

## We cannot tell others to 'accept' gross inequity

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*From Dr Benito Müller.*

Sir, Nicholas Stern's demand ("The prize, perils, and price of China's plan" April 29) that the Chinese increase their emission reduction ambitions while telling them to accept the "grossly inequitable" arithmetic of the world's carbon budgets as "a fact of life" is akin to – and probably as fruitful as – asking a slave to work harder while telling him to accept his lot, although grossly inequitable, as a fact of life.

Lord Stern is right in concluding that "now is the time to work with China". But he singularly fails to understand that no such co-operation will be forthcoming if we continue to belittle the justified sense of inequity of developing countries by telling them to accept that as a fact of life. Collaboration, which is indeed essential, will only happen if we in the developed world face up to our responsibilities and act accordingly.

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