

Dear Distinguished delegates,

My name is May Boeve, and I'm 25 years old. I'm the director of the 350.org campaign in the United States. 350 stands for the safe level of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere, a level we've already exceeded. 350 is also the unifying call to action of a growing global movement, seeking a deal in Copenhagen that meets this goal. On October 24, United Nations Day, people in every country on earth will rally in support of 350: In the Ocean off the great barrier reef, encircling the equator in Quito, in the shadow of Mauna Loa.

Our planet and its people lived in a 350 world not long ago; in fact, Carbon Dioxide was last at 350 parts per million in 1984, the year I was born. I am part of a 350 generation, and so I am asking you to support a treaty in Copenhagen that meets this target. 90 countries have already endorsed the 350 target, as has economist Lord Nicholas Stern, archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Prize winner Al Gore, and human rights advocate Vandana Shiva.

A few weeks ago, Dr. Rajendra Pachauri joined this chorus of leaders saying "As chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, I cannot take a position because we do not make recommendations, but as a human being I am fully supportive of that goal. What is happening, and what is likely to happen, convinces me that the world must be really ambitious and very determined at moving toward a 350 target."

The climate crisis requires us all to step beyond prescribed positions. Dr. Pachauri recognized that he must step beyond political norms. Our politicians must become leaders, our negotiators must become advocates, just as our citizens have become activists for a just and sustainable world.

Today, while you convene for a few short hours, know that millions of people are paying attention to your deliberations, and are depending on a bold and ambitious outcome. Dag Hammarskjold, whom many of you admire, as I do, once said, "It is when we all play safe that we create a world of utmost insecurity." May you truly take his words to heart today.

Thank you.