

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

This very building ought to present us all with an awful warning. It is, after all, here that nations, full of good intentions, committed themselves to taking common action in the League of Nations - to prevent war.

It was here, too, that we failed to take that common action; we failed to stand up to powerful interests; we failed to call the bluff of the purveyors of falsehood who put their selfish concerns before the interests of the world community.

And today, we must not make those mistakes again. The credibility of the governments of the world is on the line.

At Rio, we developed countries agreed to return our emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. We developed countries accepted that as we had benefitted from the pollution we had caused, so we had to shoulder the burden of cutting those emissions.

Today we know, as the Canadian Minister admitted, that many developed countries are not reaching those targets. And, frankly, this is not good enough. We can't allow ourselves to be let off the hook, even with that first set of targets.

I'm happy to say that the UK will improve on its Rio agreement by between 4 and 8%. That is better than most, but it is still not good enough. That's why, at Berlin, I called on all developed countries to reduce their emissions to 5 to 10% below 1990 levels by the year 2010.

All developed countries need to do this, and to sign up now. I have to disagree with my Australian colleague when he said he was "looking for an effective and long-term regime". No developed country can properly avoid action - and action now. The time for looking is past.

As we rich nations shoulder our burdens, so too the developing nations must all follow the example of the best, and meet their Rio commitments. They too, as the Ghanaian Minister said, will need to recognise that their growth cannot so undermine the efforts of others that together we will not reach our aims. It cannot be that the people of the developed nations will continue along the path of duty, if they feel that they are not joined in this by the whole of the world.

And, therefore, we shall have to help those developing countries, not only through the GEF, but also by exporting only clean technology and not, in future, passing on our second-hand factories to pour out emissions in the third world - emissions which we would not tolerate in the rich countries.

It's for us to remember that this is one planet, one atmosphere, and the emissions do the same damage wherever we put them into the air. So we who have profited from pollution must act.