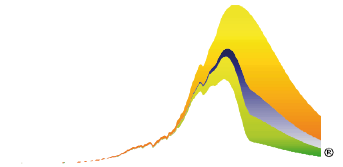


GLOBAL COMMONS INSTITUTE

8th August 2011

The Honourable Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General
760 United Nations Plaza
United Nations
New York, NY 10017



Dear Secretary General

Climate Change and helping a climate consensus with C&C COP-17

With the greatest respect and admiration for your judgement and diplomatic skills, may I bring the following to your attention? I am seeking your help to progress and perhaps even to resolve some issues that have so far divided the UN negotiations on climate change for UNFCCC-compliance.

Contraction and Convergence [C&C] is a unifying strategy for negotiating UNFCCC compliance. Since its introduction by GCI twenty years ago, the levels of awareness of the C&C concept and support for it has been growing strongly in recent years [1]. Light shone from this onto proceedings at the UNFCCC can help a successful outcome at COP-17 in Durban in December this year.

In twenty years of projecting C&C to the UNFCCC, several interventions stand out.

- In 2003 the UNFCCC secretariat took the view that the objective of the UNFCCC, *"inevitably requires 'Contraction and Convergence'"* [2].
- In June 2009, your own statement [3] with others at the "High Level Dialogue on Climate Change" on C&C Asian Development Bank.
- In 2008, the UK Government passed the UK Climate-Act based on the C&C principle [4]. This proposed that, to avoid a temperature rise of more than 2 degrees, the world as a whole should cut its emissions by 50% by 2050, during which period the Annex One countries should cut their emissions by 80% to reach equal emissions per capita on the global emissions average in that year.
- In 2009 the UK Government was part of a group of governments that tabled the rates of C&C in the UK Climate Act, at COP-15 in Copenhagen in December 2009. This was the right principle at the wrong rates [5] and it was rejected by the non-annex One countries - **this is key**.

In fact the Chinese Government gave a clear indication in July 2009 that while those rates of C&C were acceptable for per capita emissions per se, for per capita 'emissions-entitlements' they were looking for a 'global climate deal' with immediate convergence rather than the gradual convergence over a 40 year period to 2050 [6] by when 80% by weight of the global emissions-budget would have been used up.

The technical point is that with 'emissions-trading' these two positions are not incompatible. I wrote to the UK Government advising that they needed to listen to the Chinese Government's position and be 'negotiable' on - rather than 'prescribing' - the rate of convergence. The advice was simply that to increase the chances of getting a 'global climate deal' all do need to be willing to negotiate a rate of international convergence that is accelerated to a greater degree than so far stated, relative to the rate of global contraction needed so these satisfy both the UNFCCC's objective and principles [7].

My impression is the UK Government are willing to do this but 'trust' on this is still damaged by the adverse publicity generated after COP-15 by the then UK Minister unjustly blaming the Chinese for the failure to secure a 'global climate deal' based on the rates of C&C the UK had prescribed at COP-15.

This negative result was avoidable and we must avoid it at COP-17. This means avoiding the reasons that led to it at COP-15 and it is on this that I am asking for your help. While we do all we can to encourage Parties to the UNFCCC to be 'biddable' on the 'convergence rate', is there anything you can do to help this? I hope so and that you may even become able to communicate with us about this.

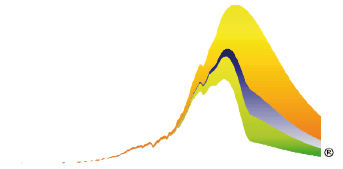
We can achieve and be able to demonstrate by the end of COP-17 that a climate-consensus at the UNFCCC is possible. It will help to restore confidence in the process. Such an outcome would certainly be desirable and fitting at the end of your remarkable and exemplary term of office at the head of the UN.

With warm regards

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aubrey Meyer".

Aubrey Meyer
Director GCI



[1] <http://www.gci.org.uk/endorsements.html>

[2] http://www.gci.org.uk/C&C_Janos_Pasztor_UNFCCC.pdf

[3] Asian Development Bank Statement High Level Event, Manila June 2009

"The framework of contraction and convergence provides a flexible methodology to address the problem of allocation of emission rights. The contraction of overall world emissions pursued along with the convergence of countries' average per capita emissions, allows developing countries to partake of the carbon budget. The per capita entitlements approach is an effective one in that it takes into account historical responsibility and is based on the egalitarian distribution of the commons, within which international justice positions of causal responsibility such as the 'polluter pays principle,' come in."

Ursula Schaefer-Preuss - Vice President of ADB.

Haruhiko Kuroda - President and Chair ADB Board.

Ban Ki-moon - Secretary General of the United Nations.

Rajendra Pachauri - Director of TERI, Chair IPCC.

Yvo de Boer - Former Executive Secretary UNFCCC.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo - President Philippines.

Zhou Dadi - Chief advisor national energy strategy, People's Republic of China.

Full Signatory List: -

http://www.gci.org.uk/endorsements_UN_Bodies_ADB_Signatories.html

[4] UK Climate Act - Right Principle at Wrong Rates

http://www.gci.org.uk/endorsements_UK_Climate_Act.html

[5] COP-15 - Right Principle at Wrong Rates rejected

http://www.gci.org.uk/public/COP_15_C&C.swf

[6] Chinese Government statement on Contraction and Convergence July 2009

"Since the principle of 'contraction and convergence' was first proposed by the Global Commons Institute in 2000, it has been widely embraced by some industrialised countries. Under contraction and convergence, each country will start out with emission entitlements equal to its current real emissions levels, and then, over time, converge to equal its per capita entitlements, while the overall global budget contracts to accommodate the emissions reduction objective. The convergence principle should be applied immediately rather than later as the 'converged point' in the future. 'Real emissions' is a different concept to 'emissions entitlement'. A country's high/low per capita real emissions cannot justify its high/low emission entitlements. In the process of convergence, the rights and interests of country B are really infringed by country A. In the NEA-based solution, the concept of convergence can still be incorporated, but it now merely means 'convergence of real emissions' rather than 'convergence of emission entitlements'. Each country's gaps between its emission entitlements and real emissions need to be balanced by the traded emissions quotas."

Greenhouse gas emissions reduction - a theoretical framework and global solution Development Research Centre of the State Council People's Republic of China 2009

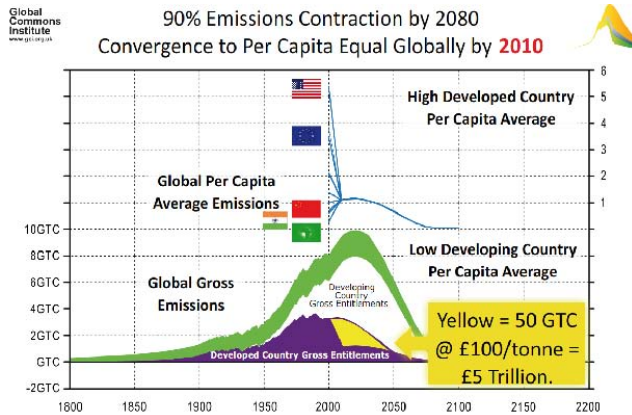
http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/China_Research.pdf

[7] Seeking a negotiation to 'correct' rates of C&C - see opposite and here: -

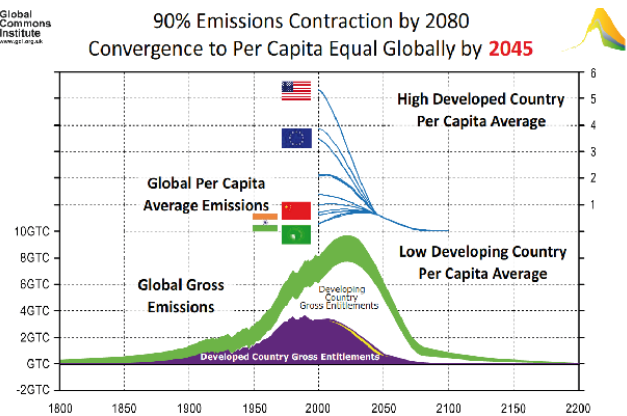
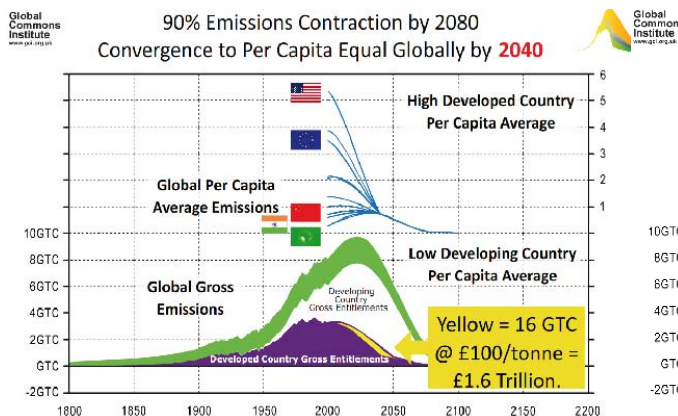
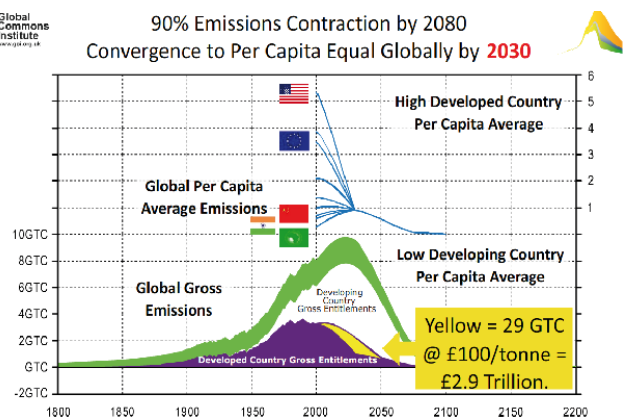
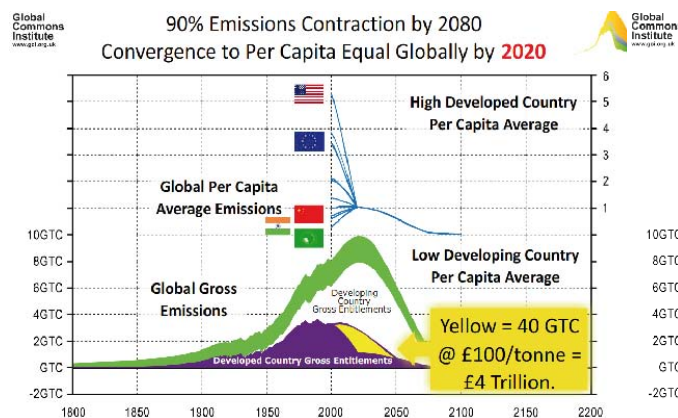
<http://www.gci.org.uk/rates.html>

<http://www.candcfoundation.com/pages/whatis.html>

Chinese Government Position



Negotiating Positions in Between Chinese and UK Governments



UK Government Position

