

## UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

PRÉSIDENCE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

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Service de presse  
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“ALLOCUTION DU PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE VERS UN PACTE MONDIAL POUR L’ENVIRONNEMENT”

[SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TOWARDS A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PACT]

Mr. President of the Constitutional Council, dear Laurent FABIUS,

Ladies and Gentlemen, the major players in the global commitment to the environment, dear friends,

The Rector of Paris,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to close this working day because it is a matter of work and exchanges to be able to reiterate our common commitment to this cause, our cause, the fight against global warming. I know, Mr. Chairman that you are, as I am, sensitive to the situation. And so your choice, that of welcoming us in the great amphitheater of the Sorbonne, inscribes your struggle, our struggle in its most perfect framework, because we are here in a place where for centuries the thought of the world has been forged. And that's what it is today.

Indeed, we are not only trying to contain and limit the climatic phenomena linked to human activity. We are trying to revise in depth the paradigms of our common life on this planet and for that we must forge ideas, notions, and rules that make up for what today is overwhelming us at least as much as climatic deregulation, cynicism, pessimism, and passivity. We are here in a place that has never been resolved, a place where we have always believed in man, whatever the circumstances. And the right which is at the heart of your project is undoubtedly the highest expression of this faith in the individual and collective consciousness.

Your struggle and this text of the Global Pact for the Environment that you have given me today is that of choosing the rules of our present and of our common future rather than undergoing the rules of climate change if we let it happen. It is the heart of the struggle for our autonomy. This is the heart of our common freedom. The project of a global climate compact is a challenge to mankind as before were the struggles for civil rights or for social or cultural rights. But the challenge here is even greater. It is not

only the dignity of the man in question but his survival. And we know that the evolution of the climate today already represents hurried lives, hundreds of thousands of deaths, millions according to certain calculations related to global warming and air pollution. And if it is not to be slowed down, this will result in the disappearance of entire territories, water wars, and mass exoduses, millions of men and women, children all over the world whose lives will be disrupted. Whose lives will be broken, whose dead are already certain today.

No one today can claim to fight effectively against terrorism, for peace in the world, by not attacking the war on the globally warming climate. I tried to convince some of my colleagues that it was so. I failed on a few attempts, you realized it. But anyone who crosses the Sahel and the Sahara and exchanges with the leaders of the neighborhood of Lake Chad cannot fail to understand that the exodus, this broken region, the renewed terrorism, the extremes and the worst of what we can sometimes bring to lead to the heinous crimes, including in our country, are also largely due to warming climate and the deep transformations of our planet.

No one knows how to measure today the consequences of such a catastrophe but today we only know that it is there and that tomorrow it will be even more terrible if we do nothing. France has become aware of this and you know it. Our country has a strong ambition in the field of the environment, which is reflected in the constitutional charter of the environment, the energy transition law, and the law on biodiversity.

The negotiation of the Paris agreement completed this work and was carried by the unwavering will of my predecessor, President François HOLLAND, and by you, Mr. President, Laurent FABIUS, who made the climate one. Because you bear all the resources of tenacity and intelligence of which we know. And thanks to you, dear Ban KI-MOON, in your office as Secretary-General of the United Nations. Be thanked today!

So, yes, the President of the United States of America has decided to get out of this agreement, to back down or stutter on the story. And because it was a promise - we sometimes make indiscriminate promises in election campaigns - it is better to avoid doing so in order to be able to hold them in dignity - he has decided to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. France, not only because it had welcomed the signing of this agreement, reaffirmed its will to preserve it, to maintain around it all those who had signed it. But, to go further and first by acting in order to be able to comply with this agreement because one thing is to sign texts, today we have to make them reality and we are not yet there. We have a lot to do, to lead, to transform to meet the requirements of the Paris Agreement in our country. And that is what we are going to commit. We will put in place a policy of economic incentives and simplification of procedures because we must unleash the potential of ecological transition. The investment plan of 15 billion Euros and the simplification projects to which I am committed will contribute. They must be accompanied by a strong political will, relayed by the whole government, which was appointed a few days ago. This will involve strengthened social dialogue at the territorial level through contracting with communities on the basis of sustainable development objectives.

We need to take action that results in concrete results, to improve the daily life of our fellow citizens, to offer employment opportunities and economic activities. This includes all actions in favor of clean mobility, reducing emissions from buildings, developing the local cooperative and solidarity economy, and raising awareness and informing citizens about the impacts of their behavior.

It is not a question of choosing between environment and employment, between ecology and growth - these are the debates of yesterday. It is as I have sometimes said, to do it at the same time and for this, we must reorganize, transform, change behaviors, invest and do it with determination. To do so, we will decarbonize energy production, strengthen the price of carbon, support the development of green finance, provide favorable conditions for researchers and entrepreneurs around the world who provide climate solutions, and mobilize public and private funding. We must integrate climate issues into international trade as well as into our modes of production. It is also necessary to preserve ecosystems, to prohibit the exploration of shale gas, not to issue new exploration and exploitation permits and keep fossil fuels in the subsoil. But we must also work to preserve the balance of the oceans, improve the exploitation of forests, and preserve the biodiversity essential for the functioning of our ecosystems.

All this will be the roadmap that France will announce before the end of July for national policy, as well as for its European policy. These actions will be those that will be carried out now and for the years to come because they impose profound changes. They require building this action in the long term, to give visibility to all actors. From the beginning, to explain clearly where we are going, why, to show our determination, to convince all of our European partners to do so. This French and European roadmap is the one that the government will have to present before the end of July and it is the road that will lead France's action in the framework and to succeed with the Paris Agreement for ourselves.

But now it is a matter of taking this fight even further and of acting decisively on the global scale. The United Nations is the right enclosure for that. The Paris Agreement was, as I said, thanks to you, negotiated under its aegis and your presence here reiterates it. Doubt could have interfered with the decision of the President of the United States of America to withdraw from this agreement. You have noticed it as I do, it has not done anything. It was the reverse. The acceleration of ratifications has resulted in a deep awareness of certain governments. Yesterday I welcomed the President of Colombia. Last week they unanimously ratified the Paris agreement and these missing ratifications are continuing. We are still looking forward to the latest, especially to our Russian friends, and I am sure that each and every one of them will continue to confirm them. Why? Because they understand that this deep movement is not the property of so-and-so and that in the same way it could not be dammed by anyone. A man, whoever he may be, cannot stop the movement that you have consecrated with this agreement signed in Paris. Because this movement is stronger than we are. Because it is the awareness of the planet: that of the will for freedom and responsibility re-conjugated to the present and to the future. Because, and you are several to bear witness here, there is also behind this agreement the movement of territories beyond the states, which has been expressed and reconfirmed. Dear Arnold SCHWARZENEGGER, the R20, and all the territories mobilized behind the climate commitment, the commitment of the C40. And the day after the announcement of Mr. TRUMP, I received at the Elysée Anne HIDALGO as President of the C40 accompanied by Mike BLOOMBERG, its founder.

Regions, states, and cities all over the world have reconfirmed their mobilization and their willingness to go further and make it. Civil societies everywhere, non-state actors, NGOs, businesses, and citizen associations have reaffirmed every hour since that they want to act, to go further, to do.

So yes, to be here today together, to reaffirm that on a planetary level we have to take a new step after the Paris Agreement, it is to realize that we are carried by this deep wave which also goes beyond divisions, camps, and the reflexes we have sometimes known. There are associations that love the environment and economic actors who would like to continue producing. A few days ago I was at Vivatech, in this great Parisian success of technology and international entrepreneurship. I have seen researchers, entrepreneurs from all over the digital world, cleantechs, and foodtechs show that by entrepreneurship, innovation, and transformation, we are reconciling this desire to produce and to respect the rules of the "ecology.

The world is ready. Our societies want it. So we have to act. And the question we are asked collectively is whether we, as politicians, are ready. If we want to continue in a way to reproduce everything that has always happened, to listen to the lobbies we know perfectly, who say to us: no, interests are stronger than all. To want to hear fears, to take refuge in habits, and to consider that the jobs of yesterday are always those to be preserved. I know that this path is not easy and there are so many difficult cases that we must together resolve with patience and respect. But this is the duty of contemporary societies: to know how to set a course and in constructive dialogue share our constraints, protect Individuals, and territories. But we have to show them that we can produce, create, and create the jobs of tomorrow where each and every one will have a place, by meeting the challenges that are ours.

We share the priorities of this draft pact: the polluter-pays principle, the precautionary principle, public information and participation, all the essential legal principles that you have just recalled, dear President. And we can combine them with the spirit of conquest and innovation that our societies also need. Now we have to realize the mobilization of the governments of the whole world around this indispensable progress in the fight against global warming. It is not a matter of prohibiting or wanting to stop everything. It is a question of doing but of doing differently. Yes, rights are at the heart of this struggle because it is what regulates our life in common. This is what allows us to choose these rules rather than to suffer the constraints that we have collectively contributed to create.

The G20 summit in a few weeks will be a key event for the full implementation of the Paris agreement. We will also have to seek to enhance international commitments on greenhouse gas emissions, notably at COP 23 in November, which will also launch the adoption of the rules for implementing the agreement. These will be highlights of the consolidation of the Paris Agreement at the international level. More broadly, France will mobilize and carry the work of the coalitions in the various international forums and in every high-level bilateral meeting with the leaders of this world. And what I want to tell you today is that, on the basis of this preliminary draft of the Global Environment Pact, I undertake not only to make a speech, but as you have very well said yourself, to act. And so in direct connection with

you, this work thus begun will continue to arrive at a text and convince our partners and place these efforts under the aegis of the United Nations. In association with the General Assembly of the United Nations, with the will to strengthen the existing agencies, next September will lay the foundations of what will not be the preliminary draft but a global environmental pact that France will carry.

Mr President, the process before us to ratify this global compact, if I listen to all the experts, will be slow and difficult. But that is in the past, I have already been told a great deal - what I propose, is not to wait because the world cannot wait. All the talents and all the knowledge will be necessary to win the decisive battle that is looming: science, law, letters, the medicine of which you see behind me and around me in the allegories. All know something about this: a cause on which our future depends. And since you were quoting Einstein a moment ago, allow me to quote one of our great thinkers, who brought together in him many of the disciplines I have just mentioned, of which a large amphitheater of the Sorbonne bears the name. Gaston Bachelard wrote "What coordinates the world, it is not the forces of the past, it is the harmony in tension that the world will realize." This future, made of harmony, Ladies and Gentlemen, is what we aspire to all. For that, we must keep vigilance and the tension towards the action that this requires of us. For that, we must do, act together and therefore for this, what I propose to you, ladies and gentlemen, it is good to do, to act together and for a long time and to succeed!

Thank you. Thank you very much!]

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