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## West's climate change focus 'wrong'

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THE SOLUTION to climate change must come from a reduction in consumption and a more sustain-able way of life, rather than a more efficient use of resources, the co-author of the Oslo Declaration of Sustainable Consumption says.

Uchita de Zoysa, a Sri Lankan researcher who has contributed to global United Nations conventions such as the Earth Summit and the Sustainable Development Summit, said "efficient resource utilisation" was the wrong approach to addressing climate change.

"That is what's been happening since industrialisation [and] it's the new European mantra. Without changing their behavioural patterns, efficiently consuming the same loads is not going to help," Mr de Zoysa said.

He said if the world continued on the current consumption model, two earths would be needed to sustain it by 2030. But it was hypocritical of the West to point the finger at China and India.

"You guys in Australia are the largest per capita carbon dioxide emitters in the world," Mr de Zoysa said. "But suddenly all sins are with India and China these are the biggest criminals on earth, because they're developing."

He questioned whether the Western economic model made people happier, noting Vanuatu had the happiest people in the world, while the US ranked 150th.

Mr de Zoysa was speaking at the ANU on Wednesday as part of dialogues on sustainability ,hosted by the ANU climate change executive director, Professor Will Steffen. His talk, entitled Right to Development in a Climate Change Agenda, was followed by a discussion with the audience of academics. Mr de Zoysa said the citizens of India and China were "upping their dreams" to emulate the Western models of economic development. "Just imagine every Indian and Chinese person with a car, with a growing middle class in India that has serious purchasing power. Everyone is going to get into a Tata Nano, which will cost about \$A3000. That's going to be exciting for the world debate."

But he said India and China must reject the Western economic model because it used huge amounts of resources, energy and material, and generated enormous waste. The world needed to accept that there were limits to growth.