

Contraction and Convergence [C&C]

C&C is a global policy framework introduced to the negotiations at the UN Climate Treaty in 1996 by a small group created within the UK Green Party, the Global Commons Institute.

C&C represents the Treaty's principles of 'Precaution and Equity'.

Contraction refers to the future total of GHG emissions that shrinks fast enough to achieve the objective of the Treaty which is to stop the concentrations of GHG rising further in the global atmosphere than a value that is 'safe' and 'stable'.

Convergence refers to internationally sharing that total on the basis of calculating the shares of countries or regions in relation to the global per capita average of emissions arising under the contraction-rate chosen as 'safe'.

GHG emissions primarily result from burning oil, coal and gas. Increasingly doing this for the last two hundred years has allowed us to develop and grow wealthy. While countries that now have high per capita emissions tend to be developed, wealthy and to 'over-consume', those that still have low per capita emissions tend to be less developed, not yet wealthy and to 'under-consume'.

However, the overall result of creating this pattern of 'Expansion and Divergence' has been to transfer nearly 1,800 Billion Tonnes of CO₂ to the atmosphere. Roughly half of this has stayed there, adding up over time, trapping more heat, changing the climate and putting the future at risk of runaway rates of climate change.

To address this, C&C is a calculating model that will calculate all possible rates of 'contraction' and 'convergence'. The results of working this way have been communicated to the negotiations for many years with a view to helping negotiators reach the global climate deal that we do need to avert the dangerous rates of climate change that increasingly threaten us all.

After twenty years of trying, securing this 'deal' is proving much harder than everybody realized. However, as a model of 'Climate-Justice without Vengeance', C&C is now the most frequently cited and arguably the most widely supported model in the negotiations.

Many now say there is no other basis for solving this intractable diplomatic problem and delivering us from the chaos that will come from continuing stalemate.

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CLIMATE-JUSTICE WITHOUT VENGEANCE

