

**Speech to UN FCCC Plenary  
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Can anybody tell me what's happening at this conference?

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I was wondering, because after one week here I'm getting a bit confused. Every delegation says how concerned it is about climate change. But is being concerned enough?

-The United States says it will limit the increase in its carbon dioxide emissions to only 3%, but Americans already emit thirty times as much carbon dioxide per head as Indians, and twice as much as Western Europeans. Why do they need to burn even more fossil fuel?

-Australia committed itself to stabilize its emissions by year 2000. They said they would reduce by 20% by 2005. But in the real world their emissions are predicted to rise by 14%

-Canada sees itself as an environmental leader. But it now plans to cut down most of its old-growth forests in the next 15 years.

-And should I be proud having Gro Harlem Brundtland as my Prime Minister? She's the one who stated that the important thing is to think globally, and act locally. I couldn't agree more. The problem is that she forgot to do anything about the emissions from her own country. And now she has made Norway the second largest oil-exporter in the world.

-I'm told that the European Union has a progressive position at this conference. But I don't hear anything about the 12000 km of motorways they are planning to build all across Europe.

So you can see there are a few things that seem quite strange to me.

And then I heard about a brilliant idea the Northern countries came up with: Joint implementation. Rather than reduce their own carbon dioxide emissions, they pay Southern countries to reduce their emissions instead.

And then there is another brilliant idea - Burden sharing. A long discussion between OECD countries, arguing who's got the best excuse for not reducing their emissions.

You know that what you are doing now is not enough. You know it's not adequate. There is so much that you could be doing. I don't have to tell you about options, like investing in energy-conservation, reforming transport policies or introducing carbon taxes. You've heard about them from scientists. You have heard about them from economists. You have even heard about them from the Vice President of the United States.

So my simple questions is : Why don't you act?

Saying that the complicated discussions keep you from acting is a bad excuse. You know there is no time to waste. Countries cannot avoid taking action domestically by blaming international negotiations.

You know what has to be done.

You know what will happen if it's not done.

You know what we need.

Carbon dioxide reductions.

You know when we need it.

Now!