

Kim Abeles 2019  
*Smog Collectors*

The new series, *Smog Collectors*, includes ten world leaders who presented speeches at world climate summits from 2011 to 2018. The quotes are written on the plates in the language originally presented. Following are the quotations and translations. A more thorough document is available on request that includes additional quotes and notations.

### List of Quotations

Theresa May • Prime Minister (2016-2019) • United Kingdom  
British Prime Minister **Theresa May** launches the 25 Year Environment Plan<sup>1</sup> with a speech at the London Wetland Centre, Barnes on January 11, 2018<sup>2</sup>

[Original language English]

“In our election manifesto last year we made an important pledge: to make ours the first generation to leave the natural environment in a better state than we found it.”

#### As written on plate:

“In our election manifesto last year we made an important pledge: to make ours the first generation to leave the natural environment in a better state than we found it.” 1/11/2018

Prime Minister • United Kingdom  
Theresa May

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<sup>1</sup> The Plan notable targets include eliminating all avoidable waste by 2050 and all avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042. Environmental groups have criticized the lack of proposed legislation and the lengthy timescales for dealing with problems in the Government's new environment strategy. Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/theresa-may-environment-government-flaws-science-plastic-pollution-michael-gove-speech-a8153536.html>

<sup>2</sup> British Prime Minister Theresa May's full speech addressing the 25 Year Environment Plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-speech-on-the-environment-11-january-2017>

Quote from the French President **Emmanuel Macron**'s speech in U.S. Congress<sup>3</sup> on April 25, 2018:

[Original language English]

“What is the meaning of our life if our decision, our conscious decision, is to reduce the opportunities for our children and grandchildren? By polluting the oceans, not mitigating CO2 emissions and destroying our biodiversity, we are killing our planet. Let us face it: there is no Planet B.”

**As written on plate:**

“What is the meaning of our life if our decision, our conscious decision, is to reduce the opportunities for our children and grandchildren? By polluting the oceans, not mitigating CO2 emissions and destroying our biodiversity, we are killing our planet. Let us face it: there is no Planet B.” 4/25/2018

Présidente • République française  
Emmanuel Macron

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<sup>3</sup> French President Macron Addresses U.S. Congress; Macron Says Europe and U.S. Must Face Challenges Together; Macron Says We Must Leave Our Children a Habitable Planet; Macron, Don't Repeat Past Mistakes in Middle East; Macron Trying to Sway Trump to Stick to Iran Deal. Aired 11a-12n ET on April 25, 2018. Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1804/25/ctw.01.html>

Speech by Federal Chancellor **Angela Merkel** at the Sixth Petersberg Climate Dialogue in Berlin on May 19, 2015<sup>4</sup>:

[Original language German] “Denn wir, die Industrieländer, haben über viele Jahre zur Klimaerwärmung stark beigetragen und haben jetzt die Pflicht, mit Innovationen denen, die noch Entwicklung vor sich haben, deutlich zu machen, was effizientere Technologien sind. Das ist ein Akt der Gerechtigkeit und entspricht den unterschiedlichen Verantwortlichkeiten, die wir in der einen Welt haben.”<sup>5</sup>

[English] “After all, we, the industrialized countries, caused much of global warming for many years, and it is now our duty to show those still awaiting development more efficient technologies by creating innovations. This is an act of justice and reflects the differentiated responsibilities we have in this shared world of ours.”<sup>6</sup>

**As written on plate:**

“Denn wir, die Industrieländer, haben über viele Jahre zur Klimaerwärmung stark beigetragen und haben jetzt die Pflicht, mit Innovationen denen, die noch Entwicklung vor sich haben, deutlich zu machen, was effizientere Technologien sind. Das ist ein Akt der Gerechtigkeit und entspricht den unterschiedlichen Verantwortlichkeiten, die wir in der einen Welt haben.”  
5/19/2015

Kanzlerin • Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
Angela Merkel

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<sup>4</sup> The Dialogue is hosted by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). Originally an initiative of Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel, representatives from all regions of the world gather at the Dialogue for informal discussions in support of the UNFCCC negotiating process. The Dialogues are chaired by Germany and the president of the upcoming COP (France, 2015).

In preparation for the 2015 international climate conference in Paris, the goal of that year's Petersberg Climate Dialogue for all parties was to produce a negotiating text that is accepted by all participants.

Organizer: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/aktuelles/rede-von-bundestkanzlerin-merkel-zum-vi-petersberger-klimadiolog-am-19-mai-2015-483360>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/chancellor/speech-by-federal-chancellor-angela-merkel-at-the-sixth-petersberg-climate-dialogue-442230>

Statement by Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France on November 30, 2015<sup>7</sup>:

[Original language: English]

“Ultimately, for success, moderating our lifestyle is necessary, and possible, for a low carbon future.”

“We will succeed if we have the wisdom and courage to craft a genuinely collective partnership that balances responsibilities and capabilities with aspirations and needs.”

**As written on plate:**

“Ultimately, for success, moderating our lifestyle is necessary, and possible, for a low carbon future...We will succeed if we have the wisdom and courage to craft a genuinely collective partnership that balances responsibilities and capabilities with aspirations and needs.” 11/30/15

प्रधानमंत्री • भारत  
श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी

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<sup>7</sup> The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 or CMP 11 was held in Paris, France, from 30 November to 12 December 2015. It was the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties (CMP) to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

The conference negotiated the Paris Agreement, a global agreement on the reduction of climate change, the text of which represented a consensus of the representatives of the 196 parties attending it.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015\\_United\\_Nations\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference)

Statement by Russian President **Vladimir Putin** at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France on November 30, 2015<sup>8</sup>:

[Original language Russian] «От решения климатической проблемы зависят качество жизни всех людей на планете, экономический рост и устойчивое социальное развитие целых регионов Земли».<sup>9</sup>

[English] “The quality of life of everyone on this planet, economic growth and sustainable social development of entire regions depend on our ability to resolve the climate problem.”<sup>10</sup>

**As written on plate:**

«От решения климатической проблемы зависят качество жизни всех людей на планете, экономический рост и устойчивое социальное развитие целых регионов Земли». 11/30/2015

Президент Российской Федерации  
Владимир Пётр Путин

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<sup>8</sup> The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 or CMP 11 was held in Paris, France, from 30 November to 12 December 2015. It was the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties (CMP) to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

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Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015\\_United\\_Nations\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference)

<sup>9</sup> <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/50812>

<sup>10</sup> <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/50812>

Dilma Rousseff • President (2011-2016) • Brazil  
Speech by Brazilian President **Dilma Rousseff** at the Plenary Session of United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in New York on September 27, 2015<sup>11</sup>:

[Original language Portuguese]

“O Brasil é um dos poucos países em desenvolvimento a assumir uma meta absoluta de redução de emissões. Temos uma das maiores populações e PIB do mundo e nossas metas são tão ou mais ambiciosas que aquelas dos países desenvolvidos.”<sup>12</sup>

[English] “Brazil is one of the few developing countries to commit to an absolute goal for emissions reduction. In spite of having one the world’s largest populations and GDPs our goals are just as ambitious, if not more so, than those set by developed countries.”<sup>13</sup>

**As written on plate:**

“O Brasil é um dos poucos países em desenvolvimento a assumir uma meta absoluta de redução de emissões. Temos uma das maiores populações e PIB do mundo e nossas metas são tão ou mais ambiciosas que aquelas dos países desenvolvidos.” 9/27/2015

Presidente • República Federativa do Brasil  
Dilma Rousseff

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<sup>11</sup> The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda was held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York and convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly. Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/pt-BR/discursos-artigos-e-entrevistas-categoria/presidente-da-republica-federativa-do-brasil-discursos/11916-discurso-da-presidenta-da-republica-dilma-rousseff-durante-sessao-plenaria-da-conferencia-das-nacoes-unidas-para-a-agenda-de-desenvolvimento-pos-2015-nova-york-27-de-setembro-de-2015>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/speeches-articles-and-interviews/president-of-the-federative-republic-of-brazil-speeches/11984-speech-by-president-dilma-rousseff-on-the-occasion-of-the-plenary-session-of-united-nations-sustainable-development-summit-2015-new-york-september-27-2015>

Statement by Canadian Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France on November 30, 2015<sup>14</sup>:

[Original language: English]

“We view climate change not just as the challenge it is but also as a historic opportunity. An opportunity to build a sustainable economy based on clean technology, on green infrastructure and on green jobs. We will not sacrifice growth, we will create growth.”

**As written on plate:**

“We view climate change not just as the challenge it is but also as a historic opportunity. An opportunity to build a sustainable economy based on clean technology, on green infrastructure and on green jobs. We will not sacrifice growth, we will create growth.” 11/30/2015

Prime Minister/Premier Ministre • Canada  
Justin Trudeau

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<sup>14</sup> The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 or CMP 11 was held in Paris, France, from 30 November to 12 December 2015. It was the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties (CMP) to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

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Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015\\_United\\_Nations\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference)

Statement by American President **Donald Trump** on the Paris Climate Accord<sup>15</sup> made on June 1, 2017: <sup>16</sup>

[Original language: English]

“The United States, under the Trump administration, will continue to be the cleanest and most environmentally friendly country on Earth. We’ll be the cleanest. We’re going to have the cleanest air. We’re going to have the cleanest water.”

**As written on plate:**

“The United States, under the Trump administration, will continue to be the cleanest and most environmentally friendly country on Earth. We’ll be the cleanest. We’re going to have the cleanest air. We’re going to have the cleanest water.” 6/1/2017

President • United States  
Donald Trump

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<sup>15</sup> On June 1, 2017, United States President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. would cease all participation in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change mitigation. During the presidential campaign, Trump had pledged to withdraw from the pact, saying a withdrawal would help American businesses and workers. Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_withdrawal\\_from\\_the\\_Paris\\_Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_withdrawal_from_the_Paris_Agreement)

<sup>16</sup> American President Donald Trump's full speech on the Paris Climate Accord made on June 1, 2017 at the White House Rose Garden (Washington, D.C., USA) on June 1, 2017:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-president-trump-paris-climate-accord/>



Statement by Chinese **President Xi Jinping** at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France on November 30, 2015<sup>17</sup>:

[Original language Chinese] 我们应该创造一个各尽所能、合作共赢的未来。对气候变化等全球性问题，如果抱着功利主义的思维，希望多占点便宜、少承担点责任，最终将是损人不利己。巴黎大会应该摒弃“零和博弈”狭隘思维，推动各国尤其是发达国家多一点共享、多一点担当，实现互惠共赢。<sup>18</sup>

[English] "We should create a future of win-win cooperation, with each country making contribution to the best of its ability. For global issues like climate change, a take-more-give-less approach based on expediency is in nobody's interest. The Paris Conference should reject the narrow-minded mentality of "zero sum game" and call on all countries, the developed countries in particular, to assume more shared responsibilities for win-win outcomes."<sup>19</sup>

**As written on plate:**

我们应该创造一个各尽所能、合作共赢的未来。对气候变化等全球性问题，如果抱着功利主义的思维，希望多占点便宜、少承担点责任，最终将是损人不利己。巴黎大会应该摒弃“零和博弈”狭隘思维，推动各国尤其是发达国家多一点共享、多一点担当，实现互惠共赢。

中华人民共和国主席

习近平

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<sup>17</sup> The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 or CMP 11 was held in Paris, France, from 30 November to 12 December 2015. It was the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties (CMP) to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

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<sup>18</sup> [http://language.chinadaily.com.cn/2015-12/01/content\\_22596034.htm](http://language.chinadaily.com.cn/2015-12/01/content_22596034.htm)

<sup>19</sup> [http://language.chinadaily.com.cn/2015-12/01/content\\_22596034.htm](http://language.chinadaily.com.cn/2015-12/01/content_22596034.htm)

Jacob Zuma • President (2009-2018) • South Africa  
Statement by South African President **Jacob Zuma** at the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa on December 7, 2011<sup>20</sup>:

[Original language: English]

“Various regions of the world have different views on the issue, simply because they are affected differently by climate change. However, for most people in the developing world and Africa, climate change is a matter of life and death. We are always reminded by the leaders of small island states that climate change threatens their very existence.”<sup>21</sup>

**As written on plate:**

“Various regions of the world have different views on the issue, simply because they are affected differently by climate change. However, for most people in the developing world and Africa, climate change is a matter of life and death. We are always reminded by the leaders of small island states that climate change threatens their very existence.” 12/7/2011

President • Republic of South Africa  
Jacob Zuma

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<sup>20</sup> The 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17) was held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 11 December 2011 to establish a new treaty to limit carbon emissions. A treaty was not established, but the conference agreed to establish a legally binding deal comprising all countries by 2015, which was to take effect in 2020.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011\\_United\\_Nations\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference)

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.ngopulse.org/resource/address-his-excellency-president-jacob-zuma-official-opening-cop17cmp7-inkosi-albert>