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**The Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP**  
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Thank you for your letter dated 24 June about the international climate change negotiations and public support for action on climate change. I sincerely apologise for the lengthy delay in replying.

While the Copenhagen Conference fell short of the high expectations of many countries seeking a comprehensive global agreement, some progress was made. Under the Copenhagen Accord, to which more than 130 countries have associated, over 70 nations, accounting for approximately 80% of global emissions, have set out targets and actions that they will take to limit emissions in the medium term.

The case for collective global action remains strong. The Coalition Government is committed to working for an ambitious global deal to reduce emissions and support action to adapt to the unavoidable consequences of climate change.

Reaching a legally binding deal will be challenging. But by taking practical action that builds confidence among developed and developing countries, we believe that by Cancún we can make substantial progress towards achieving an international agreement that puts us on track to avoid dangerous climate change. It can also stimulate practical action in key countries to reduce emissions and promote low-carbon growth. To achieve this, we want to see action in five key areas:

- Delivery of the emissions reduction commitments that countries put forward in the Copenhagen Accord, and an EU move to 30%;
- Sufficient finance to enable countries to reduce their emissions and adapt to climate change;
- Rapid progress in promoting the development and deployment of low-carbon technologies;

- Practical action in key emitting sectors and gases, such as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and
- Establishing the core architecture and mechanisms needed to underpin global action, including Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV).

MRV is a vital element of any package deal or outcome in Cancún and I can assure you that the UK Government and the EU are strongly committed to this issue. We need to have a clear and reliable ongoing picture of global emission levels and the action that is being taken to reduce them. Greater knowledge and transparency about how consistent global action is with our desired trajectory will benefit all countries.

The Copenhagen Accord provides some guidance on how developing countries should report on actions using an enhanced version of the UNFCCC national communications, and a process of "international consultations and analysis". A decision in Cancún, informed by the commitments enshrined in the Copenhagen Accord, should articulate the guidelines and processes that parties will use to report on their respective obligations.

Regarding your concern about weakening public support for action against climate change, I agree that communicating climate change and climate science with the public is very important. Despite some scepticism on the science and the wide-spread publicity this has received, the dual threat of energy security and climate change shows the importance of decarbonising the economy. It is important that climate science is communicated by credible and authoritative scientists, and we know that the Met Office and the National Environment Research Council (NERC) are taking forward plans for how best to engage the public in science.

Finally, the latest and most comprehensive expression on the Government's energy and climate change agenda is set out in the Annual Energy Statement, which I presented to Parliament on 27 July. The Statement is available on our website at [www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Huhne', written in a cursive style.

**CHRIS HUHNE**