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November 16, 2000

## The Changing Climate: Ideas for The Hague

**T**o the Editor:

At the Hague Climate Convention (news article, Nov. 13), two parallels between the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate and the 1987 Montreal Protocol on ozone are worth considering. In 1987, a fund allowed developing nations to convert their industrial processes. New data several years later led to an accelerated phase-out of ozone-depleting chemicals.

As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports in detail, we have apparently underestimated the rate and the impact of climate change. To ensure continuation of the Kyoto process, delegates can plan steps to consider: ratcheting up the targets and timetables for reducing greenhouse gases, and establishing a "clean development fund" to build markets for clean energy technologies.

PAUL R. EPSTEIN, M.D.

Boston, Nov. 14, 2000

*The writer is associate director, Center for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School.*

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