

"What we are dealing with today is a looming catastrophe for mankind."

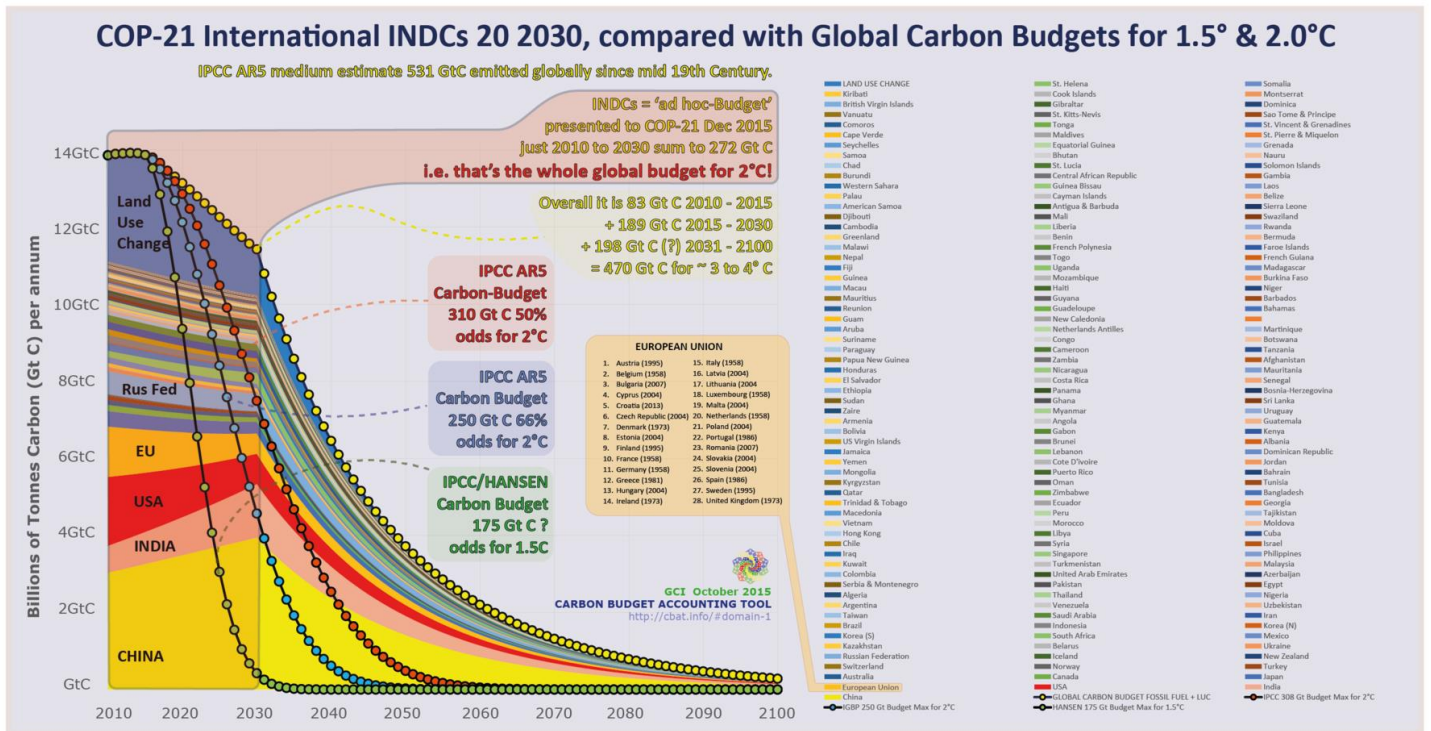
TOWARDS DECARBONISING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY: THE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AFTER COP-21
Sir David King / UK Special Representative for Climate Change

IEA Headquarters, Paris: 29 January 2016 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtAWA4eor0A>

Sir David King is the permanent UK Special Representative for Climate Change and was the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor from 2000 to 2007, during which time he raised awareness of the need for governments to act on climate change and was instrumental in creating the Energy Technologies Institute. Before an audience of member country ambassadors, IEA experts and viewers from around the world, Sir David is the second speaker in the list of thinkers, decision makers and global leaders the Agency is inviting to give addresses on energy and other subjects.

"Now comes the complicated graph, so bear in mind this one.

http://www.gci.org.uk/images/TIM_Tryout_2a.png



What I am now going to show you is the behaviour if you integrate all of the INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) and see what the emissions pathway looks like and that's shown in the yellow point-curve. The curve which shows the blue below it is the behaviour committed by Governments in Paris. And you'll see that if we follow that, it goes up to 2030. So there's a first disadvantage of the Paris Agreement – most countries have only committed until 2030; the USA not even quite that far.

But if we add those up & then assume that we can accelerate the pathway, but only after we have achieved the 2030, you'll see that we've drawn a roughly realistic pathway into the future. Now what does that add up to in terms of temperature rise? Well I am afraid to say that it adds up to 3-4°C temperature rise.

So now let's go back and ask another question. If we look at the emissions per annum on the curve that has the sharpest fall, so that by 2035 we've actually become greenhouse gas neutral on that curve, that's the curve required to stay below 1.5°C with a 50% chance. In other words, from this analysis, we've got to be very lucky to stay below or at anything close to 1.5°C.

If you look at the blue dots and the red dots, those two curves represent two different valuations of the fall required to stay below 2.0°C with a 50:50 chance. So somewhere between the red the blue and the yellow curves, is the pathway we need to be on if we are going to secure our future.

Now that's quite a big difference between those pathways and the pathway shown in yellow of the simple adding up of the INDCs. But then let me emphasize, I believe we can do far better than those INDCs. The point about my presentation to you is - however, we will have to do much better and we will have to be very proactive in doing that.

I won't keep you on this curve. It is simply telling you that I have been working on this for some time."