

PLENARY STATEMENT FOR DOHA

It's a great pleasure to speak after my Chinese colleague. It feels a bit like how we worked together on the Olympics. Beijing hosted a fantastic games, and London was delighted to learn and follow afterwards.

Perhaps the Olympics is a metaphor we should use for our climate change talks. Maybe like me, you're not that athletic – but we have come together to use our collective brains to solve this global problem. If we don't, will it be possible to hold an Olympics in 50 years' time?

Colleagues, when we are working together, for the whole human race, sometimes I think we should do a thought experiment. One proposed by that great moral philosopher, John Rawls, when he spoke of the "veil of ignorance". He said that you could design the best society, if you didn't know where you would be in that society – you didn't know if you would be rich or poor.

So my challenge to everyone here is to imagine you don't know who you are, you are behind John Rawls' "veil of ignorance."

Imagine, just for a moment, that you don't know which country you are from. What climate change deal would you want then?

Remember what our scientists are telling us. About the risks of a world warmed by 4 degrees. How the gap between restricting global warming to just two degrees and where we are now, had widened by a THIRD, in ONE year alone.

Friends, we have just three years – three short years – to take the decisions to avoid climate catastrophe. To prove that we are fit to call ourselves world leaders.

So here in Doha we must be ambitious. We can't afford simply to progress **just a few** elements of the Durban agreement. We have to see progress on all elements of Durban.

Durban showed what we can achieve when we have the will. The UK played its part last year, and will not let up in our efforts this time – but we need leadership and political will from all countries.

The UK will play our part. This year, for example, we will meet our Fast Start pledge of £1.5 billion. And we are the first country to commit scaled-up international climate finance up to March 2015, through our £2.9 billion fund, which will provide a further £1.8 billion beyond Fast Start. I call on others to do the same.

And we are taking strong action at home, to cut our own emissions.

We remain committed to our Carbon Budgets, which involve our ambitious targets to cut carbon, including a 50% cut by the mid-2020s.

In practical terms, I recently secured agreement within the British Government for a tripling in real terms of incentives for low-carbon generation.

And last week I introduced a new law - the Energy Bill - that will provide the revenue and certainty investors require to invest in clean energy, in low carbon energy, to stimulate around £110 billion in the next decade in electricity infrastructure alone.

We are helping the EU to meet and exceed its Kyoto Protocol obligations. And I am pressing for the EU to move to a 30% emissions reduction target for 2020 as soon as possible.

You see the argument I'm using – back in Britain, in Brussels, and to you today – is that being ambitious on climate change is a win-win. The benefits outweigh the costs.

That taking action to cut carbon emissions can be good for growth. That developed countries helping developing countries is good for the world economy. That growth can be green.

So, colleagues let's be ambitious here in Doha – making progress on all elements of the Durban Agreement.

Let's be ambitious as we prepare the ground for the global deal in 2015.

We've had some good news in Britain this week – their Royal Highnesses William and Kate are expecting a baby. That caps off a great year for our Queen, when she followed James Bond and became the first queen ever to parachute out of a plane.

Friends, let's have some good news this week – and let's show the courage to go further than ever before. Thank you.