

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PODCAST “CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECONOMY”

Female: “Climate change is, in the words of former US President Barack Obama, the biggest threat facing humanity”.

Male: “Climate change affects the basic elements of life around the globe, such as energy, access to water, food production, health, and the environment. In addition, hundreds of millions of people may suffer from hunger, water shortages or floods in the coming years, as the effects of global warming move forward”.

Female: “All of the issues raised will directly affect our economy, which faces a major challenge. The United Nations warns that the future of most companies will depend on their ability to adapt to climate change. If companies invest in greener production models, they will be able to avoid major economic and employment losses in the future”.

Male: “We must generate a low-carbon economy to combat climate change and not consume resources that our planet has not had time to replenish. Otherwise we will be mortgaging the future of the next generations”.

Female: “Adaptation to a new economy, respectful of the environment, will depend on the survival of companies. But, have you ever wondered how can these changes affect the economic model to citizens?”.

Male: “We live above our means. How many times have we heard this phrase to justify the long economic crisis that we have suffered and of which we have not yet left?”.

Female: “But this way of living has been a reality for decades in all aspects, also in the environment. Every year we use more natural resources than the Earth is capable of regenerating. In short, we consume more than we can afford”.

Male: “The economy based on the unlimited use of resources and the burning of fossil fuels has led us to an unsustainable situation. We are in permanent ecological deficit”.

Female: “Humanity currently requires a planet and a half to meet its demand for natural resources, according to the Global Network of Ecological Footprint”.

Male: “The New Economics Foundation asserts that current consumption would need triple that of our country to self-sustain. We are immersed in a vicious circle”.

Female: “The traditional economic model generates activities that destroy nature, emitting greenhouse gases that cause climate change. At the same time, climate change causes serious damage to the world economy by having to face damages from natural disasters”.

Male: “As this correspondent points out, climate change will have major impacts on world production, human life and the environment. All countries will be affected”.

Expert: “Climate change is going to have a very serious economic impact that is known and studied and the sooner we start to solve it the better”.

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Male: “The most vulnerable countries are the poor countries that will suffer earliest and the most, even if they are those who have contributed least to its causes”.

Female: “Climate warming can lead to a global economic downturn. A crisis greater than the two world wars and the crack of 1929, this is according to the study prepared by the former chief economist of the World Bank, Sir Nicholas Stern”.

Male: “The study estimates that mankind will spend the next 1 % of the planet's annual GDP, if they do not invest in it five to twenty times more when the problem worsens”.

Female: “If we do not act soon, the climate change we already suffer will be aggravated and will lead to prolonged droughts, sea level rises, as well as poor harvests, forcing millions of people to emigrate. It is estimated that there could be as many as 200 million climate migrants, which would lead to economic destabilization, both for the countries they flee and for those that they move to”.

Male: “The melting of the polar ice caps would dramatically exacerbate the danger of flooding and important cultivable areas would be transformed into dry, vacant land. In addition, 40 percent of the flora and fauna could disappear”.

Female: “Given such forecasts, what can we do? Are we in time to avoid it?”.

Male: “The scientific evidence at the moment is overwhelming: climate change poses a serious global threat and requires an urgent response. The benefits of this response will far outweigh the economic costs of not responding. Combating climate change is a source of job creation, economic development and new business opportunities”.

Female: “The Paris Climate Agreement, which came into force in November 2016, is the first step to be taken, limiting the global average temperature increase to less than 2 ° C. This objective implies lower global emissions of greenhouse gases compared to 2010 between 40% and 70% by 2050. And reduce them to nearly zero by the end of this century”.

Male: “The International Labor Organization targets eight key sectors for the development of a sustainable economy: agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, resource-intensive manufacturing, construction, transportation and infrastructure”.

Female: “The United Nations Environment Program estimates that it would be enough to invest 2 percent of world GDP over the next 40 years to make the economy much greener and fight climate change effectively”.

Male: “The energy sector in all regions of the world would have to reach 60% decarbonisation by at least 2050 to stabilize concentrations in the atmosphere. Major reductions in emissions will also be necessary in the transport sector. Advances in the world of technology, applied to the energy sector, will create new business opportunities that will substantially affect the growth of greenhouse gas emissions”.

Female: “We already have some signs that this collective mission is possible: Between 2014 and 2016, the world has had 3% economic growth for 3 years without any increase in emissions, and in the European Union greenhouse gases fell in 2014 by 4 , 1 % over the previous year. They are clear signs that the global transition to the low-carbon economy has already begun”.

Male: “In the long run, we will only develop in a sustainable way, if we are committed to economies that create jobs and wealth while respecting the environment, to win the battle against climate change”.

