



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

**Gregory Barker MP**

**Minister of State**

Department of Energy and Climate Change

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16 July 2010

John Thurso MP

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

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 1 QF about the Contraction and Convergence 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 tough targets and action they will take to limit emissions in the medium term. The Accord clearly recognizes 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 of 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 the 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 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 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.

In 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 co-signatories to his letter are making by highlighting the benefits of this approach.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive name followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

What follows are samples of the [unrivalled extent of support that C&C](#) has.

Dear Minister

## UNFCCC-compliant Global Climate Change Framework

We all face an increasingly urgent situation with the threat of runaway rates of climate change occurring and the persistent failure to come to terms internationally to deal with this. COP-15 was another example of this and the odds for COP-16 appear no better as things stand.

So we write to you with the request to convene a high-level public meeting to focus on this predicament and the international need to establish a UNFCCC-compliant Global Climate Change Framework to redress this threat as soon as possible.

Contraction and Convergence is a prime example of this. It is a rational formulation for reconciliation of 'Climate Justice without Vengeance'. With the growing support for this approach internationally, we specifically note the positions taken in the UK context by The RCEP in 2000 that,

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

The UNFCCC Executive at COP-9 [2004] - achieving the objective of the UNFCCC *"inevitably requires contraction and convergence"*.

The Liberal Democrat party that, *"an agreement must be based on reducing emissions overall, while equalising emissions between the developed and developing worlds "the principle of contraction and convergence."*

You yourself and what you called the, *"morally compelling logic"* of C&C.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change in the previous parliament.

The UK Climate Act, which Adair Turner effectively characterised as C&C in evidence to the EAC and DECC select committees last year saying that converging to equal per capita entitlements globally is the only option that is, *"doable and fair"* for organising and sharing the full-term emissions-contraction-event to bring us to UNFCCC-compliance and that *"if, for reasons of urgency the rate of global contraction has to be accelerated, for reasons of equity the rate of international convergence has to be accelerated relative to that."*

Several ideas derived from C&C have surfaced since Kyoto with ideas that can be perhaps in various ways incorporated into C&C. However, there is an overwhelming need for an over-arching UNFCCC-compliant Framework that enables the globally competing interests of the over-consuming and the under-consuming to be reconciled with each other and with the objective of the UNFCCC in a non-random manner.

We feel that C&C is the veteran and indeed the apex example of this and urge you to consider our request. At Kyoto in December 1997 and shortly before they withdrew from these negotiations, the USA stated, *"C&C contains elements for the next agreement that we may ultimately all seek to engage in."*

The adversarial reasons for their withdrawal then were in play again at COP-15: - [http://www.gci.org.uk/public/COP\\_15\\_C&C.swf](http://www.gci.org.uk/public/COP_15_C&C.swf)

C&C answers this in a unifying and constitutional way and the need for this answer becomes increasingly critical.

With best wishes  
Yours sincerely

**Colin Challen**

Former Chair UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change

**Professor Sir Tom Blundell** FRS, FMedSci,

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Transition Leytonstone

**Ros Bedlow**

Transition Leytonstone

**Roisin Robertson** MIGHT VTCT

**Janice Connolly**

Womens Theatre

**Julie Baker**

Community Artist

**Al Dutton**

**Alan Francis**

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**Brig Oubridge**

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**John Moore**

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**Simon Eastwood**

**Steve Muggeridge**

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Big Green Gathering Independent Astrologer

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**Hugo Charlton**

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The adversarial reasons for their withdrawal then were in play again at COP-15. C&C answers this in a unifying and constitutional way and the need for this answer becomes increasingly critical."

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