

Concluding Memorandum

Climate change is threatening the world's prospects and prosperity. Strong scientific evidence shows that humankind needs to limit the increase of global mean temperature below 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels. Beyond this threshold, climate change is likely to become unmanageable and dangerous, pushing the components of the Earth system past known and as yet unknown tipping points which may fundamentally and irreversibly alter the operational mode of our planet.

Staying below 2°C will be challenging, as the latest scientific evidence suggests that the climate system already contains substantial global warming potential due to existing atmospheric stocks of greenhouse gases and due to the planet's decreasing capacity of sequestering carbon in natural sinks.

The threat is enormous. The solution is equally enormous: a complete decarbonisation of our energy system, a third industrial revolution. As Members of the European Parliament from across the political spectrum, and as representatives from academia, business, and civil society, we urge national delegates deliberating in Poznan to act quickly and decisively in order to avoid dangerous and unmanageable climate change.

We call upon **industrialised countries** to recognise their historic carbon debt and special responsibility to conclude a Global Contract based on climate justice. As part of this contract, they should legally commit themselves to a long-term reduction trajectory, which effectively cuts their 2050 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% compared to 1990 levels.

- In line with this target, they should immediately start implementing emissions trading with decreasing caps up to 2050 and beyond.
- They should significantly scale up their investments in energy saving and low-carbon technologies such as sustainable renewable energy sources.
- They should capitalise on the window of opportunity provided by the current financial crisis by redirecting investment flows to projects that will result in sustainable growth worldwide and strengthen institutions of global governance.
- They should provide the developing world with strong and broad support in climate change mitigation and adaptation, for example by boosting the sharing of technology, sponsoring incentive schemes for reduced deforestation, and providing sufficient adaptation funds.

We call upon **developing countries** to acknowledge their growing responsibility to future generations in line with their capabilities and to avoid the same fateful, carbon-intense growth path the industrial world has taken.

- They should design and implement development plans and policies according to the principles of sustainable development.
- They should strengthen the rule of law and good governance provisions.
- They should implement means of carbon pricing, such as emissions trading or taxes, step by step and reduce fossil fuel subsidies.
- And they should ensure that adaptation funds reach the most vulnerable.

We call upon the **world community** to conclude a Global Contract based on climate justice, taking inspiration from the principle “one person, one emission right” while also addressing historic emissions, equity and development aspects. It is absolutely crucial for governments to agree on emissions reductions that will ensure a high likelihood of limiting global warming to less than 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels.

- The Global Contract should thus emphasise that a reduction well beyond 50% in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 compared to 1990 is the absolute minimum requirement for avoiding dangerous climate change.
- The precautionary principle would suggest that we have to aim for average per capita emissions of less than 1 tonne CO₂ equivalents in the long term.
- The contract should define the rights and responsibilities of all nations and allocate the burden of mitigation and adaptation in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner.

The contract must be effective in addressing climate change and bringing down greenhouse gas emissions.

It must be efficient so that scarce resources are used to the greatest benefit.

And it must be equitable by acknowledging the common but differentiated responsibility among rich and poor countries and by advancing sustainable growth in the developing world.

After all, the fight against climate change and the fight against global poverty are won or lost together.

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About the conference

The high-level conference „Global Contract based on Climate Justice – The Need for a New Approach Concerning International Relations“ was held in the European Parliament in Brussels on 11 November 2008. The conference was organised by the Ecosocial Forum Europe and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, and hosted by Members of the European Parliament from various political groups: Jens Holm, Othmar Karas, Jo Leinen, Caroline Lucas, Vittorio Prodi and Anders Wijkman.

Over 400 participants – politicians, scientists, representatives of the economy and the civil society – and a wide range of internationally highly respected speakers attended the conference: Gunilla Carlsson, Stavros Dimas, Ottmar Edenhofer, Bo Ekman, Andre Faajj, Felix Finkbeiner, Franz Fischler, Wahu Kaara, Ashok Khosla, Peter Kruse, Vesile Kulaçoğlu, Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Gérard Onesta, Cédric Philibert, Franz Josef Radermacher, Johan Rockström, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Nicholas Stern und Pavan Sukhdev.

In the face of rapid climate change with dramatic consequences especially for developing countries and in view of the urgent need for a global consensus between the developing and the industrialised countries, the conference focused on the approach of a Global Contract based on the principle of climate justice. In view of a global post-2012 climate agreement, a broad and open discussion took place with the aim of reaching a common understanding of the necessary basic principles and central elements of a Global Contract which is environmentally effective, cost-efficient as well as just and equitable.

As scientific input and a basis for the discussion at the conference, a study was conducted by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. The results of the study were presented in a policy paper and summary, published prior the conference at www.global-contract.eu.

In the sense of transparency and sustainability, a participatory approach was followed and a newly developed online discussion tool was applied at the conference. Hereby, the participants could communicate with each other interactively, present their views, identify problems and search for common solutions. In this way, the participants co-drafted the concluding memorandum, which was elaborated on the basis of the discussion at the conference. The final concluding memorandum is attached hereto.

The memorandum reflects the common sense of the conference organisers and hosts, many of the speakers and participants and presents their common message for the ongoing negotiations on a post-2012 agreement, especially the Conference of Parties taking place in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008. With this message, we urge all parties attending and/or influencing the negotiations to take this strong and broad message into account in order to reach an ambitious and just Global Contract on climate protection with clear and far-reaching targets and a roadmap for its implementation.

Further information and documentation of the conference can be found at:
www.global-contract.eu.