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Dear Nature Climate Change editors,

I am pleased to submit the work **“Global convergence of incomes in a climate-constrained world”** for your consideration.

This paper addresses the question of what would happen to global CO2 emissions if all countries, and groups within countries, converged to the same high level of household income per person?

Previous climate-economic scenarios maintain large inequalities between Global North and South, as well as within countries, with none exploring radical income convergence yet. There are, however, international calls for changing the logic of climate-economic scenarios to include a fair and equitable distribution of income at the global level. Moreover, previous studies suggest that the emission impacts of universally high incomes might be substantial, while it is also suggested that for high well-being, incomes like those in Europe must be attained.

Correspondingly, in this paper, I develop a new model tailored to answer questions around income convergence and emission implications. I find that the emission implications of universally high-income convergence are indeed substantial but also depend on assumptions about the evolution of technology as well as the trajectory of current high-income groups. Low-income scenarios perform better in comparison, when slow to moderate technology development rates are assumed but only extremely fast paced technology roll-out enables universal income convergence scenarios to be completely feasible with respect to climate targets.

Therefore, this paper addresses interdisciplinary issues in climate economics, climate justice, integrated-assessment modelling as well as post-growth climate-economics. The paper enriches the increasingly popular discourse around global justice and post-growth economics which aims for Global North Global South convergence. I firmly believe that this paper is of interest to the broad readership of Nature Climate Change.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Yannick Oswald