

## Full Text of Letter to The Times.

Sir, Angela Merkel is right to put climate change at the centre of tomorrow's G20 summit. We must implement and build on the Paris agreement. If we do not we will face irreversible environmental destruction and an increasingly acute danger to human health. The World Health Organisation attributes 23 per cent of deaths worldwide to modifiable environmental factors. Air pollution alone accounts for around seven million deaths worldwide. The World Bank estimates that air pollution cost the world economy some \$225 billion in lost labour income alone in 2013.

Economic growth may have generated unprecedented improvements in human welfare in recent decades. But policies that continue to maximise growth without enforcing environmental controls are now reaching a point of diminishing social returns. We must reverse the traditional economic consensus that environmental initiatives harm economic growth and business. In fact companies focusing on eco-innovation in Europe are growing at an annual rate of 15 per cent, while many of their competitors struggle. PROFESSOR RIFAT ATUN, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health; SHAUKAT AZIZ, former prime minister, Pakistan; SUMAN BERY, former chief economist, Royal Dutch Shell; DR PETER BOURNE, former UN Assistant Secretary General; PROFESSOR SAUL ESTRIN, founding head, School of Management, London School of Economics; MATHIEU FLAMINI, co-founder GFBiochemicals and professional footballer; PROFESSOR ALEXANDRE KALACHE, president, International Longevity Center, Brazil; DR MARIA NEIRA, director, Public Health, World Health Organisation; PROFESSOR JEFFREY D SACHS, Director, Centre for Sustainable Development, Columbia University; PROFESSOR RAINER SAUERBORN, director, Institute of Public Health, University of Heidelberg; PROFESSOR VLADIMIR ZAKHAROV, director, Institute for Sustainable Development, Moscow; PROFESSOR JUNFENG ZHANG, Duke Global Health Institute, USA, and Duke Kunshan University, China (Representing Green Templeton College, Oxford, Environmental Health in Emerging Markets report [ems.gtc.ox.ac.uk](http://ems.gtc.ox.ac.uk))