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THE PRIME MINISTER

22 February 2010

COPY

Dear Richard

Thank you for your letter dated 30 November enclosing the Church of England's "Church and Earth 2009-2016" plan on climate change and the environment.

I welcome the news of the work that the Church is doing through its 7 year plan on climate change and am very grateful for your efforts on this vital issue.

This is a timely contribution, given the recent summit in Copenhagen. The culmination of COP15 in the agreement of the Copenhagen Accord was agreed by major developed and developing country leaders and backed by a large majority of countries. It will reinforce the need for strong domestic action on climate change across the world.

Key commitments to global action on climate change include:

- backing for an overall limit on global warming of 2°C;
- providing fast start finance rising to \$10 billion per year by 2012; this will kick start emission reduction measures and help the poorest countries adapt to the impacts of climate change;
- committing developed countries to work to provide long term financing of \$100 billion a year by 2020.

The Accord does not include everything that the UK was seeking at Copenhagen. It is not a legally binding agreement. However, countries signing the Accord have endorsed the science that says we must prevent warming of more than 2°C. For the first time developing countries, including China, as well as developed countries, have agreed emissions commitments for the next decade. If countries deliver on the most ambitious targets, we will be on track to prevent warming of more

than 2°C. These commitments will also for the first time be listed and independently scrutinised, with reports to the UN required every two years.

The voice of small island states and African countries were the most resonant at these talks. For their people, most vulnerable to climate change, they know we must have a legal framework. Together we will seek to persuade all countries of the need for a binding legal treaty.

In the months ahead, these concrete achievements must be secured and extended. We must work to ensure that developed nations in particular, such as Australia, Japan, EU nations and the United States deliver on the highest possible emissions cuts.

We will be leading the international push to reach a legal treaty as soon as possible in 2010 and encouraging all the countries that want a legal treaty to campaign for it.

The challenge for all of us is not to lose heart or momentum and I am grateful for the Church of England's support. The truth is that the global campaign, coordinated by green NGOs, backed by business and supported by a wider cross section of the public, has achieved a lot. We would never have had targets from so many countries, the engagement of leaders, and the agreement on finance without this sort of mobilisation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Min". The letters are bold and slightly slanted.

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Bishop of London