

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**REMARKS TO THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 22ND CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Marrakech, 15 November 2016**

Your Majesty, Mohammed VI, King of Morocco,
Your Excellency, Mr. Salaheddine Mezouar, President of COP 22,
Your Excellency, Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

A salaam alekum, bonjour, good morning!

I thank His Majesty King Mohammed VI and the Government of Morocco for convening this COP22 at such a crucially important time.

Excellencies,

This is a new dawn for global cooperation on climate change.

The Paris Agreement is one of the most complex international accords ever reached. It entered into force years ahead of expectations.

Countries have strongly supported the Agreement because they realize their own national interest is best secured by pursuing the common good.

Now we have to translate words into effective policies and actions.

This is critical to protect our planet, safeguard the most vulnerable and drive shared prosperity.

Low-emission development and climate resilience will advance all the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations will help countries implement this Agreement. The quicker we act, the more we gain.

Excellencies,

After a decade giving top priority to climate change, visiting its frontlines and speaking to everyone I could reach, I have learned six lessons.

First: multilateral solutions work. Acting together, countries achieve more than they ever could alone.

This is true for the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and recent achievements on mitigation.

The United Nations is the best forum to forge solutions.

Second, heads of State and government must lead.

I have spoken with nearly every world leader about climate change. The more they understood, they more decisively they acted.

Third, we need whole societies to engage.

Millions of people from all sectors contributed to the Paris Agreement. They are indispensable to realizing its full potential.

The Global Climate Action Agenda generated collaboration between governments, businesses, finance and civil society. They demonstrated the power of partnerships.

Fourth, the United Nations must continue to champion the science.

Current Nationally Determined Contributions will not get us out of the danger zone.

The mechanisms within the Paris Agreement to continuously raise ambition based on the best available science is critically important. We need to get on a global emissions pathway that limits warming this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius and as close to 1.5 as possible. This means that global emissions need to peak by 2020 and decline rapidly from then on.

2015 was the warmest year on record. This year is virtually certain to be even hotter.

Today, more than 150 million people live on land that could be submerged – or suffer chronic flooding – within this century, possibly causing massive waves of migration and instability.

The choices we make today and in the coming decades could lock in catastrophic climate impacts for thousands of years to come.

This is an enormous responsibility – and an enormous opportunity to do what is right for our future.

I strongly urge all countries to increase the mitigation ambition of their national climate plans by 2018. The private sector must also do much more. And I call for the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies to accelerate the transition to clean energy.

We have to face the facts – and be ready to manage a range of risk scenarios.

We have no right to gamble with the fate of future generations – or imperil the survival of other species that share our planet.

Fifth, we have to fund and expand solutions.

Local communities and cities are reducing their carbon footprint.

Clean energy sources are being scaled up around the world. Last year for the first time, renewables represented more than half of the new power capacity globally.

We need to better anticipate and absorb climate risks and reshape development to be more resilient. The Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction will advance progress. I have also launched a Climate Resilience Initiative.

Investing in resilience now will reduce future losses and generate huge dividends.

Sixth, the United Nations must continue advancing the moral case for action.

I am confident my successor will continue to be a strong champion for the most vulnerable. They did the least to create the climate crisis and should not suffer its worst effects.

I call on developed countries to honour their commitment to mobilize climate finance - \$100 billion by 2020 to help developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate vulnerability

Excellencies,

This is my last COP as Secretary-General.

I leave you with the hope that we will have the courage, tenacity and wisdom to live up to our responsibility to future generations by protecting our only home: this beautiful planet Earth.

Shukran jazeelan, merci beaucoup, thank you.

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