



Präsidialdepartement des Kantons Basel-Stadt  
**Kantons- und Stadtentwicklung**



Intergenerational dialogue on peace, the climate,  
nuclear disarmament and the pandemic

**Youth Forum and PACEY Plus Youth Award**

January 19, 2021. 15:00 – 19:15 Central Europe Time

# From youth action to policy change

**Prof. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker**

Founding President



**Wuppertal  
Institut**

for Climate, Energy  
and Environment

Honorary President





Youth action was absolutely necessary!



# Large scale destruction of the Amazon forests, the „lungs“ of the Americas



**Brandrodungen in Brasilien – Wie der Amazonas  
für illegales Rindfleisch abgebrannt wird-**  
Quelle: Berner Zeitung



**Bergbau verbraucht riesige Waldflächen (Amazonas)**  
Quelle: [www Blog](#)

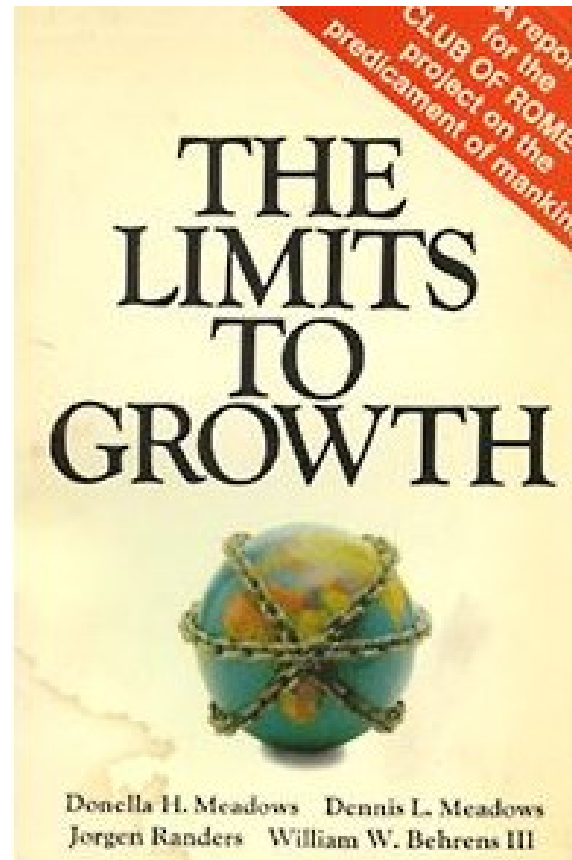


# **The State of the Planet is broken, says UN SG Antonio Guterres (Dec. 2, 2020)**



**He also says that other than with Covid 19,  
there is no vaccination available!**

**We at the Club of Rome  
gave our warnings in 1972**



**The first big Club of Rome report. 30 million copies sold.  
But climate and biodiversity were no issues at the time.**

In 2018, we published another major report,  
called „Come On!“



... consisting of three parts:

Part One: **C'mon!** Don't tell us  
the current trends are sustainable!

Part Two: **C'mon!** Don't stick  
to outdated philosophies!

Part Three: **Come On!** Join us  
on an exciting journey towards  
a sustainable world!



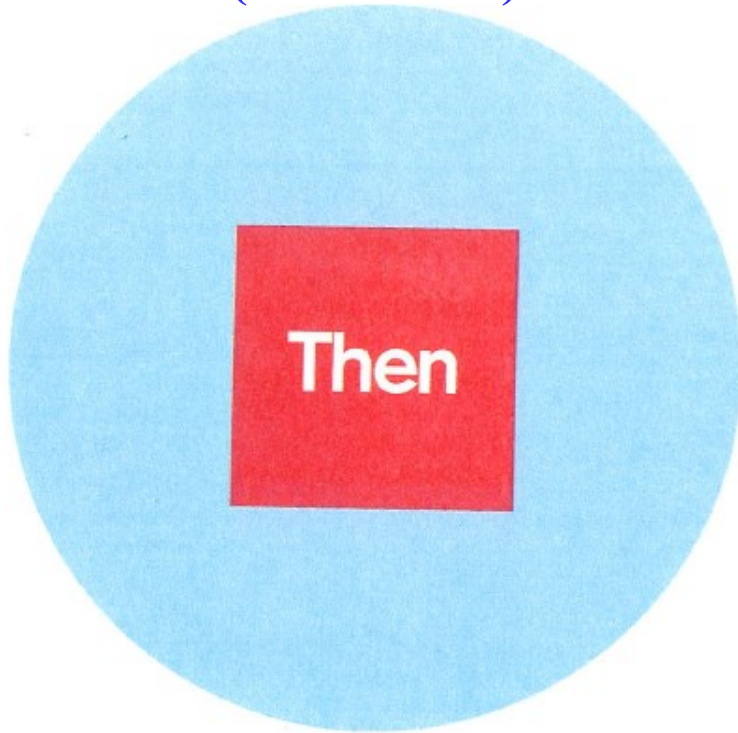
***Come On!*** was also a strategy gift to the new Co-Presidents of the Club of Rome Sandrine Dixon-Declève and Dr. Mamphela Ramphele elected in October 2018.



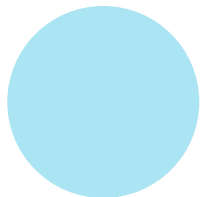
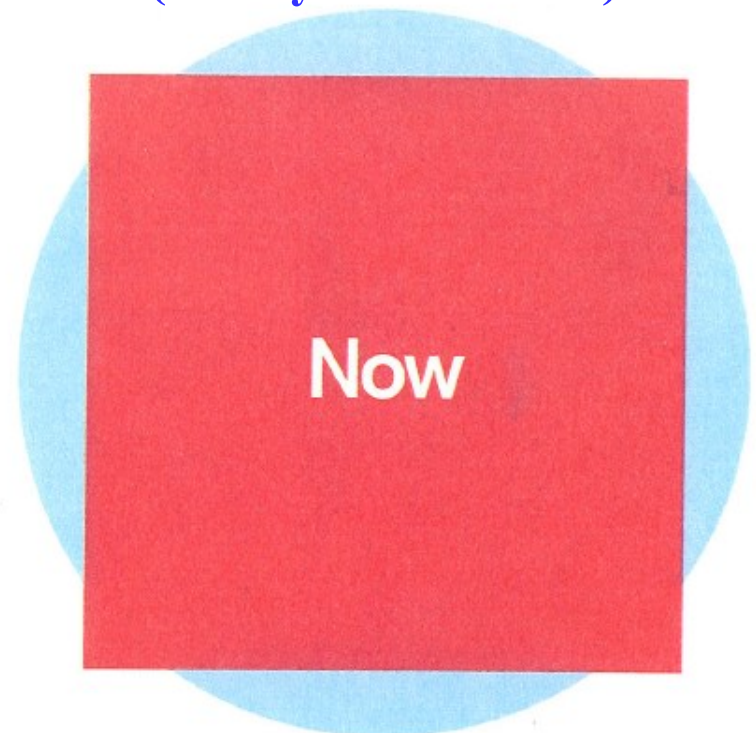


**At the core of Come On is the distinction between the  
*Empty World* and the *Full World*. (Herman Daly)**

**Empty World  
(sustainable)**



**Full World  
(hardly sustainable!)**



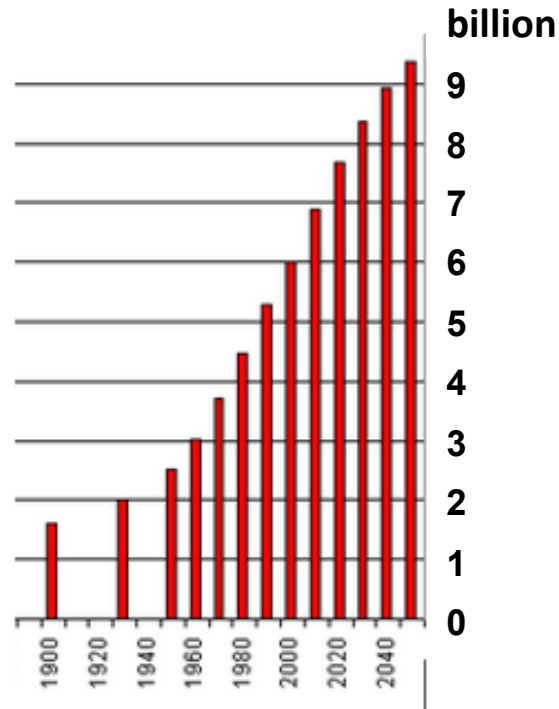
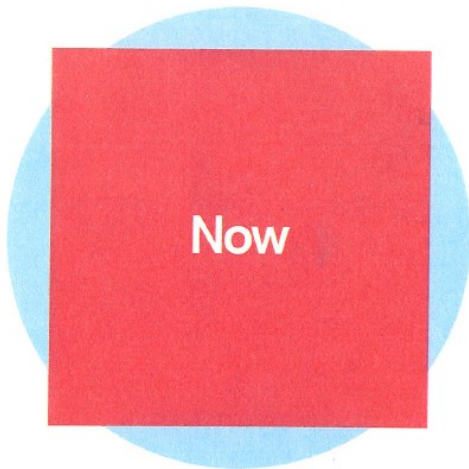
**The World**



**Human economy**

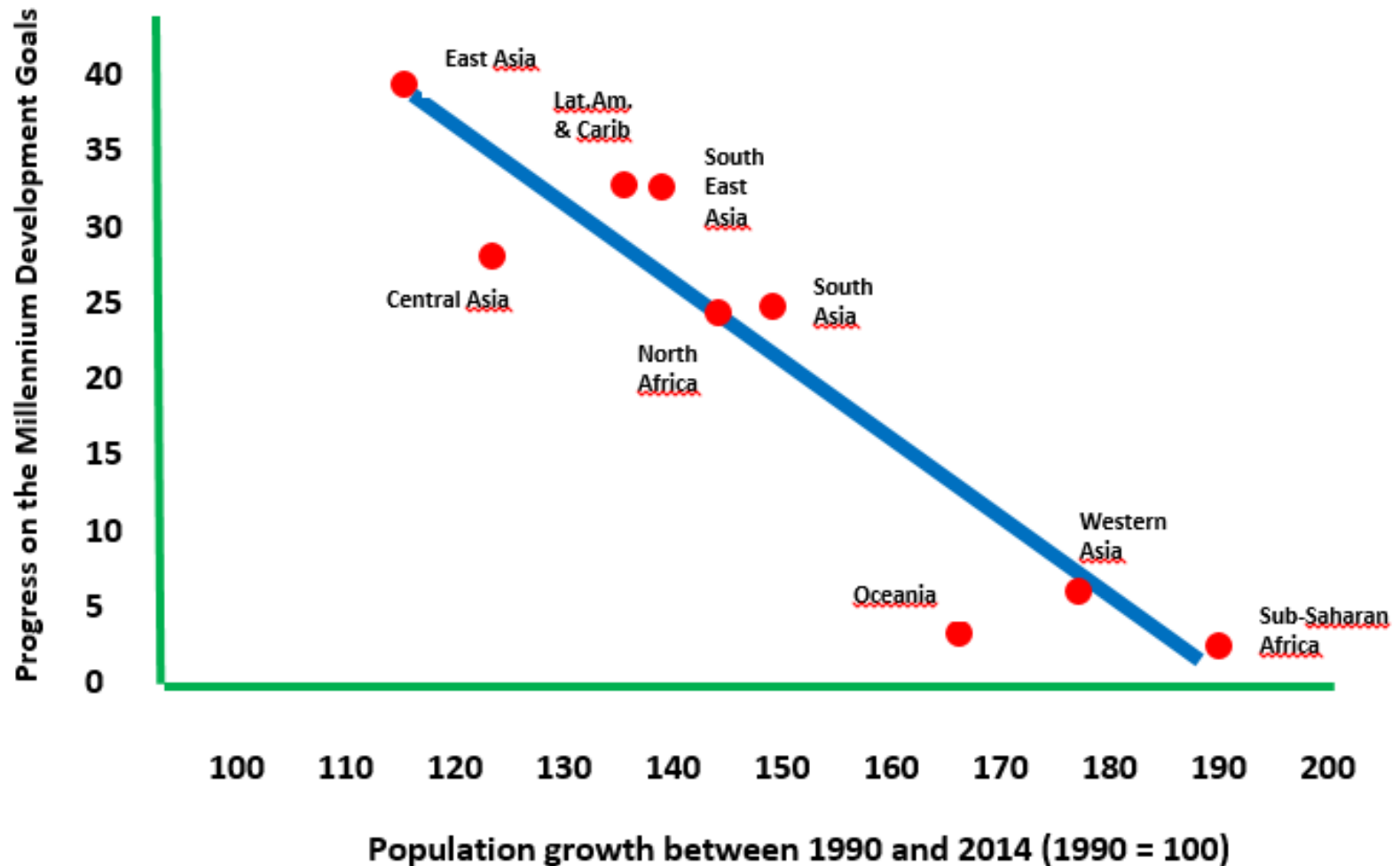


**The core fact is the world population increase**



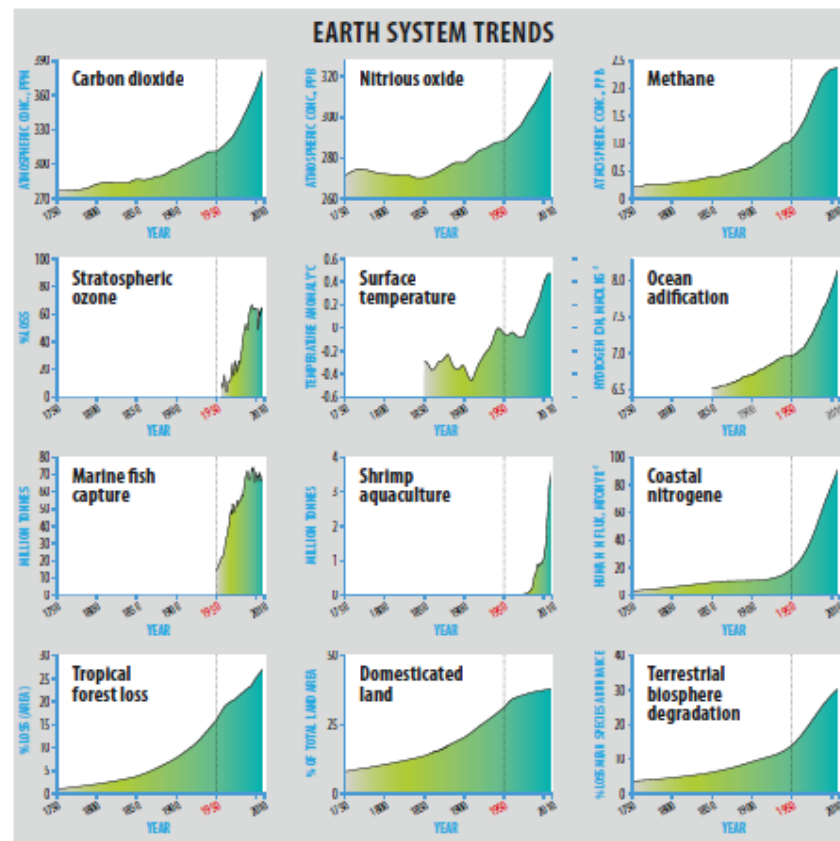
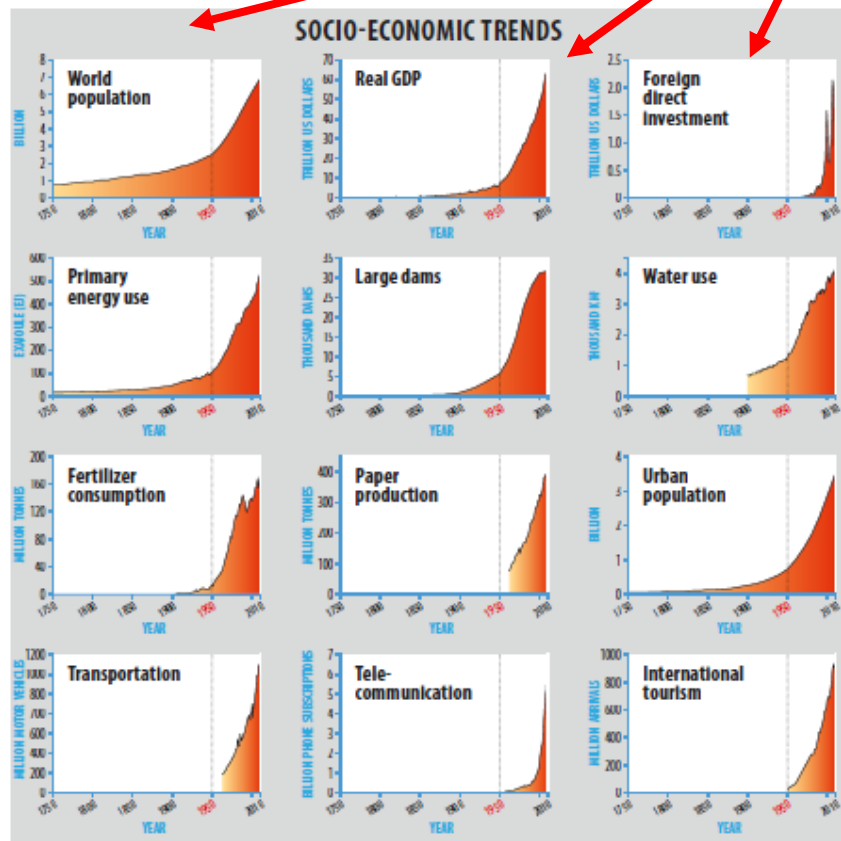
**Tripling of population,  
but 20-fold increase of  
consumption!**

# UN: Strong population growth – weak development!



Source: **UNFPA** 2015. Consequential Omissions. How demography shapes development – Lessons from the MDGs for the SDGs. Fig. 11

# The Full World is now called the **Anthropocene**. 65 years of explosive acceleration!



Source: Globaia 2011. Picture after Will Steffens, Paul. J. Crutzen, John R. McNeill. 2007. The Anthropocene: Are Humans Now Overwhelming the Great Forces of Nature? Ambio 36

# One measure of the anthropocene is the body weights of land-living vertebrates:

67% domesticated animals, - 30% humans, leaving a mere 3% for wild animals!



## Totally unsustainable!



**The current trends in the Full  
World are in no way sustainable!**

Swedish 2018 shocks triggered/  
boosted Greta Thunberg's huge  
resonance!

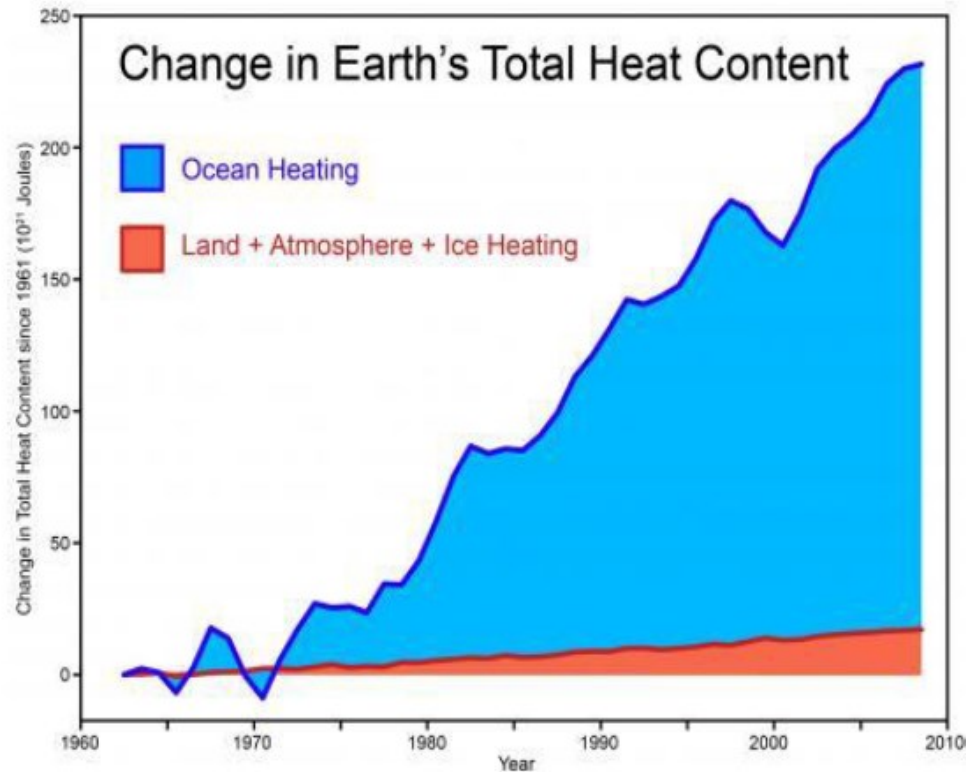




## European Fridays for Future Meeting Lausanne, 5 August, 2019

After I gave a similar talk to the European Fridays for Future Meeting in Switzerland, the 450 pupils/activists rose to their feet giving me standing ovations, and Greta Thunberg came to me, and we had a delightful political chat!

# The real heating occurs in the oceans!



Source: Skeptical Science, Church et al 2011

... meaning that the real scare may soon be  
the rise of the sea water table!



# For illustration – look at this:

Italy during last  
Ice Age (20.000  
years ago)

Italy during  
the last ice  
age 20000  
years ago



and during the last  
hot age (2 million  
years ago)

Italy during  
the Pliocene  
2 million  
years ago



Source: Atlante Geografico Moderno, Mondadori 1996

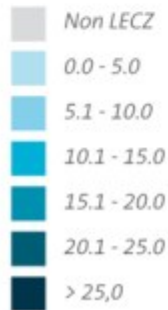
... and imagine what that means for London, Stockholm, Athens etc.

**Some 1.3 billion  
people (0.8 b in Asia  
alone) live at the  
ocean coasts!**

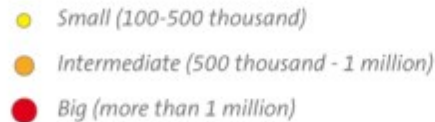
**Imagine 200 million  
refugees!**

**Imagine Switzerland  
crowded!**

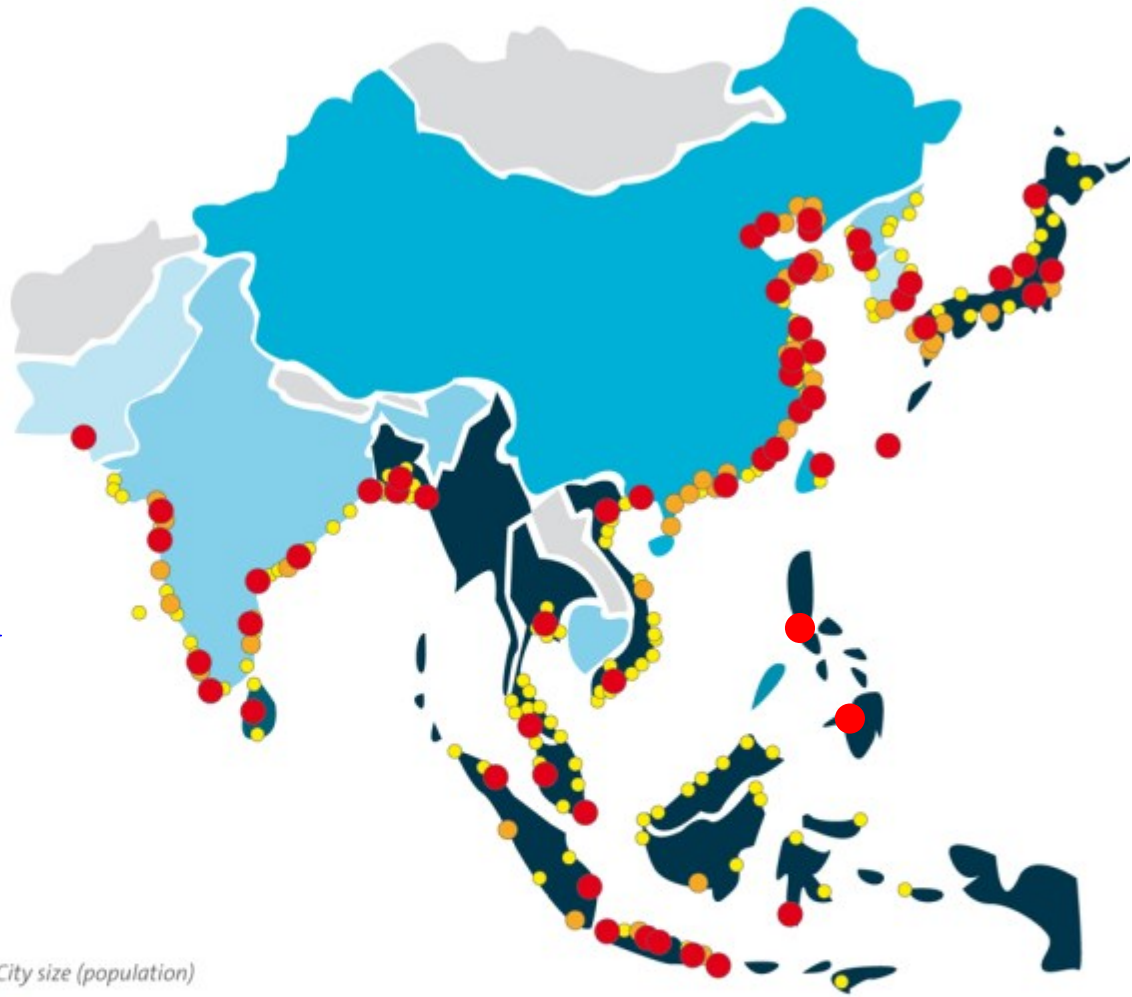
*Per cent of national urban  
population in low elevation  
coastal zones in Asia*



*City size (population)*



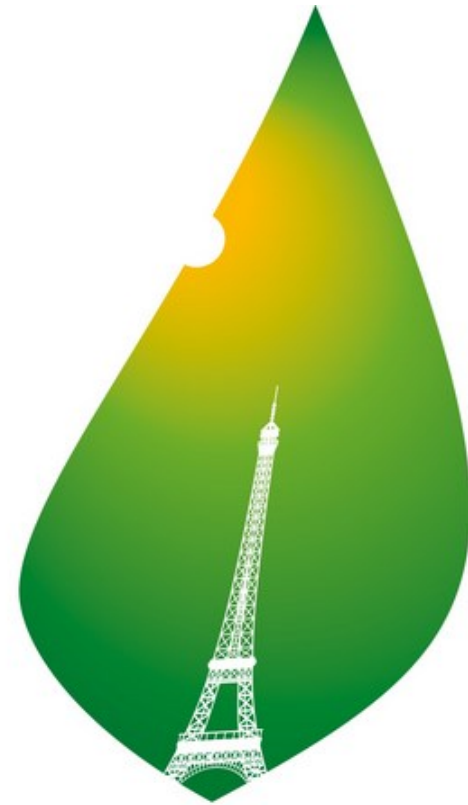
*LECZ: Low Elevation Coastal Zones  
are land areas that are contiguous with the coast  
and ten metres or less in elevation*



**Of course, we were happy with the Paris Climate Agreement.**

**But how do countries respond to it? Their first reaction worldwide is: well, ok, let's do something on climate. But it's going to be very expensive. So we need a lot more growth!**

**Is that the right answer??**



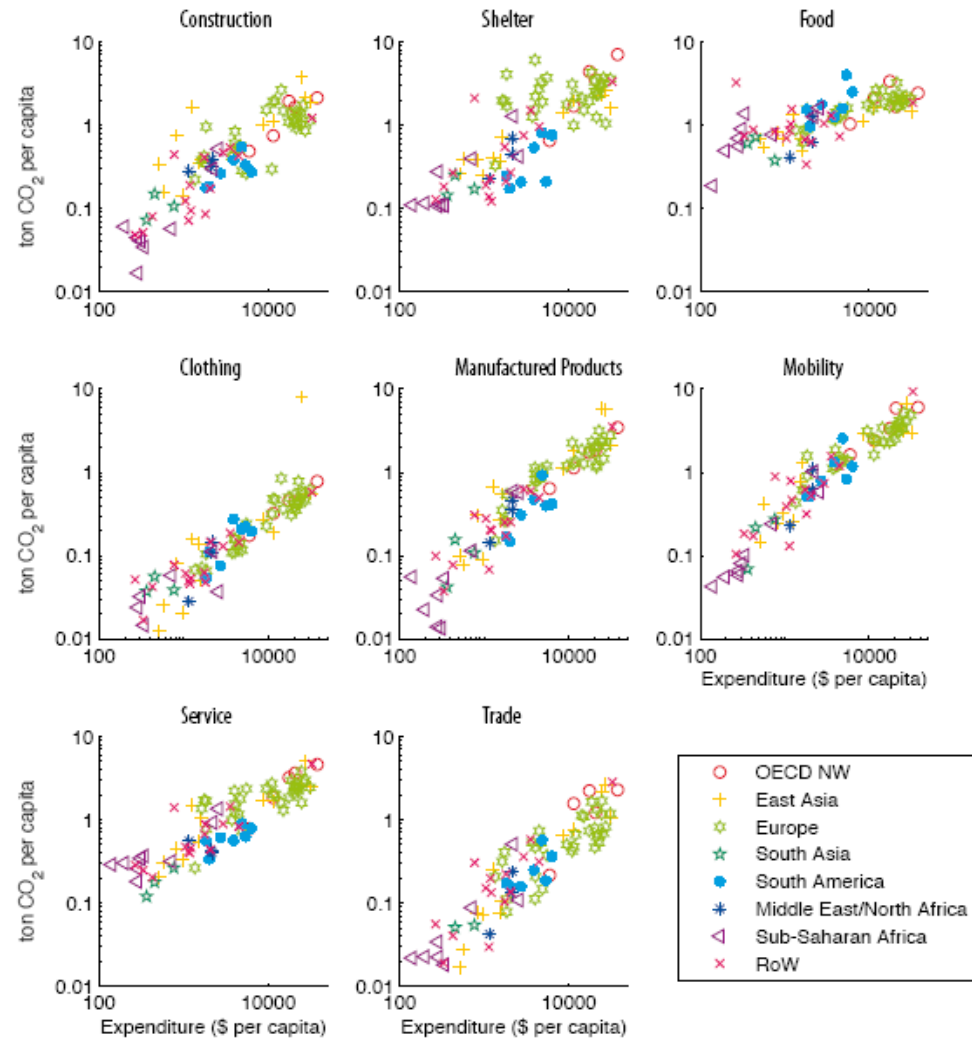
COP21 • CMP11

**PARIS 2015**

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

**No, it's a  
mad answer!**

**Eight economic sectors  
show near perfect  
correlations between  
GDP per person and  
CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per  
person.**



Source: Hertwich, E.; Peters, G. P. Carbon Footprint of Nations: A Global, Trade-Linked Analysis  
Environ. Sci. Technol. 2009, 43 ( 16) 6414– 6420



**In other words: we are reasonably good doctors  
for diagnosis: Global warming is a toxic disease.**

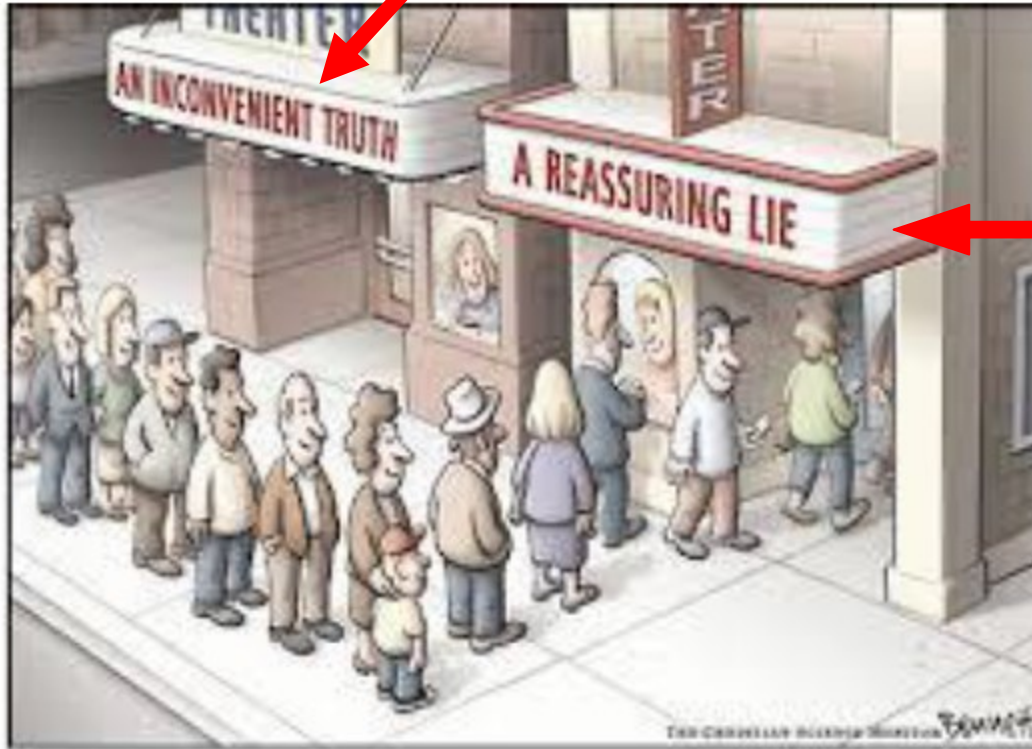
**But:**

**We are totally mad doctors for recovery:**

**We systematically suggest treatments that make  
the disease worse!**

**Would you go to such doctors if you are ill?**

Well, people seem to prefer Reassuring Lies over the Inconvenient Truth!



(alas, populists know that!



**While we sit here comfortably,  
some 600 new coal power  
plants are under construction  
or planned worldwide!**



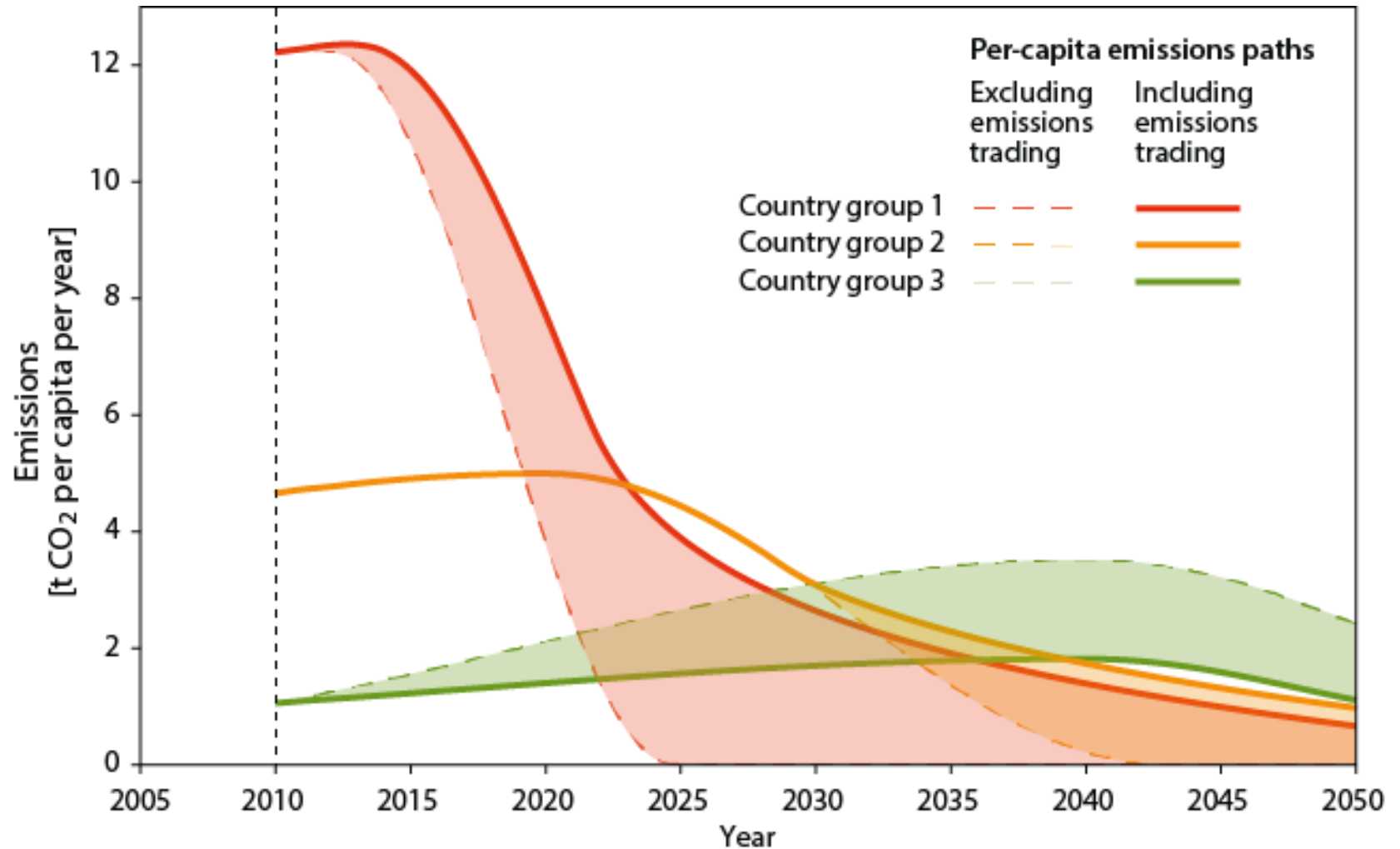
**90 percent of them in developing countries!**

Source: **energiezukunft** 13.12.2017 and 5.10.2018

Das Portal für Erneuerbare Energien und die bürgernahe Energiewende

**Hence: effective climate policy must include developing  
countries! Otherwise we are losing the war!**

In my opinion, the only promising strategy is the „Budget Approach“. The old industrialized countries (red lines) have almost exhausted their carbon budget and will have to go shopping to developing countries (green lines) for new permits.







[www.piyushgoyal.in](http://www.piyushgoyal.in)

**In that case, the Indian Economy Minister Shri Piyush Goyal would soon switch from promoting coal power to renewables and energy efficiency while selling the respective permits to the North!**



In *Come On!* we then go deeper and say that our civilizations are in a deep **philosophical crisis**. We find the same concern in Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'*



... where he declares that the **current economy** of greed, relentless competition and wild acceleration is destroying our Common Home!

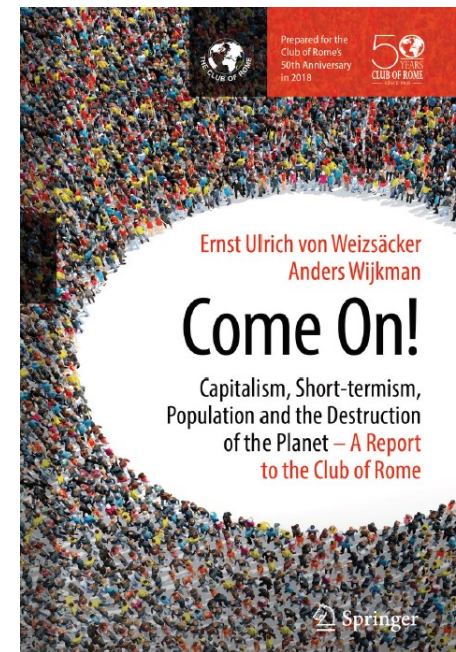


**Responding to the Philosophical Crisis, we  
suggest to engage in a new Enlightenment:**

# **Enlightenment 2.0**

**(I'll be happy to offer details if you are interested)**

**But we also have to act now.  
That is Part Three.**



**It is about policy change!**

# **Massive changes in**

- **Agriculture**
- **Energy**
- **Transport**
- **Circular Economy**
- **Financial Markets**
- **Tax systems**





Club of Rome Report by Ernst von Weizsäcker, Charlie Hargroves et al.

**A fivefold increase of energy productivity  
allows us to completely stop fossil fuels.  
Factor Five shows it's technically feasible!**

**Thank you !**