

October 2, 2007

Chancellor Angela Merkel  
Bundeskanzleramt  
Willy-Brandt-Straße 1  
D-10557 Berlin

CC:  
Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Denmark  
President Susilo Bambang Yudoyono, Indonesia

## **OPEN LETTER**

Dear Chancellor Merkel

We, the undersigned, welcome your important speeches on 30 August in Tokyo and 25 September in New York on development and climate change. We appreciate your strongly expressed concern and commitment to have the international community draft a new climate protection protocol in Copenhagen in 2009 as the necessary follow-up on the Kyoto Protocol.

Your emphasis on the principle of equity is essential to enable the ongoing negotiations to arrive at a common agreement. Managing the climate crisis and moving towards sustainability will require overall emission reductions. As you say, at a certain point in time we should reach an equal emission per capita through reductions in industrialized countries' per capita emissions and slow increases in per capita emissions in developing countries.

This expression of equity as a basic principle accords with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Convention commits participating countries to protect the climate system to the benefit of present and future generations on the basis of equity.

Thank you for underlining the Earth's real limits in the use of energy and other resources. This position is similarly acknowledged by you and other political leaders in the adoption at the EU Summit in March 2007 of the commitment not to exceed the atmosphere's capacity for absorbing greenhouse gases without dangerous consequences for the climate. Confirming the decision not to exceed the threshold of a 2 degree Celsius warming above pre-industrial levels is critically important, although even this level may prove to be too high.

Your recognition of the principle of equity and the reality of limits in the global system suggests the need for the next climate protocol to be based on the concept of globally equal per capita emission rights defined within a specified time scale. Without equal rights for all people inhabiting this planet, and without respect for the Earth's natural limits, we are not likely to avoid dire global consequences.

Chancellor Merkel, we strongly appreciate your initiative and we urge the international community – governments, business sector, civil society and science community – to support it and engage in the urgent efforts to arrive at a sustainable and just climate protocol at the upcoming COP-meeting in Bali in December 2007 and at the 2009 meeting in Copenhagen.

Sincerely  
On behalf of the signatories

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