

The idea of contraction and convergence is destined to be one of the most important principles governing international relations in the twenty-first 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.

The widespread international recognition and endorsement of contraction and convergence is due largely to the efforts of Aubrey Meyer and the Global Commons Institute. Aubrey has been an indefatigable advocate of the principle as the only long-term solution to the enormous threat posed by climate change.

His commitment has come at considerable personal cost. If the world did not have a few score individuals such as Aubrey it would be a much poorer place, for all great ideas of history must have their passionate advocates. I believe that we are reaching the end of the first phase of the idea of contraction and convergence and it would be fitting to acknowledge Aubrey's extraordinary contribution thus far.

Yours sincerely

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