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# COP 26

## — *Opening Ceremony* —

1 November 2021

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*[Opening ceremony/plenary: 3 min shared with PCOM = 90 seconds. This text is 2 minutes.]*

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

There is no escaping the facts.

Climate change threatens our survival. The beating drum of science ... the facts ... have been loud and clear for some time.

But it has taken too long for our ears to hear ... what our eyes have been seeing all around us.

The recent IPCC report lays out the stark facts. Our time to act ... is short. But it is not too late.

We know what we have to do ... it is not a mystery. Cap global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

And we have one generation to get it done.

Europe is leading the way. In 2019, we committed to becoming the first carbon neutral continent, by 2050.

And now ... two years later ... others have gotten on board.

But it's one thing to make a pledge. It's quite another ... to take action. That's the hard part. The part that takes ... real leadership.

It will also take real **courage**, **creativity**, and **cooperation**.

1. **Courage** ... because we must take courageous decisions. Our history is full of bold, visionary, and yes, courageous decisions.

Now it is time to take perhaps the greatest decision of them all ... to save our planet.

2. It will take **creativity** ... and imagination ... to innovate and build the technologies. And scale them up ... with public and private investment.

Let's tap into humankind's infinite spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship ... for the good of our planet.

3. And we will need ... **cooperation**. Cooperation and solidarity. To make sure that everyone benefits from this green transformation.

We don't all start from the same point. But together ...we must all be working toward the same end ...

A healthy, sustainable planet ... for generations to come.

*[Now I will pass the floor to the President of the European Commission ... President Von der Leyen...]*

Thank you.