

Fourth, we must improve the fuel efficiency of cars. Voluntary agreements with manufacturers can achieve the significant improvements in fuel efficiency which are technically possible, particularly when linked with increases in fuel duty.

Fifth, we must introduce a tax on aviation fuel. Every time we run one of these climate change conferences, we do a great deal to damage the global atmosphere, by the aeroplanes we travel here in. Planes make a significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, and they do so directly into the upper atmosphere. Forecast growth is high and as yet aviation fuel is still exempt from tax. We have to do that on a global basis, and the UK has therefore, with other countries, called on ICAO to review the present exemption - and by review, we do not mean look at it and say that nothing can be done.

Sixth, we must renew efforts to improve energy efficiency. This saves consumers and industry money and can make a significant contribution to reducing emissions.

Seventh and lastly, we must improve efficiency standards for domestic appliances and office equipment. We should work together with manufacturers to see what scope there may be to increase minimum standards. And we must in that respect set the example in our own national and local government procurement and in the way in which we run our own offices. Some of the least energy efficient offices in Western Europe are owned by governments, and some of them owned by the governments who talk most about energy efficiency.

The attraction of these policies and measures is that they would have benefits for all countries, developed and developing. They can be done by us all. Most could also be adopted now by countries who are currently in danger of failing to honour their Rio commitments.

And most of us, Madam Chairman, are not prepared to hear serious countries seriously saying they cannot achieve by the year 2000 what they signed up to. Nor are we prepared to hear serious countries re-jig the figures in order to pretend that they have met those commitments.

So in conclusion, global climate change needs global action now. We have a clear message from the IPCC about what is in store for us if we do not act. The alarm bells ought to be ringing in every capital throughout the world.

We must not fail to create a universal partnership to cut greenhouse gas emissions significantly. The "After you, Claude" attitude to international negotiations is not enough, for it's in our lifetime that Claude is going to be affected by greenhouse gases.

To get a new agreement in Japan next year demands, Madam Chairman, a new urgency here in Geneva this week, and to give to this hall a new claim to fame: not as the place of failure but the place of global success.