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Top climate sceptic calls for \$100bn fund to fight warming

Exclusive Bjørn Lomborg says humanity must confront rising temperatures

Juliette Jowit
Environment correspondent

The world's most high-profile climate change sceptic is to declare that global warming is "undoubtedly one of the chief concerns facing the world today" and "a challenge humanity must confront", in an apparent U-turn that will give a huge boost to the embattled environmental lobby.

Bjørn Lomborg, the self-styled "sceptical environmentalist" once compared to Adolf Hitler by the UN's climate chief, is famous for attacking climate scientists, campaigners, the media and others for exaggerating the rate of global warming and its effects on humans, and the costly waste of policies to stop the problem.

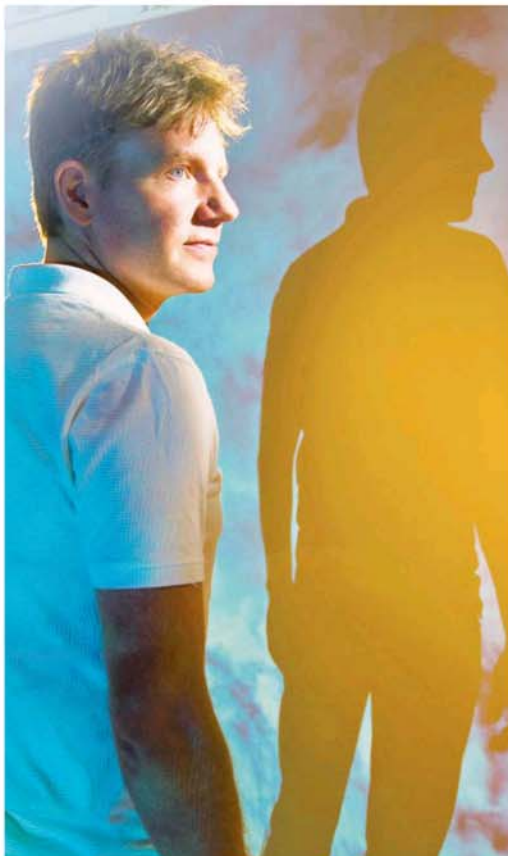
But in a new book to be published next month, Lomborg will call for tens of billions of dollars a year to be invested in tackling climate change. "Investing \$100bn annually would mean that we could essentially resolve the climate change problem by the end of this century," the book concludes.

Examining eight methods to reduce or stop global warming, Lomborg and his fellow economists recommend pouring money into researching and developing clean energy sources such as wind, wave, solar and nuclear power, and more work on climate engineering ideas such as "cloud whitening" to reflect the sun's heat back into the outer atmosphere.

In a Guardian interview, he said he would finance investment through a tax on carbon emissions that would also raise \$50bn to mitigate the effect of climate change, for example by building better sea defences, and \$100bn for global healthcare.

His declaration about the importance of action on climate change comes at a crucial point in the debate, with international efforts to agree a global deal on emissions stalled amid a resurgence in scepticism caused by rows over the reliability of the scientific evidence for global warming.

The fallout from those rows continued yesterday when Rajendra Pachauri, head of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, came under new pressure to step down after an independent review of the panel's work called for tighter term limits for its senior executives and greater transparency in its workings. The IPCC has come under fire in recent months following revelations of inaccuracies in the last



Bjørn Lomborg, formerly a passionate sceptic, will call for tens of billions of dollars to be spent on tackling climate change Photograph: Camera Press/Laif

assessment of global warming, provided to governments in 2007. The mistakes, including a claim that the Himalayan glaciers could melt by 2035, prompted a review of the IPCC's processes and procedures by the InterAcademy Council (IAC), an organisation of world science bodies.

The IAC said the IPCC needed to be as transparent as possible in how it worked, how it selected people to participate in assessments and its choice of scientific information to assess.

Although Pachauri once compared Lomborg to Hitler, he has now given an unlikely endorsement to the new book, *Smart Solutions to Climate Change*. In a quote for the launch, Pachauri said: "This book provides not only a reservoir of information on the reality of human-induced climate change, but raises vital questions and examines viable options on what can be done."

Lomborg denies he has performed a volte face, pointing out that even in his first book he accepted the existence of man-made global warming. "The point I've always been making is it's not the end of the world," he told the Guardian. "That's why we should be measuring up to what everybody else says, which is we should be spending our money well."

But he said the crucial turning point in his argument was the Copenhagen Consensus project, in which a group of economists were asked to consider how best to spend \$50bn. The first results, in 2004, put global warming near the bottom of the list, arguing instead for policies such as fighting malaria and HIV/AIDS. But a repeat analysis in 2008 included new ideas for reducing the temperature rise, some of which emerged about halfway up the ranking. Lomborg said he then decided to consider a much wider variety of policies to reduce global warming. "So it wouldn't end up at the bottom."

The difference was made by examining not just the dominant international policy to cut carbon emissions, but also seven other "solutions" including more investment in technology, climate engineering and planting more trees, said Lomborg.

"If the world is going to spend hundreds of millions, where could you get the most bang for your buck?" was the question posed, he added.

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Cricket body 'had Pakistan players under surveillance'

David Hopps, Matthew Taylor and Vikram Dodd

The Pakistan players allegedly at the centre of one of the biggest betting scandals in cricket history had been under investigation for months by the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption unit, according to a source within the ICC.

When a three-strong delegation from Pakistan's highest law enforcement unit, the Federal Investigation Agency, arrives in England to carry out its own inquiry, it will be presented not only with information obtained during a News of the World sting, but with the anti-corruption unit's own analysis of the potential corruption in Pakistan cricket.

Senior officials of the unit are said to relish the opportunity to provide the police with details of their investigations, believing it could mark a vital stage in combating the spot-fixing - betting on a



Pakistan may have to drop bowler Mohammad Amir from the series of one-day matches due to start in Cardiff on Sunday

specific incident in a game - that is proving so hard to eradicate.

The ICC yesterday began attempts to broker a deal between England and Pakistan which would allow the forthcoming series of one-day matches (seven in all, beginning in Cardiff on Sunday) to go ahead. The England and Wales Cricket Board are privately adamant that the three Pakistan players at the centre of the News of the World investigation - the captain, Salman Butt, and bowlers Mohammad Amir and Mohammad Asif - should be omitted from the series.

All three would face the likelihood of a life ban if it were proved that they had been the ring leaders in a major betting scam which has set off one of the biggest fraud investigations in the sport's history.

The allegations centre on the timing of three no-balls (where the bowler oversteps the line) delivered by Amir and Asif in the Lord's test match. Undercover reporters from the News of the World, posing as representatives of a "far east gambling cartel", allegedly paid a mid-

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Inquiry into Iraqi boy's disappearance from UK base

Ian Cobain

The British government has ordered an urgent inquiry into the disappearance of an injured Iraqi child who has not been seen since being placed in the care of UK military medics in 2003.

In one of the most bewildering episodes of the Iraq occupation, Memmon Salam al-Maliki, an 11-year-old boy, disappeared within days of being taken to a British base after he was wounded while playing with unexploded munitions. Although his injuries appeared not to be life-threatening, his family have not seen him since.

The British authorities told Memmon's father that they had sent his son to an American military hospital in Kuwait for



Memmon Salam al-Maliki and his father

further treatment, but have been unable to tell him its location, or provide information about his whereabouts or condition.

The US authorities, however, insist they know nothing and say that in the absence of documentation they cannot even be sure he was transferred into their care.

When he heard of the disappearance last week, the defence secretary, Liam Fox, ordered an urgent review to shed some light on "a deeply upsetting case".

Memmon's family, meanwhile, say they are deeply distraught, confused and angry. They say there was no reason to believe the boy's injuries were life-threatening, and point out that he was still alive more than a week after the explosion. Until they have proof of his death, they say they must hold out hope that he could be alive.

Memmon was injured in April 2003, shortly after the invasion, while playing with abandoned, unexploded munitions near his Basra home. He suffered a serious eye injury and lost his left hand and several fingers from his right.

He was picked up by a passing British convoy and taken to a nearby base for first aid. From there he was transferred to a British military field hospital at Shaibah. What happened next remains unclear.

Subsequently, the Ministry of Defence began to regard the family's appeals as claims for compensation, rather than requests for information about the boy's whereabouts. In its last communication with the family the MoD expressed its sympathy but denied all liability.

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