

## Final Draft Text for Scientist Letter to MEF Leaders

On July 9th, the leaders of seventeen of the world's largest economies will meet in L'Aquila, Italy at the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF).

As scientists from the MEF countries, we come together to call on our government leaders to recognize both the unacceptable risks that climate change creates for our societies, and the unprecedented opportunities a clean energy, low-carbon transition creates for our economies.

Specifically, we ask the leaders to take five steps in L'Aquila that will support a successful outcome in the global climate negotiations in Copenhagen in December, and start the world forward on the path to low-carbon prosperity:

1. Recognize that present global warming of 0.8° C above pre-industrial levels is already having a significant impact, and that warming exceeding 2° C predicted for later this century would create great risks and have irreversible consequences
2. Commit to peak global greenhouse gas emissions by no later than 2020 and reduce them by at least 50% relative to 1990 levels by 2050
3. For developed countries, commit to emissions reductions of at least 80% relative to 1990 by 2050 with appropriate intermediate targets set in time for Copenhagen
4. For developing countries, commit by Copenhagen to significant gains in energy efficiency, reductions in carbon intensity, and cuts in non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions over the next two decades; this should be designed to support sustainable development and to lead to substantial reduction from business-as-usual emissions
5. Recognize that the impacts of existing changes in climate are primarily due to past emissions by developed nations, and that unless the burden of poverty in developing nations is alleviated by significant financial support for mitigation, adaptation, and the reduction of deforestation, the ability of developing countries to pursue sustainable development is likely to diminish, to the economic and environmental detriment of all

Limiting climate change and providing clean, secure sources of energy will ensure long-term sustainability and well being to all countries. The world is looking to the MEF leaders to act on this challenge and to seize this immense opportunity. The time for bold leadership is now.

Yours respectfully,

Kamal Bawa, Ph.D.

Founder & President, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment

Distinguished Professor of Biology, University of Massachusetts

India and United States

Robert W. Corell, Ph.D.

Senior Policy Fellow

American Meteorological Society

United States

Robert Costanza, Ph.D.  
Director, Gund Institute for Ecological Economics  
Professor of Ecological Economics, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, The  
University of Vermont  
United States

Sir John Houghton, Ph.D.  
Honorary Scientist, Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research, UK Meteorological Office  
United Kingdom

Thomas E. Lovejoy, Ph.D.  
Biodiversity Chair, Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and Environment  
United States

Michael MacCracken, Ph.D.  
Chief Scientist for Climate Change Programs, Climate Institute  
United States

Michael E. Mann, Ph.D.  
Director, The Earth System Science Center  
Professor of Meteorology, The Pennsylvania State University  
United States

Gordon McBean, Ph.D.  
Fellow, Royal Society of Canada  
Director and Professor of Policy Studies, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction  
The University of Western Ontario  
Canada

James J. McCarthy, Ph.D.  
Chair of the Board, American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Professor of Oceanography, Harvard University  
United States

Anthony J. McMichael, Ph.D.  
Professor, National Center for Epidemiology & Population Health  
The Australian National University  
Australia

Mario Molina, Ph.D.  
Nobel Laureate in Chemistry  
President, Mario Molina Center for Strategic Studies in Energy and the Environment  
Mexico

Shuzo Nishioka, Ph.D.  
Senior Visiting Researcher and former Executive Director, National Institute for Environmental Studies  
Research Advisor, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies  
Japan

Michael Oppenheimer, Ph.D.  
Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs, Princeton University  
United States

Jyoti Parikh, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, Integrated Research and Action for Development  
Member, Prime Minister Singh's Advisory Council for Climate Change  
India

Kirit Parikh, Ph.D.  
Chairman, Integrated Research and Action for Development  
Founding Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research  
Former Member, Planning Commission  
India

Martin Parry, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair, IPCC WGII 2007  
Professor, Grantham Institute and Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London  
United Kingdom

Barrie Pittock, Ph.D.  
Former Head, Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organization, Climate Impacts Group

## Australia

Stefan Rahmstorf, Ph.D.

Head of Earth Systems Analysis, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Professor of Physics of the Oceans, Potsdam University

Member, Academia Europaea

Member, German Advisory Council on Global Change Germany  
Germany

Eric Rignot, Ph.D.

Professor, Earth System Science, University of California

Senior Research Scientist, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Adjunct Researcher, Centro de Estudios Científicos

Chile and United States

Henning Rodhe, Ph.D.

Professor, Chemical Meteorology, Stockholm University

Member, Academia Europaea

Member, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Sweden

Steven W. Running, Ph.D.

Director, Numerical Terradynamic Simulation Group

Regents Professor of Ecology, University of Montana

United States

Richard C. J. Somerville, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego

United States

Warren M. Washington, Ph.D.

Senior Scientist and Head of Climate Change Research, Climate and Global Dynamics Division, National Center for Atmospheric Research

United States