

**SPEECH AS PRESIDENT OF GLOBE INTERNATIONAL TO THE CONFERENCE
OF PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, KYOTO**

9th December 1997

I speak this morning not as a negotiator, but as a parliamentarian. GLOBE is an organisation of environmentally-committed parliamentarians from fifty four countries. We want to see a tight protocol with minimum leakage, but we also insist on looking beyond Kyoto. Our work begins when yours ends. We have to pass the laws and vote the budgets that give reality to your formulas. Above all, we have to explain climate disruption to the electorates of the planet. The key challenge of climate change is not scientific or technological. The challenge is political, and I would add, it is intellectual, institutional and ethical.

After a week of debate about important details, I suggest that the time is right for a statement of an even more important principle.

After years of debate, about efficiency, I suggest that your efforts cannot be brought to success without a statement about Equity. The "Sense of the Senate" resolution made the fair political point that they could not ratify a treaty that was not seen to be fair by the American people. A treaty, they said, would have to include meaningful participation by developing countries. I say to my friends in Congress that you cannot ask for that participation on the basis of efficiency alone. You must specify that the nature of that involvement will be equitable.

In life it has been said that "the right thing to do is the right thing to do". It is occasionally true in diplomacy that an ethically just answer is also the only available way out of an impasse. So, let the Conference of Parties resolve "to agree to negotiate a legally binding 'Equity Protocol', establishing the principle that the apportionment of global emission entitlements be deliberately converged to a point of equal per capita shares at a date to be agreed". This, Mr Chairman, is known as the Contraction and Convergence analysis. It offers a framework for an answer. It offers an envelope of equity within which we can trade and barter our way to collective sanity in the coming decades.

I invite the Government of Japan, and the European Union to propose such a text. I invite the United States, which rightly takes its stand on the basis of a "global solution to a global problem", to draw the logical conclusion of its own approach, and to propose such a text. May I invite the Africa Group whose statement in August led the way, to respond to such a text. May I invite the AOSIS states whose very survival depends on our collective success, to back such a proposal. May I invite the Governments of China and India to seize this opportunity of an Equity Protocol that would entrench in our process that principle they have always fought for.

Mr Chairman, as parliamentarians we have to stand on platforms around the planet and explain to electors why the monsoon is late, the rivers are dry, or the floods are rising; to explain why the forest is burning, the cattle are dying, or in some countries why there is surf in the High Street. To explain above all that these are not Acts of God, but Acts of Man. I appeal to the negotiators here to give us a Treaty we can be proud of and the promise of a just future to this debate.

