

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends,

The Rio+20 meeting inserts itself in the long history of an evolution. A complex and uneven progress generating frustration for those of us who have made environmental conservation a priority, with the fight against global warming as one of its major components.

I cannot, however, keep from considering that genuine progress has been achieved. All those who, like me, were present here in Rio twenty years ago can only observe the extent of the changes that have occurred within two decades. In the increased awareness and implementation of policies, in technological innovations and economic prospects, these past twenty years have witnessed overwhelming transformations on a scale rarely seen in the history of humankind.

Although supported by multilateral political action, this upheaval is not its direct result. For having participated in many international meetings dedicated to climate change over the past twenty years, I now know that such political negotiations, however necessary, are not a panacea. Most of all, I know they must be stimulated, oriented and even accelerated by in-depth reflection and the regrouping of decision-makers and players on levels other than those of States alone.

The Climate Group, among others, have aimed in this direction for many years. This task of innovating and prospecting is paramount if we want to look further than what seems possible today, and especially if we want to perceive current changes globally.

Indeed, the stakes in this struggle against climate change have, from the start, been those of a fight against ways of doing and thinking.

What has been accomplished in twenty years did not seem possible in 1992. And what we are going to accomplish in the next twenty years strikes us today as terribly daring. It is this daring that must guide us.

Our goal is an economy that will, from now on, be neutral in terms of carbon emissions, meaning an economy that does not prosper on damaging the Planet and the ignorance of future generations.

Although this may seem unrealistic today, I know this is possible. Not immediately, of course, but in the longer term.

Solutions are being implemented.

I am thinking of all the renewable energy sources that are being developed today. Wind, hydraulic, underwater wave turbine, tidal, solar, geothermal, biomass or agrifuels: many additional solutions are currently being developed. All provide major advances, which, although they cannot yet give us hope to stop using hydrocarbons immediately, should incite us to persevere in our efforts.

We know that the search for clean, inexpensive energy in sufficient quantity for everyone will be lengthy. This is why we must begin by multiplying initiatives and explore all possible options.

In this perspective, another major orientation is that of energy efficiency, which entails first making better use of the energy resources available today. I have given

my government the necessary instructions to take this kind of action and my Foundation is also actively working towards such a goal, both by promoting simple principles and acting in exemplary fashion, beginning with the premises it occupies.

The combination of these two orientations – innovative energy and energy efficiency – leads to an effective model in view of current technological possibilities. This is how my country, on its own modest scale and with its constraints, aims to become carbon neutral by 2050.

This prospect represents a strong commitment for us, and we also support many projects, which, although they alone cannot solve the problems of global warming, can open realistic productive opportunities.

We recently welcomed several emblematic initiatives I would like to mention here, all illustrating the fact that it is possible to travel all over the world using solar energy alone, whether with the ship *Planet Solar*, Bertrand Piccard's Solar Impulse project or the Solar World GT car. These are all initiatives I follow and enthusiastically support.

We know, of course, that these innovations still have a price that may seem dissuasive today. But isn't it our responsibility to look beyond such short-term visions, which jeopardise the future of our Planet to seek out inexpensive energy which pollutes our environment, without thinking of our children?

Is it not our duty to invest and do our utmost to make these energy sources affordable tomorrow?

Ladies and gentlemen,

The paradox of our situation is that of an emergency that forces us to think in the long term. Given the problems of global warming, we must learn to react rapidly and also look further, as the Climate Group has been inciting us for years and as it still offers us today the possibility of contributing to this together.

Looking further means targeting excellence, wanting to share it and acting today. It means seeking progress without forgetting those for whom it is intended.

It means, in the words of François Mauriac:
“What purpose is there for Man to reach the Moon if he
ends up losing the Earth?”

Thank you