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**PRIME MINISTER'S Q&A SESSION WITH WORLD LEADERS**  
**(PART 1)**

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MODERATOR: Very important but somewhat complex session because of the number of languages we have involved, so I hope you will bear with us. There is simultaneous translation. You all have headsets. If there is somebody here who is able to speak English, French, German, Spanish, Japanese, Russian, Chinese and Arabic, you will not need a headset. Otherwise, feel free to use one. The way we're going to structure this session, because we have six very distinguished heads of government or heads of state tackling a very important issue, is to dispense with the formality or the protocol that would require opening statements from each of these very distinguished leaders. If we were to do that, that would be...the session would be effectively over at the end of those statements. So instead, we're going to begin with me posing a question to each of these leaders, and I'm going to ask that they respond to them as frankly and, frankly, briefly as they could. And then we will move on and try to build a conversation from there and then involve all of you. I'm going to introduce them as we go along. None of them need an introduction, but I thought that we would start with President Calderon of Mexico, who is going to host a summit on climate change next year. And I wanted to ask you, when you talk...when you think about global cooperation, one of the central dilemmas you face looking forward is one that emerged in Copenhagen and is clear when you think about the issue of climate change, which is that the interests of the developing world and the interests of the developed world are not the same. And increasingly, the developing world, the Chinas, the Indias, the Brazils of the world are speaking quite forcefully about their needs, their interests, and as a result, in a strange sense, even

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though we have more globalization and more global trade and commerce, there is actually less of a sense of common interests. So how are you going to square this circle next year?

FELIPE CALDERON (President of Mexico): It's going to be very tough, very difficult. Let me go in Spanish, because I feel more comfortable in order to talk about these very difficult issues. (SPEAKING SPANISH) (APPLAUSE)

MODERATOR: So, Prime Minister Harper, is the solution to the climate change...conundrum, this problem of cooperation, is the solution that there should be significant transfers of wealth from the rich, from the first world to the developing world to try to fund energy requirements in a way that is clean? In other words, should we send some of the champagne from first class to economy class so that you can spread it around?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister of Canada): Well, as you know, Fareed, in the Copenhagen Accord, there's actually some recognition that there does have to be transfers, transfers to support adaptation, particularly in countries that are unable themselves to adapt, and in some cases, aren't even a source of the problem. And there also has to be mechanisms to facilitate technology, development and transfer as well. And these and a number of other transfers for the purposes of achieving global commitments, commitments from every major emitter, are part of the framework that we established at Copenhagen. Just want to say a couple of things about this beyond, if I could. First of all, I should point out that President Calderon has been a real, significant bridge-builder in this attempt to deal with the divide between developed and developing countries. But I think the divide has been exaggerated by the way we've gone about tackling this

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problem. First of all, it is a common problem. As President Calderon said, we're all going to be affected by this. It's a common problem. Climate change, more generally, the problem that probably doesn't get talked about enough, the pollution of airsheds is also ultimately a common problem as well, so there do have to be common solutions, and we have common interests. But the real difficulty that, for some reason, we have trouble grappling with is that there are real serious trade-offs to be made with economic imperatives in the short term. In the short term, in the very short term, minus the ability to change technology, it is very difficult to significantly lower emissions growth. Therefore, a lot of the demands for targets or for actions, whether it's on developed countries or on developing countries, will have very significant impacts on their economy, and everyone talks around this, or talks as if to recognize the economic problem is some kind of failing, and therefore we all blame each other for, you know, for not dealing adequately with the problem of climate change, when all every country is trying to do is simply deal with the very real impacts these measures could have on jobs and economic growth. The legitimacy of that concern has to be acknowledged, both for developed and developing countries, and I think if we acknowledge that concern and acknowledge the different circumstances that obviously various countries find themselves in, and acknowledge as well that a big part of the solution has to be technological change over the long term, then I think we'll get more of a sense of shared purpose than the kind of blame game we have seen.

MODERATOR: But what it sounds like you're saying, Prime Minister Harper, is reduce the insistence on reducing CO2 emissions.

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: No, I'm not saying that. I'm saying just recognize how those emissions have to be reduced. They've

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got to be reduced through technological change and innovation. They cannot be simply reduced by declaring a target and saying it will be met just by sort of power of will, because that isn't going to happen. It has to be recognized that current technological mix leads to certain levels of emission, and that is what has to be changed, and that is going to take some time. It has to be done, but it will not be done by simply trying to pretend economic imperatives don't exist, because all that happens when that happens is people set targets and then don't meet them.

MODERATOR: Prime Minister Zapatero, that could be seen as a fairly direct critique of the European approach to climate change, the European approach to climate change is effectively to mandate emissions reductions, which never actually happen, but everyone leaves feeling very good about it. Your response? Should Europe stop setting out rhetorical targets that it is not actually going to meet, and admit the reality that Prime Minister Harper is admitting, or is that failure?

JOSÉ LUIS RODRIGUEZ ZAPATERO (Prime Minister of Spain): (SPEAKING SPANISH)

MODERATOR: But let me just be clear. You're saying that you would be willing...you're saying, Mr. President, that you would be willing to go to the Spanish people and say, "We are going to have lower economic growth for the next 20 years because we have to meet these limits on CO2 emissions,"? Because that is the quandary that Prime Minister Harper is presenting, which is with the current mix of energy technology, the only way to achieve the targets that the EU sets out would be to actually lower economic growth. Are you comfortable with that? I mean, are you comfortable going to your voters with that?

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