



Speech Elements for ECBI dinner at Oxford, September 1st 2016

Introductory word

- Good evening
- I would first like to thank the University of Oxford and ECBI for convening this very useful event. **This event allows us to project ourselves forward to COP 22 and beyond as we have frank and honest conversations on the optimal, most ambitious way to operationalize the Paris Agreement.**

A word on the hosts

- But before looking ahead, let us take a short look back.
- Earlier this year, our hosts for this evening, the Bodleian libraries, acquired a rare map of Middle-earth annotated by Tolkien, the famous Oxford Alumni and Professor himself. That map is quite unique as it features handwritten notes by Tolkien on the climate of Middle Earth.
- One wonders if there is such a process as climate change in Middle Earth.
- **None among us tonight will doubt the reality of climate change and its profound impacts on our societies, here, on Regular Earth.** NASA told us recently that there is a 99% chance that 2016 will be the hottest year on record and that the planet is warming at a rate that has no equivalent in the last 1000 years. We do not have 1000 years to deal with global warming.

Climate change is not a new topic

- Some of us present tonight have been looking at this issue even before the 1992 Earth Summit.
- Our hosts, **the ECBI, have held in the past decades more than 80 events in more than 20 countries, connecting more than 1700 climate negotiators and policy makers.**

The agenda for the seminar and its alignment with the agendas of COP 22 and the informal consultations

- Over the course of this seminar, open discussions have been and will be taking place on the **sequencing of contributions, the global stock take, transparency of action and support, finance, the article 6 and the rapid entry into force, among other topics.**
- Such a broad agenda is aligned with the agenda we designed for the Head of Delegations Informal Consultations of next week and with the COP 22 agenda itself.
- There is a lot of work ahead of us. **All of you here tonight are architects of the Paris Agreement. You gifted the world with a blueprint. We must now put our engineering hats on and build it.**



Rapid entry into force and the rule book

- **And the very foundation of that building is the signal that the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement would send.** And in that context, we are very closely keeping track of the ratification pledges with one date in mind : October 7th.
- The mechanics of the operationalisation of the Paris Agreement are key. They will be discussed at length and let us not lose sight of the historical opportunity that we have to demonstrate a level of commitment that is commensurate to the challenges and the opportunities in front of us.
- **When it comes to the mechanics of the operationalization of the Paris Agreement, the design of the rule book, the steel that will strengthen the structure of the Paris Agreement, it is very important that we get off to a good start in Marrakech.**

We must succeed in Marrakech

- Ever since I have been nominated as Ambassador for Multilateral Negotiations for COP 22, **I have travelled a lot and consulted with many. And every single one of these discussions has been solid proof to me that the whole world wants the Paris Agreement to succeed.**
- A few weeks ago, in the Olympics in Brazil, the host country won its first Olympic gold medal in football. Congratulations Felipe and Miguez ! This achievement reminded me of a quote from one of the greatest footballer of all times, Pele: “Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.”
- As we reflect on Pele’s recipe for success, let us keep in mind **that success in Marrakech will not be an accident, it must be carefully and openly prepared through discussions in forums such as this one, that allow for trust building and a healthy exchange of views.**

Objectives for COP 22

- Success in Marrakech will be defined through actionable progress on both the Formal Negotiations and the Action Agenda tracks. We have identified venues of progress as follows:
 - i. The facilitation of the design, communication, implementation, and review of NDCs
 - ii. The mobilization of finance with an emphasis on predictability and access
 - iii. The crystallization of adaptation as an important outcome of Paris through tangible, concrete results for vulnerable countries
 - iv. The spurring of Technological Development and Collaboration
 - v. The bolstering of Capacity building, both institutional and as a cross cutting enabler of bankable projects
 - vi. The enhancing of pre 2020 action



Conclusion

- As I am fond of saying, **I want COP 22 to be a success even before the first day of the COP, so that we can all fully enjoy the wonders Marrakech has to offer.**
- **And with that, I would like to thank Benito for facilitating this event and encourage all of you to have open and frank discussions during this seminar.**
- Thank you and have a pleasant evening.

H.E Aziz Mekouar, Ambassador for Multilateral Negotiations for COP 22