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IF I COULD INVENT SOMETHING NEW

Our world is in great danger from extreme weather events, such as heat waves, flooding from rising sea levels due to melting glaciers, whirlwinds and wildfires. Several deaths have been reported in many parts of the world from this climate crisis which is due to rising temperatures caused by greenhouse gases. Agriculture has also been badly affected by drought caused by these soaring temperatures. Human activities, especially industrial ones, are the primary sources of these greenhouse gases. In recent years, the greenhouse gases (which include carbon dioxide, water vapour, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons) have accumulated to unsafe levels in our atmosphere causing this climate change. The United Nations responded in 2015 through a call for “climate action” in its 13th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). However, the call for man to move away from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind generated energy, has largely been ignored by many. Emission of greenhouse gases, therefore, continues uncontrollably daily. The gases trap unnecessary heat from the sun causing extreme rise in temperatures.

If I could invent something new, I would invent a device that can extract the excess greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and neutralise them by breaking their chemical bonds. I will design the device such that it can be installed on rooftops. After I invent the greenhouse gases extractor device, my next step would be to advertise it and get government of various countries to make laws that will require buildings, especially industrial buildings, to install the device. Installation of the device on several buildings will help reduce the greenhouse gases in our atmosphere to safe levels. This will reduce the high temperatures and stop the climate change and its associated extreme weather events, namely, flooding, windstorm, drought and wildfires. Control of these events will result in improved crop yield and, therefore, contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 which is “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”. Other SDGs that will be positively impacted by my invention are SDG 3: “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”; SDG 9: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”; SDG 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient

and sustainable”; and SDG 13: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.

In my view, no other invention can be more useful to mankind than one that will not only save our ailing planet from collapse but will also save mankind by contributing to 5 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Over the years, attempts to combat climate change have targeted reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases and they have all failed. The only option left is, therefore, a device that will safely extract the excess emitted gases from the atmosphere. If I could invent something new, it will be no other thing than such a device – a greenhouse gases extractor device.