Tower_&_Ravens].exe)

Top risk analysts Lloyds of London from Benfield Hazard Centre describes the animation as, "brilliant but terring"

The HINDU

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/29/stories/2007112956341300.htm>

CHENNAI: Opening up markets may lead to protests in the short term, but will bring all-round benefits in the long term, according to British High Commissioner Richard Stagg .

Speaking to The Hindu on Wednesday during his first visit to the city since he took over as High Commissioner in September, Mr. Stagg said that this principle held true whether it referred to Britain's labour market or India's retail market, both of which seem to be up in arms over liberalisation.

"A process of dramatic social change always causes anxiety. It is the government's job to manage that anxiety," he said when asked about the furore in the U.K. over opening up the job market.

Indian doctors in the U.K. have been in the midst of a controversy recently, with the British High Court ruling earlier this month that international medical graduates would be treated on a par with their British and European colleagues when competing for jobs next year.

Mr. Stagg said that his government continued to favour liberalisation, although, he said, there were always people and political elements ready to take advantage of such anxiety. Similarly, the government encouraged outsourcing by British companies, supporting the principle that "capital finds a home where it can generate the most effective jobs."

The British government hoped India would further open up its own markets in several sectors. Financial services, insurance, legal services, retail and education were areas where British and multinational companies were "trying to make progress against the headwinds" of India's regulatory environment, Mr. Stagg said.

As far as the financial services industry was concerned, Mr. Stagg made it clear that hesitation to change could be fatal. "What people don't seem to realise is that if Dubai reaches critical mass [as a financial centre], Mumbai would find it very hard... By the time they choose their moment, the moment might have passed," he warned.

When it comes to retail, British companies will not be satisfied with simply running back-end operations in India. They pride themselves on being farm-gate to dinner-plate retailers, Mr. Stagg said, pointing out that Tesco and its fellow British retailers may not get involved in logistics alone if they could not control the whole process. Currently, India does not allow foreign retailers to sell directly to consumers.

Education is another area which Mr. Stagg hopes will become more open in India. British universities have set up shop in other parts of Asia, but regulations prevent them from establishing themselves in India, where they have more natural ties, he said.

Apart from these areas where British firms still face regulatory hurdles, Mr. Stagg listed information technology, pharmaceuticals and auto as Indian industrial sectors with scope for collaboration

and investment. The U.K. was keen to encourage two-way investment with India for reasons that go beyond economics, he said, pointing out that a vibrant trade and investment scenario affected the whole climate of the political relationship.

Helping to open up the world market further was also high on the U.K.'s international agenda. London was using its influence in Europe and the U.S. to wring a deal out of the Doha round of World Trade Organisation negotiations. "You can see the outline of a deal, but it requires political willpower to deliver that deal," he said.

Regarding the other global deadlock on climate change, Mr. Stagg said that the U.K. wanted to implement a shared strategy of "contract and converge", with developed nations contracting their CO2 emissions immediately, and developing countries ultimately converging toward the same goal, with the understanding that the compulsions of economic growth will initially lead to rising emissions in countries like India and China.

Up stream US blogging on C&C

Friday, November 2, 2007

The CAT* is out of the Bag

*That's Carbon Adjustment Tariff to you.

It's coming, probably, and here are some ideas for what form it should take.

The basic idea is simple: any country that gets serious about controlling carbon emissions will raise the price of the stuff, directly or indirectly. Because carbon inputs are important in many other goods and services, they will raise those prices too. If some countries take action on climate change and others don't this will lead to distortions in global markets. Otherwise well-meaning governments might refrain from action, fearing the competitive effects. If the elasticities are particularly unfavorable, it is even possible that stringent regulation

in one country could lead to an exodus of industry to places where carbon burns freely, resulting in an overall increase in global emissions.

So put a tariff on goods to offset price differences attributable to different carbon regimes. There isn't an accepted name for the idea yet, so let's call it a carbon adjustment tariff. The idea can be found in Warner-Lieberman and has been broached by heads of state in Paris and Berlin. It is difficult to see how individual countries can take the lead without it.

Good ideas can have bad consequences unless they are thought through, however. Here are three principles that ought to govern a CAT you could love.

1. A tariff schedule should be insulated as far as possible from self-interested manipulation. In a better world it would be the product of a representative and accountable global agency. In the shabby one we live in it should at least be the joint product of a subset of countries, rich and developing, that are willing to take some initiative.
2. All the money collected under such a tariff—repeat, all the money—should be returned in some fashion to the countries of origin, to finance green investment. Yes, I know a lot of this cash will be misspent, but it would be misspent in the collecting country too. The CAT must not become another means to suck scarce resources from South to North.
3. Some or all of the revenues should be held in escrow, pending the agreement of the trading partner to enter a "contract and converge" system under which it will approach a common per capita carbon emissions target. This money can sweeten a deal that should be made on its own merits.

It bears repeating: policies to forestall global warming are not only environmental policies. If they take their job seriously, they will have profound effects on national and global economies. They should be designed to be economically progressive and sustainable.

C&C - Medics and more Aubrey Meyer

Nov 30, 2007 05:13 PST

1. C&C in BMJ/Lancet – Premiere Medical Journals

2. C&C in Climate and Health Council Declaration

3. C&C in Wired

4. C&C in Fin Facts Business

British Medical Journal/Lancet

C&C Editorial by

Fiona Godlee editor in chief, BMJ, London WC1H 9JR

Richard Horton editor in chief, Lancet, London NW1 7BY

Robin Stott vice chair, Medact, London N1 6HTHT

Mike Gill, co-chair Climate Health Council

Full editorial at: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/papers/BMJ_Editorial.pdf

"... the international community recognises that a post Kyoto global framework is an essential part of any solution.

Our advocacy must insist that this framework promotes health. To this end, the framework must constrain carbon dioxide emissions so that atmospheric levels do not exceed 450 parts per million, the level at which the odds for avoiding dangerous climate change are better than 50:50.

The framework must also be the basis for ensuring a transfer of resources to give time to those countries that are undergoing, or have yet to undergo, the social and economic transition that fossil fuel has enabled in the rich Western world. The framework based market of contraction and convergence achieves both these aims, and is the most feasible option at present.

Health professionals should make a concerted effort to contribute to the post Kyoto framework, and to lobby at the United Nations' conferences on climate change in Bali in December and then in Copenhagen in November 2009."

The Climate and Health Council Declaration

Full Declaration of the Climate and Health Council at: -

<http://www.climateandhealth.org/getinvolved/>

"Call on governments of the world to put in place a global framework such as the Global Commons Institute's Contraction and Convergence to cap the emissions of greenhouse gases such that the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ does not rise above 450 ppm"

<http://www.climateandhealth.org/whois/>

Organisations

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

Royal College of Physicians

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

Royal College of Psychiatrists

Royal Society of Medicine

Faculty of Public Health

Conference of UK Postgraduate Medical Deans

UK Public Health Association

Association of Public Health Observatories

Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Bristol

PHMUK

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Physicians for Global Survival

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

International Society of Doctors for the Environment (Europe)

New Zealand Medical Students Association
Heads of Academic Departments for Public Health
Israeli Medical Association
Finnish Medical Association
Swiss Doctors for the environment (Aerztinnen und Aerzte fuer
Umweltschutz)

Journals

British Medical Journal
Lancet
Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health

Individuals

Prof Sir Malcolm Green
Professor Sir Cyril Chantler
Prof Tony McMichael
Prof Kent Woods
Prof Mark Maslin
Professor Roger Jones
Professor John Rees
Professor Sue Atkinson
Michael Boulton-Jones
Dr Howard Stoate MP
Dr Mary Montgomery
sue atkinson, Doctor
Jean Zigby, Doctor
Peter Orris, Doctor, Occupational Health Services Institute, University of Illinois at Chicago
Wired gets to grips with C&C
Full article and blog here: -

<http://blog.wired.com/wiredscience/2007/11/confront-climat.html>

"I love the contraction and convergence model. It's the most fair system I've seen. Will we find the political will in the US to say, "I'll take a 2% less in income growth a year, so that we can work this climate change thing out." As importantly, will a leader rise up who can ask us to make that sacrifice without being crushed by biz interests saying we'll make Sarasota into Somalia?"

"I think it's much easier to communicate a well-developed set of equity principles to all the nations of the world than to engage in horse-trading with a smaller group. Think about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for instance, which was a General Assembly achievement and continues to be the most important international legal document we have today. I think people need to trust the next climate treaty, which means it should be simple and fair that's why we've been promoting contraction and convergence."

FIN FACTS Business

Full article here: -

http://www.finfacts.com/irelandbusinessnews/publish/article_1011947.shtml

Peterson and Klepper conduct a quantitative assessment of the distribution of the costs of climate policies by comparing a harmonized international carbon tax with two variants of a cap-and-trade

system: The first requires reductions in all countries by the same percentage relative to some historical reference year ("grandfathering rule"), the second allocates emission rights in such a way that over time the rights are distributed among countries according to the size of their population. This proposal – it has been also called the "Contraction and Convergence" approach – eventually leads to a system where every person receives the same emission right. This last proposal has recently been introduced by the Chancellor of Germany into the international debate.

Peterson and Klepper find that a harmonized carbon tax tends to favour industrialized countries whereas it puts a relatively high burden on developing countries. The "Contraction and Convergence" approach of emission trading leads to welfare gains for countries like China, India, and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa whereas it imposes welfare losses upon industrialized countries which are larger than those under the grandfathering rule or a tax scenario.

Full Peterson and Klepper paper at: -

<http://www.ifw-kiel.de/pub/kap/2007/kap1380.pdf>

"The often discussed "contraction & convergence" proposal by the Global Common Institute for example is a combination of the egalitarian and sovereignty principles."

Australian: challenge Rudd to C&C Bali Aubrey Meyer

Dec 02, 2007 06:43 PST

Climate challenge for Rudd at Bali

by Robyn Eckersley

The Australian

Mainstream daily broadsheet

December 03, 2007

"THE UN conference now under way in Bali represents a watershed in the history of climate negotiations. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that global emissions must peak by 2015 and then decline if we are to avert catastrophic climate change. The Kyoto Protocol was merely a warm-up match.

Its successor will be the main game. And it will have to be concluded by the end of 2009 if the new treaty is to come into force after the expiry of the Kyoto commitment period in 2012 another option is the Contraction and Convergence model of the London Global Commons Institute. Under this model, world aggregate emissions must contract to a safe level within an appropriate time, and each country's per capita emissions must eventually converge to that safe level. This effectively gives each citizen of the world the right to pollute up to a certain safe level. Countries with high per capita emissions must contract towards the safe level, while countries with very low per capita emissions would be given room to grow. The adjustment would be facilitated by global emissions trading.

Australia's credibility as an international negotiator will turn on the extent to which the Rudd Government is prepared to move Australia towards a low carbon economy."

[See link and full text below].

C&C at LSE tomorrow night 19.00 hrs.

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/lse.pdf>

"These C&C animations are brilliant but very scary . . . "

[McGuire/Benfield-Hazard].

Free All Party DVDs

C&C in Countercurrents

<http://www.countercurrents.org/barry021207.htm>

alternative site relay of

Dr Glen Barry

"Poverty Sucks, the Earth and the Soul"

<http://earthmeanders.blogspot.com/2007/12/poverty-sucks-earth-and-soul.html>

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,22857670-7583,00.html>

Climate challenge for Rudd

Robyn Eckersley | December 03, 2007

THE UN conference now under way in Bali represents a watershed in the history of climate negotiations. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that global emissions must peak by 2015 and then decline if we are to avert catastrophic climate change. The Kyoto Protocol was merely a warm-up match. Its successor will be the main game. And it will have to be concluded by the end of 2009 if the new treaty is to come into force after the expiry of the Kyoto commitment period in 2012.

Two central challenges face the Bali negotiators. The first is to persuade developed countries to move towards robust targets in the next commitment period, such as the European Union's proposed 30 per cent cut below a 1990 baseline. The second is to engage the emerging big emitters from the developing world, such as China and India, in serious mitigation efforts. Whatever the outcome, it will build on the architecture of the Kyoto Protocol.

The Rudd Government also faces a diplomatic challenge if it stands by its campaign backflip that it would only commit to a post-2012 agreement if both developed and developing countries accept binding commitments. What might these commitments be, given that it is clear that neither the US nor China will agree to mandatory targets in the second commitment period?

Australia must work creatively with, rather than against, the architecture of the Kyoto Protocol. This includes the basic burden-sharing principles of equity and "common but differentiated responsibility", which requires developed countries to take the lead on the basis of their greater historical responsibility for emissions and their greater capacity to absorb emission cuts. This is precisely why only developed countries in Annex B of the protocol were required to take on mandatory emission reduction targets in the first round, a point consistently and conveniently ignored by the US and Australia in recent years.

No agreement was reached at Kyoto as to when developing countries might be expected to commit to binding targets in the future. Nor is it clear on what basis they might graduate to Annex B. It is patently clear that developing countries are not ready to take these steps in the next commitment period, and for good reason. There is a fundamental difference between subsistence and luxury emissions.

One of the biggest flaws of the Kyoto negotiations was the failure to develop a formula for the fair allocation of emission targets. Developing countries were partly to blame for this. In refusing even to broach the subject of targets at Kyoto they were unable to shape a debate about a fair formula to serve their future environmental and development needs. The upshot was the developed country targets were negotiated on the basis of political expediency. Australia emerged with a windfall target of an 8 per cent increase on 1990 levels (compared with the Annex B average of a 5 per cent cut), and a baseline inflated by the inclusion of emissions from land clearing.

If Kevin Rudd wishes to play a creative leadership role at Bali he faces two choices. The first choice is to accept that developing countries should not be asked to adopt binding targets in the second commitment period. This will require supporting strong targets for developed countries of at least 30 per cent. It will also require engaging big emerging emitters such as China and India on voluntary but effective mitigation measures.

For example, Australia could push for the creation of a multilateral fund (following the model of the Montreal Protocol) that will finance the incremental costs of mitigation measures by developing countries. It could also support the idea of voluntary targets for developing countries that provided no sanctions if they underachieve but significant rewards if they are met, and the option of selling their carbon credits if they overachieve.

But if Australia insists on targets for all then it should support an equitable formula for allocating differentiated emission targets that takes account of historical responsibility and capacity. One

such model is EcoEquity's Greenhouse Development Rights. This model provides a threshold for graduation to Annex B that safeguards the rights of those living in poverty to reach a dignified level of sustainable human development. On this model, Singapore and South Korea would be expected to graduate to Annex B, while other developing countries would remain exempt until they reached the trigger. The targets of Annex B countries would be scaled according to responsibility and capacity.

Another option is the Contraction and Convergence model of the London Global Commons Institute. Under this model, world aggregate emissions must contract to a safe level within an appropriate time, and each country's per capita emissions must eventually converge to that safe level. This effectively gives each citizen of the world the right to pollute up to a certain safe level. Countries with high per capita emissions must contract towards the safe level, while countries with very low per capita emissions would be given room to grow. The adjustment would be facilitated by global emissions trading.

Finally, Australia's credibility as an international negotiator will turn on the extent to which the Rudd Government is prepared to move Australia towards a low carbon economy.

Robyn Eckersley is a professor of global politics at the University of Melbourne.

"Realism leader here"

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,22858089-16382,00.html>

The AGE [Oz] - Rudd's boss advises C&C Aubrey Meyer

Dec 03, 2007 07:48 PST

The global warming battle: united we stand, divided we fall

The AGE Australia

Tim Colebatch December 4, 2007

Bali is only the beginning of the negotiation. The aim is to get an international agreement by the end of 2009. But Garnaut is sceptical, and warns that if it happens, "in the end, (the principles) will have to give much weight to equal per capita rights of emissions".

That is the inconvenient truth that Howard and Rudd avoided in their election jousting. In 2004, the US and Australia pumped roughly 20 tonnes per head of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. China produced only 3.6 tonnes per head, Indonesia (excluding forest fires) 1.4 tonnes, India one tonne and Bangladesh 270 kilograms. If we want an international agreement, that reality has to be at the centre of it.

Garnaut [Rudd's former Boss and now climate advisor] is attracted to the "contraction and convergence" approach championed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel: developed countries should commit to contract their emissions rapidly, while developing countries would be given some "headroom for emissions growth", perhaps in the form of "challenging emissions intensity targets", such as pledging to keep emissions growth to less than half their growth in GDP.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/opinion/the-global-warming-battle-united-we-stand-divided-we-fall/2007/12/03/1196530572751.html?page=2>

The global warming battle: united we stand, divided we fall

The AGE Australia

Tim Colebatch December 4, 2007

THEY call it the prisoner's dilemma. A group of you are captured, separated and individually interrogated. When your turn comes, you don't know what those interrogated before you have said. Do you confess, at the risk of giving away the evidence that could convict you? Or deny it, at the risk of increasing your penalty if others have confessed?

You might wonder what this has to do with climate change, and the meeting under way in Bali to launch negotiations for a post-Kyoto agreement. Plenty, says Ross Garnaut, the man commissioned by Kevin Rudd and state governments to report on what should be Australia's policy on

climate change.

Twenty years ago, Garnaut was Rudd's boss. At 41, having invented the resources rent tax and been economic adviser to Bob Hawke, he was ambassador to China, while Rudd was his bright young Mandarin-speaking workaholic. They have kept in touch, and Garnaut, a man of sharp mind who was shunned by John Howard for his Labor ties, relishes being back in the policy arena.

Last week he gave his first speech setting out his views on the issues (on the net at www.garnautreview.org.au). In short, his views are that:

Climate change is "a worse and more urgent problem than we thought", requiring firm, quick action.

There are "diabolical" policy challenges in getting effective international agreement, partly because "the incentives are all wrong".

The world has the technological and economic ability to stop global warming.

There might never be one big international agreement, but a series of commitments.

The costs of action are relatively small.

The biggest challenge is to design an emissions trading system that cannot be captured by vested interests.

To sum it up, Garnaut is confident we could solve the problems, at little cost i^a it "might mean that Australia's GDP would treble by 2051 rather than 2050" i^a but he is not confident that we will.

Part of the reason is the prisoner's dilemma. Only China and the US, each producing roughly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, are big enough to get significant benefit from their own actions to reduce them. Even Australia i^a "one of three exceptionally large per capita emitters" i^a would benefit more from what others do than from what it does itself.

Until we know if others are taking action, we can't know if it is in our interests to do the same. Yet we can't know what others will do. "The incentives facing individual delegations in such a negotiation are all wrong," Garnaut warns.

Bali is only the beginning of the negotiation. The aim is to get an international agreement by the end of 2009. But Garnaut is sceptical, and warns that if it happens, "in the end, (the principles) will have to give much weight to equal per capita rights of emissions".

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Garnaut is attracted to the "contraction and convergence" approach championed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel: developed countries should commit to contract their emissions rapidly, while developing countries would be given some "headroom for emissions growth", perhaps in the form of "challenging emissions intensity targets", such as pledging to keep emissions growth to less than half their growth in GDP.

As their per capita emissions converge with those of low-emission Western countries (as in Europe or Japan), they too would then take on emission reduction targets. But be warned: even for China, that would be 20 years away.

Garnaut's implied conclusion is that we should not wait for the world. He says we should move quickly to drive change and not coddle vested interests i^a because Australia, as a dry country with a fragile environment, stands to suffer more from climate change than any other developed country.

His prime goal is to design an emissions trading scheme that cannot be rorted. He suggests it be run at arm's length from government, like the Reserve Bank. He opposes handing out free permits to pollute, arguing that since the carbon price is to be passed on to consumers, compensation is unnecessary and blunts the incentive to change.

This will be a huge battleground ahead. Garnaut says industries such as aluminium, steel and

cement, which have huge emissions and are exposed to trade, should be dealt with under a separate international agreement, rather than given free permits. Good idea, but until it happens, we need some other mechanisms, such as rebates of carbon prices for emission-intensive exports.

Garnaut will not be the Government's only source of advice on climate change. The Howard government asked Treasury to prepare an assessment of the long-term costs and benefits to Australia, which is due to report in mid-year, roughly at the same time as his draft report. One suspects that he and Treasury will see eye to eye on the need for a scheme with integrity and bite. Their common enemy will be what Guy Pearce, in his classic account of Howard's climate change policy, *High and Dry*, calls "the greenhouse mafia": the miners and energy producers that have written Australian policy until now. It'll be a tough battle ahead.

Tim Colebatch is economics editor.

C&C in UENP/SDI 'Action Programme' Aubrey Meyer

Dec 05, 2007 10:35 PST

C&C gets prominent billing in UNEP/SDI Climate Action Programme

<http://www.climateactionprogramme.org/features>

Contraction and Convergence:

the proportionate response to climate change.

"The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was agreed in 1992 with the objective to halt the rising concentration of greenhouse gas (GHG) in the atmosphere. In 2007, efforts to this end remain insufficient and the danger of 'runaway' rates of global climate change taking hold is increasing. The science-based, global climate policy framework of Contraction and Convergence (C&C) offers an equitable solution to cutting carbon emissions in the hope that global collective efforts to reduce emissions can be successful. Three elements are at the core of the C&C campaign: the constitutional concept of Contraction and Convergence (C&C); the techniques and processes developed to focus the debate on rates of C&C that are relevant; the sustained effort to present C&C as the basis of the proportionate response to climate change."

<http://www.climateactionprogramme.org/features>

There are many other contributions from people of high reputation. Sadly, however the contribution from UK Government economist Sir Nicholas Stern is quite untrustworthy. Strong on the rhetoric of the seriousness of the situation, he nonetheless foresees that we can stabilize the atmosphere at 550 ppmv CO2 for a mere 1% of global GDP.

You may feel what I say next are harsh words - but this is economic and scientific rubbish. It means we'd need to find, buy and burn another half a trillion tonnes of fossil fuel, going to zero emissions over the next 150 years on the arithmetic he's using, to get to that ppm level [why waste the money?] while trying to pay for adapting to a quantum of damages that was rapidly destroying the global economy probably within the next fifty years [why bother?]

For whom is this piper playing the tune?

Stern has not paid attention to the dangerous rates of climate change scientific observation reveals that we are already the victims of. Nor has he paid attention to the climate related damage rates already being returned by the Insurance industry for ten years, where uninsured loss estimates continue to run at twice the rate of economic growth. As he claimed two years ago, he was a 'beginner'.

To have any chance of stabilising the ppm level in the atmosphere, zero-emissions globally within fifty years is the emergency requirement the Hadley Centre's coupled models now reveal [in IPCC AR4]. The 'carbon-arithmetic' counting the constraint against the relevant rates of change is in the animation at: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_\[Tower_&_Ravens\].exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_[Tower_&_Ravens].exe)

or for Macs

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_\[Tower_&_Ravens\].hqx](http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_[Tower_&_Ravens].hqx)

UK Government Chief Scientist Sir David King steps down today claiming he was gagged by the government about the seriousness of climate change. Doubtless Mr Stern won't be claiming that while he is on the UK Government's delegation in Bali.

Soon to be a 'Lord' he makes his bed in Ermine and in it he lies. The truth walks elsewhere.

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C&C - "simple and transparent" Australia . . . Aubrey Meyer

Dec 05, 2007 19:04 PST

WILL CLIMATE CHANGE BRING AN END TO THE PLATINUM AGE?

Professor Ross Garnaut

Paper presented at the inaugural S.T. Lee Lecture on Asia & The Pacific, Australian National University, 29 November 2007

<http://www.garnautreview.org.au/CA25734E0016A131/WebObj/>

GarnautPublicLectureANU29November2007/\$File/Garnaut%20Public%20Lecture%20ANU%2029%20November%202007.pdf

Here's an extract from this paper by Professor Ross Garnaut.

He is Australia's answer to Sir Nicholas Stern. Unlike anything obvious from the UK Government, this top economic advisor to the new Australian Government is making a coherent effort to support the Merkel C&C initiative.

"What sorts of principles might guide the allocation of a global emissions budget across countries? To be widely accepted as being reasonable the principles will need to be simple, transparent and readily applicable.

In the end, they will need to give much weight to equal per capita rights of emissions. They will need to allow long periods for adjustment towards such positions—within the over-riding requirement to stay within an environmentally responsible global emissions budget.

One possible way of bringing these two elements together would be the "contraction and convergence" approach that has been discussed favourably in Germany and India at times in the past.

The world will need to provide headroom for emissions growth in rapidly growing developing countries, within a general principle of sharing the adjustment burden. The headroom may take the form of challenging emissions intensity targets - for example, with emissions intensity of output falling by more than half of GDP growth rate - for developing countries growing too rapidly for it to be possible for them to hold to a budget tied mechanically to "contraction and convergence".

The principles will need to embody developed country commitment to investment in research and development and the subsequent diffusion of technologies to developing countries.

A limit would need to be placed on the provision of headroom for rapidly growing developing countries. For example, if the "contraction and convergence" approach were to be accepted as the first organising idea, and an "emissions intensity" alternative introduced for rapidly growing developing countries, the "headroom" could be withdrawn at the point where the developing country's rising emissions per capita reach a benchmark trajectory in per capita emissions.

This benchmark trajectory would be based on an average of the emissions profiles of moderately emitting developed countries (e.g. Europe, Japan, New Zealand), which would be expected to be much lower than at present at the point where the two trajectories intersect.

The proposals for equitable allocation of a limited global emissions budget are at an early stage of development. Australia's proximity to the rapidly developing countries of Asia, while being one of the three exceptionally large per capita emitters itself, gives us important perspectives to bring to the international discussion of these matters.

The keys to the eventual emergence of an acceptable basis for allocating a global emissions budget would be the widespread acceptance that it is essential to reach an agreement; that the allocation formula is simple; and that it is impossible to cover every valid special case.

The costs of living within global and national budgets would be lower if the allocation of rights to

emissions were tradable between countries, under principles that are adumbrated below.”

[see paper].

<http://www.garnautreview.org.au/CA25734E0016A131/WebObj/>

[GarnautPublicLectureANU29November2007/\\$File/Garnaut%20Public%20Lecture%20ANU%2029%20November%202007.pdf](http://www.garnautreview.org.au/CA25734E0016A131/WebObj/GarnautPublicLectureANU29November2007/$File/Garnaut%20Public%20Lecture%20ANU%2029%20November%202007.pdf)

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BBC&C and Africa Aubrey Meyer

Dec 10, 2007 09:01 PST

Climate change goal 'unreachable'

By Roger Harrabin

BBC environment analyst, Bali

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7135836.stm>

“Buried in the latest IPCC document is a little-noticed sentence admitting that our projections for emission reductions might be underestimated due to missing carbon cycle feedbacks.

That means the earth may already be turning against us - as our emissions heat the world, the Arctic sea ice melts, the dark water absorbs more heat and causes further melting. And so on in many different ways.

That means we may within 50 years need to take all, or almost all, the carbon out of the way we live. That would need an extraordinary technological and social revolution.”

GCI - The actual coupled-modelling of this is buried deeper still, and impenetrable, in IPCC AR4 [Chapter 10 Working Group One].

But here it is animated for ease of understanding - In the words of the Benfield Hazard Ctr –“Brilliant – and very scary” . . . “Awesome” in the words of the European Environmental Security Institute “Very Impressive”

Roger Harrabin BBC . . . .

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN\\_C&C\\_Animation\\_\[Tower\\_&\\_Ravens\].exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_[Tower_&_Ravens].exe)

[Harrabin said this work would be on the bbc website this week, but then again . . . ]

Report from BALI Africa Conference on C&C here: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/events/VIEWPOINT\\_C&C.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/events/VIEWPOINT_C&C.pdf)

The theme of the Workshop was 'Equity, Justice and Rights in Adaptation, CDM and Post-Kyoto'. It was observed that African negotiators need to focus simultaneously on local and global issues; and also on current fire-fighting and the future; beyond Kyoto. The Chair of the African Group observed that the Abuja Resolutions and the African Groups opening statement in COP 13 starts to engage with this subject of 'equity'.

The UK Inter-Party Parliamentary Chairman on Climate Change Colin Challen MP, emphasised that the essence of sensible international policy on climate change must engage with this question: 'are we solving the problem of GHG emissions faster than we are creating it?'

Currently, the answer is No! He criticized the current flexible

mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol, fundamentally because they are 'Market-Based Frameworks', which respond to the highest bidder, thereby creating and perpetuating injustice and lack of equity, in addition to having limited potential of achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. His suggestion was that there is need to develop a Framework-Based Market, where the Framework would guide the market and not vice versa.

The fundamentals of Contraction and Convergence were explained at the workshop. It was suggested that its principles would allow equity to be built into international climate change policy. It would translate into equal rights of all humans to emit GHGs and tradable per capita entitlements based on this right.

Full text of BBC broadcast below – recorded broadcast here: -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/listenagain/> [8.30 am]

Full text here – “If global temperatures rise, billions will face water shortages In public, climate scientists and European politicians are generally optimistic that rising carbon dioxide levels and temperatures can be curbed.

In private, some are less sanguine; but there has been a widespread unwritten code of optimism to avoid being accused of scaremongering or creating despair.

Now, science advisors to two governments with claims to leadership in global climate politics, Germany and the UK, have told BBC News it is unlikely that levels of greenhouse gases can be kept low enough to avoid a projected temperature rise of 2C (3.6F).

Professors Sir David King and John Schellnhuber say the world is more than 50% likely to experience dangerous levels of climate change.

They believe politicians have been too slow to cut emissions. Current science suggests that above 2C, billions of people will face water shortages, the world’s food supplies could be threatened and widespread extinction could be triggered.

Neither scientist believes that the world would achieve the goal of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of stabilising emissions by around 2015.

#### Lack of optimism

Prof King said he believed there was a 20% chance of temperature rise exceeding 3.7C - an increase that could seriously damage the global economy.

“Ask yourself the question,” he said, “if you got in an aeroplane and the pilot said you’ve got an 80% chance of landing this plane safely, I doubt if you’d get in the plane.”

We may within 50 years need to take all, or almost all, the carbon out of the way we live

Prof James Marburger, the US chief scientist, previously told the BBC that carbon emissions should be cut immediately - but that it was impossible to be sure what a dangerous level of climate change might be.

The scientists’ warning comes as politicians begin to arrive in Indonesia for the latest climate talks - and as a Mori poll suggests that two-thirds of people in the UK do not trust world leaders will solve climate change.

The history of climate negotiations do not inspire optimism.

World leaders first pledged to avoid dangerous climate change at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 when they signed the non-binding UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Emissions continued to rise.

Then came the legally-binding Kyoto protocol. But the USA and Australia pulled out, which undermined the effort to reduce emissions, and corroded the will of other governments.

Can greenhouse gas emissions be kept to stable levels? Japan - a signatory to Kyoto - should have cut by 6% but it has increased emissions by 7%.

Italy (+7.4%) and Spain (+59.8%) are missing their targets by a mile.

In the UK, carbon emissions have recently been going up despite all the government’s green rhetoric.

And meanwhile the big developing nations which signed the Kyoto Treaty but were not obliged to cut emissions under it have been doing their catching up.

Still a long way behind rich nations in terms of pollution per person but posing now a mighty threat.

It all means that since the world committed to avoid dangerous climate change, emissions globally are up around 22%, the highest levels of CO<sub>2</sub> since dinosaurs roamed a sweltering earth.

#### Ambitious target

In his interview with the BBC, Prof King warns that we will have to spend more on adaptation as well as on cutting emissions.

He says it will not be cheap - and that is not a message you hear often from his political masters.

He also said it took until 2005 before the UK cabinet really understood the implications of climate change for all departments (an implicit criticism of Gordon brown and the Treasury).

Britain is putting money into a "global audit" of climate adaptation Prof King said he believed the UK now had the most comprehensive plan for tackling climate change of any major economy.

He also said he was optimistic that politicians globally would now take much more urgent action to tackle emissions.

Prof Schellnhuber agreed - and said Germany would unveil a plan to cut emissions 40% by 2020, a more ambitious target than the UK.

Prof King said there was much more chance of action on climate as President Bush was approaching the end of his term of office.

He said the US government climate strategist James Connaughton had positively obstructed progress on tackling climate change.

The two men have an adversarial history - Prof King was described by Republican politicians as a scare-monger, and he believes it was Mr Connaughton who banned him from private talks at Camp David between Mr Bush and Tony Blair on climate.

Missing feedback

But as the world's politicians begin to face up to the need to cut emissions, they may face unpleasant surprises. Buried in the latest IPCC document is a little-noticed sentence admitting that our projections for emission reductions might be underestimated due to missing carbon cycle feedbacks.

That means the earth may already be turning against us - as our emissions heat the world, the Arctic sea ice melts, the dark water absorbs more heat and causes further melting. And so on in many different ways.

That means we may within 50 years need to take all, or almost all, the carbon out of the way we live. That would need an extraordinary technological and social revolution.

Of course the mainstream science may be wrong. There is still huge uncertainty in climate modelling.

In a recent survey of climate scientists conducted by a leading sceptical scientist, Dr Roger Pielke Sen, 18% of those who responded said the IPCC had exaggerated. But 65% said the IPCC had got it right. And 17% said the prognosis was even worse.

Meanwhile, the UK still plans a huge airport expansion, there is not the slightest hint of a deal that would see rich nations pay poor nations to capture their emissions from coal and even Democrats in the US Congress want to postpone any tough action on emissions until after 2020.

That may be why the scientists' mask of optimism is beginning to slip.

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C&C Leads New Statesman Poll    Aubrey Meyer

Dec 13, 2007 20:49 PST

<http://www.newstatesman.com/polls/1003>

Fresh from Bali where our global climate future is [or perhaps isn't] being decided, you can vote for your preferred global framework.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/polls/1003>

Today, on Friday the 13th of December 2007, the score as we "choose the best climate framework" . . . [NS] is: -

15% are saying Kyoto Protocol

53% are saying Contraction and Convergence

23% are saying Kyoto2

9% are saying Greenhouse Development Rights

<http://www.newstatesman.com/greengrid>

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C&C Poll Link [New St] Changed to Aubrey Meyer

Dec 14, 2007 01:48 PST

New link for C&C poll at New Statesman.

Do vote - Poll still open - C&C rising: -

<http://www.newstatesman.com/200712130037>

Hilary Benn confronted by Parliament on C&C: -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmenvaud/uc155-i/uc15502.htm>

Q16 Mr Chaytor:

"You have given us a sort of shopping list and you have talked about the process, but you have not talked about a framework all a set of principles that might underline that shopping list. Why has the government been unwilling to adopt a framework or be more up front about a framework, particularly the framework of contraction and convergence, because that does seem to underline what you are arguing for but you are not prepared to admit that that is what you are arguing for? Is that not a fair comment?"

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C&C - Nicholas Stern: Ballerina Aubrey Meyer

Dec 17, 2007 10:50 PST

Mr Nicholas Stern, in the view of Mr Georg Haas of the German Green Foundation [the Heinrich Boell Stiftung] is a star critic of "Contraction and Convergence" [C&C].

Calling it a 'privilege' and using the internet, Mr Haas has re-broadcast Mr Stern's latest argument that C&C is a, "spectacularly weak form of justice" - citing [what is by any standards] a spectacularly weak form of C&C.

<http://www.klima-der-gerechtigkeit.de/eine-spektakular-schwache-form-von-gerechtigkeit/>

Like many in this increasingly dysfunctional climate debate, Mr Stern is clearly intellectually challenged by the issue of accounting climate change mitigation with C&C.

Mr – soon to be Lord – Stern yet again substantially repositions himself with his latest opinion of C&C. This is – to my knowledge – the fourth time since he published his Review a year or more ago. In this much publicised report, Mr Stern carefully pre-selected, targeted and then dismissed C&C as an 'assertion' ["it is not an argument; it is an assertion"].

He then went on to assert the ludicrous view that a safe and stable ceiling of 550 ppmv atmosphere concentration of CO2 can be achieved and maintained for a mere one percent of GDP. This assessment of coping assumes that GDP will continue to grow exponentially at 3%. This prognosis assumes that although the damage costs are growing exponentially as well, they are growing from a lower base, and so can be absorbed indefinitely by the benefits of growth. [Adolf Hitler lost the Second World War using a stronger argument than this]

After publication Mr Stern then went on to tell his future students at LSE that in fact the universal equal emissions rights argument in C&C was, "too difficult to get your head around" as it was like saying there was an equal right to vote. [This assertion was unexpectedly developed in the current UN's Human Development Report courtesy of Kevin Watkins of OXFAM].

Then Mr Stern made volta face number three. He went to a climate "who's-who" gathering a few weeks ago in Potsdam to support Mrs Merkel's pro-C&C agreement with Indians. At this he co-signed [with the Nobel-laureates et al listed below] a statement asserting the [quote]: -

"Principle of carbon justice, i.e. striving for a long-term convergence to equal-per-capita emissions rights accomplished through a medium-term multi-stage approach accounting for differentiated national capacities." [unquote].

<http://lists.topica.com/lists/GCN@igc.topica.com/read/message.html?mid=1721226171&sort=d&start=24>



'Striving' to achieve this 'justice-principle' implies that we have a choice and that by signing this, you in some manner 'believe in choosing this justice principle'.

Something appears to have escaped the attention of the co-signatories to this list – and not least Mr Stern. It is that since the global contraction of carbon-consumption and emissions is necessary to stabilize the concentration of GHG in the atmosphere, it is impossible - whatever the state of moral vigour - not to converge the per capita consumption of this. It is a function of the maths, not the morals.

And now Mr Stern's latest vocal face - truly a 'tour-de-force' is to side up with the Indians in a top UN forum with Mr Nitin Desai to \*denounce\* this very [albeit very weak version of the] C&C argument in favour of what . . . ? It was not specified.

The number of turns here are worthy of a ballerina. And an economist who affirms and then denounces weak justice as we plough into worsening climate disasters, sounds a little apostate to me.

What comes next? 32 pirouettes to Jihad?

I can't believe that Mr Stern will – as Mr Haas proposes – be in favour of the NGO Eco-Equity argument ["Strong Justice"] published through Heinrich Boell Foundation. In this argument, emissions must go to zero globally for climate safety and this must be achieved by the money and effort of developed countries alone whose emissions will go to zero by 2028 [sic] in exchange for a blank cheque for the emissions of developing countries in honour of their greenhouse gas development rights.

This is a form of mathematical black magic that turns leaden whining into golden water. It would be a flat contradiction of the 'agreement' just achieved in Bali, where this viewpoint was finally defeated in favour of an outcome specifying the need for an all-country agreement. But that point does seem – looking back over the years – never to have much bothered the NGOs.

Mr Stern should probably take a rest. He has been heavily lobbied, poorly advised and - like Mr Haas and many others, including the climate-equity faction - has not done his own homework adequately. Against all of this, the C&C calculus is clearly laid out here. Now, it is against the backdrop of the 'coupled model' runs from the Hadley Centre now in IPCC AR4: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN\\_C&C\\_Animation\\_\[Tower\\_&\\_Ravens\].exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation_[Tower_&_Ravens].exe)

This shows the narrowing opportunity we now face and is the basis of any globally numerate response to climate change.

These numbers are certainly unwelcome. These numbers are definitely inconvenient. However, if we are steered by this there is a chance that we could yet solve this global problem faster than we are creating it.

However, if we continue to be steered by people of the confused and vacillating judgement of Mr Stern, the policy challenge framed by these numbers may well prove impossible to resolve.

Whatever the outcome, the C&C assumptions and accounting in this exposition of the numbers happen to be transparent, accurate, trustworthy and true. In the words of the email received today from Georg Haas "really very beautiful and very instructive."

Thank you Georg. I really appreciate the considered view. Can you persuade Mr Stern to look at it - and then pass judgement on C&C - too.

Aubrey Meyer

GCI

- Global target such as the 2°C-limit for planetary warming relative to pre-industrial levels or the (largely equivalent) halving of worldwide greenhouse emissions by 2050. It is useful to view those emissions as the product of two crucial factors, namely per capita emissions times population. Both of these must be appropriately addressed to attain the long-term stabilization target.
- Series of consistent short and medium-term emissions reduction targets, essential to drive investment and technology and to minimize the need for greater action later.
- Leadership role of industrialized countries, both regarding drastic emissions reductions and



development of low/no-carbon technologies in order to give poor developing countries room for urgently needed economic growth within the boundaries of a global carbon regime.

- Principle of carbon justice, i.e. striving for a long-term convergence to equal-per-capita emissions rights accomplished through a medium-term multi-stage approach accounting for differentiated national capacities.
- Carbon price, as generated, for instance, through an international cap-and-trade system (of systems) based on auctioning permits.
- Establishment of a powerful worldwide process supporting climate-friendly innovation and cooperation, combined with increased funding for RD&D including basic research, to facilitate technology transfer and proliferation.
- Major contributions to a multinational funding system for enhancing adaptive capacities.
- Scaled-up efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and accelerate ecologically appropriate reforestation, achievable through the creation of new incentives for communities and countries to preserve and even increase their forests.
- Reductions of non-CO2 greenhouse gas emissions.

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BMJ - C&C led to Low Carbon World    Aubrey Meyer

Dec 23, 2007 08:18 PST

British Medical Journal [BMJ]

Christmas Edition

Climate change — 2057

'C&C led to Low Carbon World'

<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/335/7633/1318>

Dr Robin Stott

Vice Chair

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Writing in 2057, the British Medical Journal [BMJ]'s Africa correspondent, Robin Stott, looks back at the development of the greatest medical advance of the first half of this century

Over 50 years ago, the BMJ asked readers to identify the key advances that had improved health since the first edition was produced in 1840. From a shortlist of 15, introduction of sanitation was voted the most important. 1

Today we publish the result of a comparable survey covering the past 50 years.

From the 15 shortlisted advances (see box) readers once again put a public health initiative in first place: the role that health professionals played in the campaign to mitigate the ravages of climate change.

The BMJ was in the forefront of this campaign, described below.

The 15 shortlisted advances: -

Action against climate change

Use of dark energy to correct chromosomal abnormalities

Thumbnail sized patient record carried in a subcutaneous pocket of the individuals' choosing

Manipulation of telomeres to ensure healthy old age

Legislation for end of life decisions

AIDS vaccine

In vitro growth of new organs

Functional MRI enhancement of counselling for depression

Male contraceptive pill

Mosquito sterilisation

Phagocytic stimulation as a substitute for antibiotics

Walk in diagnostic box giving instantaneous biochemical, haematological, and imaging information

Apparatus for measuring persistent organic pollutant levels in any material

Regulan tablets for regulating the amount of energy burned in metabolism Remote surgery

In 2006, there was growing concern from many experts about the problems that global warming posed for health. Recognising the urgency of the situation, health professionals acted decisively, including forming the influential climate and health council. 2

First we informed. Health professionals articulated the gravity and extent of the problem and emphasised that all consequences would be much worse for the two billion globally disadvantaged people, most of whom lived in the non-industrialised countries. We also offered hope, pointing out what is now clear—that moving to low carbon societies would be health improving for all.

Second we affirmed. As health professionals we were among the first to reduce our individual carbon footprints and to persuade the institutions we worked in to do likewise.

Through this leadership role of information and affirmation, we brought together major health professional institutions, inspired academics, ambassadors, architects, engineers, lawyers, and teachers to join us, and used our collective advocacy skills to achieve the crucial breakthrough. The adoption of contraction and convergence 3 at the 2009 UNFCCC (United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change) meeting in Copenhagen, and for which Aubrey Meyer, its author, received the Nobel peace prize in 2013, marked the turning point in the campaign.

By 2006, it was clear to all that resolving the problem of global warming needed a global framework and this required the active participation of all people. Those populations in the disadvantaged world, who had little responsibility for global warming, pointed out that any framework would have to deliver them sufficient resources to get similar development benefits to those that the advantaged world had secured through the burning of fossil fuel. Any viable framework had therefore to cap and reduce global carbon emissions while at the same time ensuring that the most disadvantaged people received resources that would enable their development. Of the various contenders, by far the most feasible framework was contraction and convergence.

Alarmed by the increasing frequency and escalating costs of serious climate related events, and alarm accentuated by the demand for oil outstripping the supply, 4 the contraction component was readily agreed by the communities of the rich world. Contraction entailed setting a global carbon budget and reducing this annually so that atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide didn't exceed 450 ppm, giving us a 50:50 chance of avoiding dangerous climate change. The turbulent political times of the early part of this century, however, meant that getting agreement to convergence was more difficult. Persistent pressure from health professionals on all UN bodies, amplified by the outstanding statesman ship from senior leaders of the Mandela mould, was needed to persuade the global decision makers of the efficacy of convergence.

Convergence entailed giving an equal entitlement of carbon to each of the then four billion adult inhabitants of the world. Disadvantaged people, who were almost all low carbon emitters, would have entitlements to sell to the high carbon emitters of the rich north. The market in carbon entitlements would be constrained by the reducing global carbon cap, but within these constraints the disadvantaged, by redeeming their entitlements, would get substantial flows of money. Furthermore, the market signals for all concerned would be toward low carbon investment.

There were both philosophical and practical objections raised to this simple and elegant solution. Some pointed to the fact that the entitlement didn't take into account the amount of fossil fuel burned by the rich nations over the preceding two centuries, though they failed to offer a viable framework that did. Others worried about the practicalities of implementation. Advocates of contraction and convergence responded that any global framework would be difficult to implement. Once the principle was accepted, the numerous agencies with experience of working across the

globe would find a way, and so it was. Others objected that the level of corruption in disadvantaged countries meant that no market mechanism could work to the advantage of the poor.

Pilot studies in Mozambique, the state of Bihar in India, and Nicaragua refuted this pessimistic view. The unwavering commitment of the professional bodies countered the opposition and, by pointing out the enormous public health benefits of moving toward a more equal low carbon world, won the argument for the convergence component of contraction and convergence.

Contraction and convergence created a global virtuous cycle of activity giving environmental, economic, and social benefit, particularly to the poor. This global virtuous cycle unleashed numerous similar cycles at all levels of society, of which the local cooperative production of renewable energy is perhaps the best known. With a reliable energy supply, people became self sufficient in food, creating a secure local economic base. Female literacy reached 95%, family planning became affordable to all who wanted it, and the money flow enabled the

realisation of the millennium goals. 5 A proliferation of carbon capture technologies blossomed in the north, creating meaningful work and the psychological boost of realising that each locality could be part of the solution. Cuba, which underwent an enforced decarbonisation of its economy in the early 1990s, by 2006 was the only country in the world that had achieved its UN development targets without exceeding its footprint and gave reassuring testimony of the benefits of moving to a fair shares, low carbon society. 6 Thus was set in place the global transformation that we have been privileged to be part of.

As the Africa correspondent of the BMJ, I am writing this article today in a Dar es Salaam where local production and consumption cycles contribute to a vibrant social and economic society that flourishes within environmental limits. The infant mortality is 20/1000, fertility rate 2.1, life expectancy 75, there is universal culturally appropriate education, and a female president oversees a parliament with 50% of women members. The major turbulence of the past four decades is behind us. By the foresight and actions of those pioneers 50 years ago what could have been a global health catastrophe has been averted. It is not surprising that our readers have identified the actions to mitigate climate change as the most important medical advance of the past 50 years.

Competing interests: None declared.

Provenance and peer review: Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

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"C&C - One of the most attractive solutions" Aubrey Meyer  
Dec 24, 2007 03:51 PST

Croatian Medical Journal.

2006 August; 47(4): 665-668.

"Foul Weather Ahead and We're Low on Gas"

Joanna Santa Barbara

Ecosystem damage Peak oil Solutions

What is the role of health professionals?

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=2080443>

"Health professional need to understand the data summarized above and to critically examine the projections. Then, before they sink into despair, they need to become aware of a range of solutions posed to counter these problems. Some of the solutions may even have beneficial health effects. The solutions, of course, call for advocacy action by health professionals, among others. Health benefits of responses to climate change and peak oil One of the most attractive solutions is known as Contraction and Convergence (8). It addresses the need to reduce carbon emissions, to cut fossil fuel use in an organized manner, and to attend to the need for equity in this process, taking into account the negative impact of economic globalization, dividing high and low income countries. It may even have positive implications for limiting population growth. This proposal sets a limit to global carbon emissions, and then distributes "entitlements to emit" on a per capita population basis to the global regions. The cap on emissions will steadily diminish until it reaches a sustainable level in terms of the biosphere's capacity to deal with carbon dioxide without a greenhouse effect. It will be set initially higher than the per capita emissions level of people in low-income countries and lower than the emissions level in high-income countries. The rich countries will need to contract their energy consumption, as well as to replace fossil fuel use with renewables. The "entitlements" are tradable on an open market. Money for emissions entitlements will flow towards low-income countries, assisting their development and achievement of Millennium Goals. There will be gradual economic convergence of rich and poor regions, as well as high incentives in both rich and poor regions to develop renewable energy sources. Since the per capita "entitlements" are set according to the population in a base year, there may also be incentive to reduce population to increase the per capita energy wealth in a region."

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=2080443>

Local Transport Today interviews Mayer Hillman

On responding to Climate Change

Very sparky interview . . . . .

[http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/LTT\\_Interview.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/articles/LTT_Interview.pdf)

But the world's resources have never been shared equitably. There have always been inequalities in income, education, health-care. Why should we expect nations to agree to equalise carbon allowances?

"Because in those instances you've just cited it doesn't lead to the end of the world."

Lunchtime Seminar on Climate Change [NHS]

12.30 - 13.30, Thursday the 10th of January 2008

The Conference Hall, St Pancras Hospital

[by invitation].

<http://www.gci.org.uk/events/NHS.pdf>

The Care Trust is delighted that three well known speakers have agreed to give a talk on climate change at St.Pancras from 12.30 - 13.30 pm on 10th of January.

[Refreshments will be available from 12.00].

The presentations will start at 12.30 and include a short film, violin music and poetry.

The session will be introduced by: -

Mario Petrucci - Poet, Physicist, Royal Literary Fund Fellow and Ecologist  
Aubrey Meyer - Renowned climate campaigner and musician  
Dr Robin Stott. - Veteran of IPPNW MEDACT and the Climate and Health Council

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C&C - "Best Invention Ever" Aubrey Meyer  
Dec 29, 2007 06:28 PST

C&C in My Secret Life:

Profile - Rob Newman, comedian & writer

Published: 29 December 2007

<http://news.independent.co.uk/people/profiles/article3264577.ece>

Rob Newman was born on 7 July 1964. A comedian, author and political activist, he read English at Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he met David Baddiel, Hugh Dennis and Steve Punt, alongside whom he appeared in

The Mary Whitehouse Experience from 1990 to 1993. Six years later, he covered the Seattle protests for Channel 4 News. He continues to perform sell-out live shows and has written three novels. He lives in London and the double DVD of History of Oil and From Caliban to the Taliban is out now, £14.99.

Rob's, ". . . best invention ever . . . Contraction and Convergence, invented by Aubrey Meyer. It is the only socially just way of lowering emissions while enhancing equity between rich and poor, north and south, and as such is the only serious response to climate change; which is why you don't hear much about it."

Full profile of Rob's preferences and foibles at: -

<http://news.independent.co.uk/people/profiles/article3264577.ece>

IIED on C&C

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/17023IIED.pdf>

"Harnessing ecological space - Because of its past and present greenhouse gas emissions, the industrialised world is the prime driver of climate change. Poor countries meanwhile pollute the least and suffer the most from the impacts of climate change. These disparities in emissions also mean most developing countries, particularly in Africa, have high levels of carbon credit. To redress the balance, developing countries can use some of their excess ecological space to reduce poverty and boost low-carbon economic growth and development. If the balance is achieved at a globally low level of emissions, it would be in line with the theory of Contraction and Convergence, proposed in the 1990s by the Global Commons Institute and accepted as a policy target by the Africa Group, among others."

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/17023IIED.pdf>

UNDP on C&C

The UN Development Programme in its report criticised the European Union's emissions trading system and questioned the efficacy of the Kyoto protocol in its report, Fighting climate change.

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/news/europe/title,6475,en.html>

But the UNDP itself has erred. Protecting the integrity of the argument: -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Palgrave\\_McMillan.pdf](http://www.gci.org.uk/correspondence/Palgrave_McMillan.pdf)

The distribution of real or perceived costs and benefits of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will play a crucial role in upcoming negotiations on a Post Kyoto climate regime. The distribution of these costs depends to a large degree on the choice of the policy instrument for effectively



reducing emissions such as a harmonized international carbon tax or a “cap-and-trade” emissions trading system with different rules for allocating the emission allowances.

Some of these rules might lead to a distribution of costs particularly for major developing countries including China and India that might not be acceptable to them and thus fail to provide incentives for these countries to participate. This is the result of a working paper, *Distribution Matters – Taxes vs. Emissions Trading in Post Kyoto Climate Regimes* by Sonja Peterson and Gernot Klepper released recently by the German-based Kiel Institute for the World Economy.

<http://www.ifw-kiel.de/pub/kap/2007/kap1380.pdf>

Peterson and Klepper conduct a quantitative assessment of the distribution of the costs of climate policies by comparing a harmonized international carbon tax with two variants of a cap-and-trade system: The first requires reductions in all countries by the same percentage relative to some historical reference year (“grandfathering rule”), the second allocates emission rights in such a way that over time the rights are distributed among countries according to the size of their population. This proposal – it has been also called the “Contraction and Convergence” approach – eventually leads to a system where every person receives the same emission right. This last proposal has recently been introduced by the Chancellor of Germany into the international debate.

Peterson and Klepper find that a harmonized carbon tax tends to favour industrialized countries whereas it puts a relatively high burden on developing countries. The “Contraction and Convergence” approach of emission trading leads to welfare gains for countries like China, India, and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa whereas it imposes welfare losses upon industrialized countries which are larger than those under the grandfathering rule or a tax scenario.

Peterson and Klepper stress the importance of the choice of policy instruments and their particular use in implementing a Post-Kyoto Climate Regime, but conclude that there is no policy instrument that looks immediately acceptable to all countries. However, they indicate that for a Post-Kyoto climate regime that intends to include the countries with the most emissions the “Contraction and Convergence” approach with emission trading could be a good starting point since it balances the overall cost of climate policies between the rich and the not so well-off countries and it simultaneously has the appeal of leading to a fair distribution of emission rights in the future.

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C&C - Nuttin comes from Nitin . . . Aubrey Meyer

Dec 31, 2007 10:15 PST

Nitin Desai: The road from Bali

[Nuttin comes from Nitin . . . .] . . .

Lord Nicholas Stern and UN veteran Nitin Desai made their presence at the “Helsinki Process” conference on the 11th of December 2007, where Stern is reported as denouncing C&C as, “a spectacularly weak form of justice”.

<http://www.klima-der-gerechtigkeit.de/eine-spektakular-schwache-form-von-gerechtigkeit/>

Now Nitin Desai, veteran UN bureaucrat from India, opines in India’s

Premiere Business Daily Business Standard [New Delhi December 20, 2007]

<http://www.business-standard.com/common/storypage.php?autono=308086&leftnm=4&subLeft=0&chkFlg=>

. . . saying, “Many activists have focused on the huge differences in per capita emissions. This has now caught on and one of the scenarios that is actively being talked about is contraction of demand by high per capita emitters and a slow rise in the low emitters with ultimate convergence to an ecologically tolerable level of per capita emissions.”

Calling this Contraction and Convergence [EcoEquity, from whom he extracts this, and Stern who denounced it, must be choking] Desai goes on not to denounce this ‘C&C’ but to argue that in the context of the urgency of climate change and greenhouse development rights, “the industrial countries have to aim at emission reductions in excess of 100% presumably by stepping up their actions on carbon sinks or by buying emission rights from others. India gets off lightly with only a



0.3% liability.”

[If this is EcoEquity, it is even more whacky than the whack-job in the UNDP report, but hey, who’s countin Houndini?].

Nitin goes on to say, “The negotiations over the next two years will not be shaped by these abstract principles. But this discussion of burden-sharing will shape the language of the bazaar bargain that will be the final outcome of the process. The real danger in this haggling is not just that fairness will be forgotten but that the commitments will be grossly inadequate.”

The arithmetic is here - the choice is . . . : -

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN\\_C&C\\_Animation.exe](http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation.exe) for pc and

[http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN\\_C&C\\_Animation.hqx](http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation.hqx) for mac

GCI says that closing the science/policy divide is a pre-condition of dealing with the challenge we now face and even IPCC hard-scientists are now saying, “we’ve done our job now - its the ‘political science’ that matters now.”

See Steve Renning: -

<http://www.forestry.umd.edu/personnel/faculty/swr/Presentation/SupportingFiles/ViewerWM7.html#>

[http://www.newwest.net/topic/article/nobel\\_winner\\_lectures\\_on\\_the\\_five\\_stages\\_of\\_climate\\_grief/C38/L38/](http://www.newwest.net/topic/article/nobel_winner_lectures_on_the_five_stages_of_climate_grief/C38/L38/)

But it doesn’t read like Nitin and EcoEquity are closing the divide . . . so

Bye Bye Love,

Bye Bye Happiness,

No wonder we’re in a mess,

Nuttin lives to see another dayhey!

Nitin says: -

“Ten thousand people, including yours truly [Nitin Desai], went to Bali in early December in order to save the planet. In reality the planet’s fate was being determined by a hundred or so negotiators who were more concerned about protecting narrowly defined national interests. Yet the dynamic of multilateralism is such that something useful finally emerged where everyone gained something and gave up something.

Europe wanted to bring the US into the commitment and quantified emission reduction framework and to provide the negotiating process with a specific goal for emission reductions in the medium term. The US and its camp followers, Canada and Japan, did not want explicit goals and wanted the large developing country emitters as part of the commitment framework. China, India and the other big developing countries wanted to stay out of the commitment framework and keep the discussion of their responsibilities separate from the main negotiation on commitments. All of them got the first part of what they wanted but not the second part. Clearly the Bali outcome is a balanced compromise and the negotiating process over the next two years will continue to be dominated by these three sets of players and Russia.

The Bali outcome is just the beginning. Already the noises from Washington suggest that they will try and reinstate in the negotiating process what they could not get in Bali. India and China and other developing countries will continue to face pressure since they are required by the Bali outcome to undertake “nationally appropriate mitigation actions ... in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner”. This language is strikingly similar to that used for the developed countries’ obligations where the additional element is “commitments or actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives”.

How should India approach these negotiations? At the outset, we must recognise that an increase in global temperature by more than two degree centigrade will involve huge costs of adaptation and disaster management for us. Hence it is in our national interest to argue for a long-term global goal for emission reductions that is consistent with this limit.

The risks of climate change depend on the stock of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere rather than the flow of emissions. Ensuring a 50-50 chance of not exceeding a global temperature increase of two degree centigrade requires us to keep the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases at 450 ppm as against current levels, which are around 380 ppm and the pre-industrial level of 280 ppm. The industrial world, which accounts for 70% of the post-industrial revolution emissions, has used up much of this ecological space. The crucial issue before the negotiators is how the little that remains can be shared fairly. An equally important issue is the sharing of inevitable costs of mitigation and of adaptation to the changes, particularly for small countries that will bear a disproportionate burden of adjustment.

Many activists have focused on the huge differences in per capita emissions. This has now caught on and one of the scenarios that is actively being talked about is contraction of demand by high per capita emitters and a slow rise in the low emitters with ultimate convergence to an ecologically tolerable level of per capita emission. Convergence scenarios tend to focus on the long-term goal for emissions. A 50% reduction in emissions by 2050 is the minimum that is necessary from a precautionary perspective to limit temperature increase to two degree centigrade. The cuts would have to be really deep in the industrial countries to reach this goal. Hence Europe has been talking about 60-80% reduction in its emissions by 2050. The new Australian Prime Minister, Rudd, announced a goal of 60% reduction in this time frame for Australia. The US has no national goal but several States, most notably California, are buying into the 80% emission reduction goal. These goals, if realised, would bring per capita emissions in the industrial world somewhere between the levels that prevail now in China and India. Hence it is difficult for these countries to argue for a long-term goal for their emissions that is significantly higher than their current level. This of course does not rule out a path where emissions rise for some time and fall sharply thereafter.

An interesting new proposal has come from some researchers who have sought to address the developmental inequity built into the simple contract and converge scenarios.\*

They call this the Greenhouse Development Rights framework. It rests on a distinction between survival and luxury emissions, which was advanced by Anil Agarwal and Sunita Narain way back in 1991 and a development threshold of \$9,000 per capita as the minimum to which every human has a right to aspire. The proposers of this framework argue that the exemption on the grounds of the development deficit should be applied to individuals, not nations. In their calculations they work out the capacity of each country to contribute to mitigation, which they link to the magnitude of income above the \$9,000 threshold. This is combined with its responsibility for the problem, which is linked to emissions cumulated from 1990 onwards on the argument that after that the defence of ignorance about impact is not valid. The answers are quite interesting. Basically the industrial countries have to aim at emission reductions in excess of 100% presumably by stepping up their actions on carbon sinks or by buying emission rights from others. India gets off lightly with only a 0.3% liability.

The negotiations over the next two years will not be shaped by these abstract principles. But this discussion of burden-sharing will shape the language of the bazaar bargain that will be the final outcome of the process. The real danger in this haggling is not just that fairness will be forgotten but that the commitments will be grossly inadequate.

The Bali Climate Conference went into overtime and completed its work only on the day after it was due to end using a legal technicality called stopping the clock. But we cannot stop the clock for catastrophic climate change and hope to make for lost time later. We have to act now and act decisively in the small window of opportunity available to us before it is too late.

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