

verbatim



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“It is clear that a failure to address climate change is a failure to protect children. Those who have contributed least to climate change — the world’s poorest children — are suffering the most. If the world does not act now to mitigate and adapt to the risks and realities of climate change, we will seriously hamper efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 and sustain development progress thereafter.”

David Bull, UNICEF UK Director

“Producing biofuels is a crime against humanity”

Jean Ziegler, the UN’s special rapporteur for the right to food

“While many are worrying about filling their gas tanks, many others around the world are struggling to fill their stomachs.”

World Bank President Robert Zoellick

“Biofuels aren’t the villain that threatens food security. On the contrary... they can pull countries out of energy dependency without affecting foods.”

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

“Energy must not be a barrier to our comfort. Our emerging middle class... demands lots of energy and it is our job to ensure comfortable supply.”

Vsevolod Gavrilov, the official in charge of Russia’s Kyoto obligations

“The climate debate has become a series of disconnected discussions. It’s odd how intelligent people can continue to argue like this in the face of such stark evidence. (...) We run the risk of the greatest policy failure in the history of mankind.”

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner

“Africa’s future need not be entrenched in vulnerability and hopelessness in the face of climate change. I believe Africa has extraordinary potential and opportunity to contribute to sustainable development and thereby set an example for the rest of the world.”

Balgis Osman-Elasha, senior climate change scientist from Sudan who was awarded UNEP’s 2008 Champions of the Earth award

“We can all take practical steps to be more energy-efficient and we all have lots to learn in the coming years on how to improve our carbon footprint on the planet.”

Ellen MacArthur, solo round-the-world sailor

“The world we have created today as a result of our thinking thus far has created problems that cannot be solved by thinking the way we thought when we created them.”

Albert Einstein

numbers

5
percentage of total global of carbon dioxide emissions produced by shipping — *Institute for Physics and Atmosphere in Wessling, Germany*

155
number of years during which coal will be available at current production levels. This compares to 41 years for oil and 65 years for gas — *World Coal institute*

99 million
barrels of oil China will need every day by 2031 if it uses oil at the rate that Americans do today. Current total world production is about 85 million barrels daily — *Earth Policy Institute*

2
tonnes of CO₂ that the average UK household could save annually by making its home energy-efficient — *World Business Council for Sustainable Development*

99
percentage of world trade which is carried by sea — *Institute for Physics and Atmosphere in Wessling, Germany*

20
percentage of global energy supply consumed by personal and commercial transport. 80 per cent of this comes from fossil fuels — *‘Kick the habit: the UN guide to climate neutrality’*

1.21
tons of standard coal used for every 10,000 yuan of GDP in China in 2006. Energy consumption in 1980 was 3.39 tons per 10,000 yuan of GDP — *‘Kick the habit: the UN guide to climate neutrality’*

30
percentage growth in the Earth’s population since 1987. Global economic output has risen by 76 per cent over the same period — *‘Kick the habit: the UN guide to climate neutrality’*

11
percentage of global energy used by heating, cooling and lighting homes and using household appliances — *World Business Council for Sustainable Development*

100
rise of atmospheric CO₂ concentration in parts per million (ppm) over the last two centuries of human industry. Over the previous 610,000 years, long-term change in atmospheric CO₂ concentration was just 22 ppm — *Nature Geoscience*