

Your Majesty, Mr. Secretary General, Your Excellencies,
and Distinguished Guests,

As a businesswoman and philanthropist, as a mother and a citizen, I offer my deepest gratitude for your extraordinary commitment to finding common ground in this quest to protect humanity from the dangers of climate change.

Today, in Marrakech, we find ourselves -- all nations, all cultures, all communities – united by the urgency of this moment. The challenge before us is to rapidly transform how our nations evolve. We must share the innovations and breakthroughs in energy and farming, in transportation and development, in solar and in wind, that are emerging from this crisis. No nation is excluded.

Nature is the foundation of our lives. Remarkably, despite the accelerating pace of industrial development, indigenous peoples, with their deep and spiritual connections to the rhythm of our earth, still steward one quarter of the earth's forests and waters and the vast majority of the biodiversity. These communities and peoples are the most knowledgeable caretakers of our planet. We should treat them with equity and justice, and as respected and valued partners.

Let's look back on this gathering as the moment when we forged a durable path for empowering all citizens to unite in this common cause. Let's remember this as the time when our collective best thinking, resolve and creativity combined to spark real progress in the world.

We are moving toward a world in which technology serves humanity. One that ensures equitable access to fresh water, clean energy, sustainable nutrition, and the healthy environment that every person, everywhere around the world, deserves. We can bring science directly into communities, and have our communities participate in that science. We must educate and empower our citizens to face this historic challenge together. It's in our enlightened self-interest to protect the earth for all of our families.

Thank you, your Majesty. And thanks to all of you for your dedication and for your leadership in confronting the most important issue of our time.