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Dear John

Thank you for your letter dated 21 June to the Secretary of State, enclosing correspondence from Mr C Challen of 28 St Sepulchre Street, Scarborough, YO11 1QF, about the Contraction and Convergence (C&C) framework. I am replying as this matter falls within my portfolio.

The Government believes that climate change is one of the gravest threats we face, and that urgent action at home and abroad is required. We need an ambitious global climate deal that will limit emissions and explore the creation of new international sources of funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

We consider that the Copenhagen Accord, agreed by a broad cross-section of leaders at the UNFCCC summit in December 2009, represents an important step towards an ambitious global deal. More than 120 countries have associated with the Accord, and over 70 nations accounting for 80% of global emissions have set out the targets and actions they will take to limit emissions in the medium term. The Accord clearly recognises the need to limit the global average temperature rise to below 2°C and avoid dangerous climate change.

The C&C framework developed by Aubrey Meyer and the Global Commons Institute in many ways offers a compelling vision of a future long-term climate regime, and has a number of distinct benefits. These include:

- Recognition that per capita emissions of developed countries will need to come down significantly over time;
- The establishment of a firm global pathway to limit emissions, with corresponding long term targets for all countries;
- The development of an approach that many consider to represent a fair and equitable response to climate challenge.

The EU noted in its March 2009 Environment Council Conclusions that, in the long term, gradual convergence of national per capita emissions between developed and developing

countries will be necessary if we are to avoid dangerous climate change, taking into account national circumstances.

Countries continue to have strong views about how the long-term global emissions reductions that are required can best be translated into national targets and actions. To be successful, the future climate regime will likely need to reflect a balanced range of indicators, and will also need to respect national sovereignty. Per capita emissions are an important indicator of a country's responsibility to take action, but there are a number of other important indicators of national circumstances, such as those covering economic capability to act and development needs.

The international debate about how to agree an equitable and effective long-term response to climate change remains highly active, and proposals such as C&C will continue to influence and stimulate the international discussions. I have written to Colin Challen in similar terms, and have welcomed the contribution that he and the signatories to his letter are making by highlighting the benefits of this approach.

Yours sincerely

See: -

<http://colinchallen.net/ContractionandConvergence.aspx>

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.