

**Speech by Ambassador Philippe Etienne at the
Strategy Workshop with Climate Transparency**

Berlin, 25. February 2016

Dear Mr Peter Eigen (director of Climate Transparency)

**Dear Mr Alvaro Umana (director of Climate
Transparency)**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I wish to thank you for inviting me to collaborate to this Strategy Workshop, organized by Climate Transparency. I would like to congratulate you for having

organized such a conference. The great audience reflects the extent of the mobilization for climate and shows how much this question concerns all stakeholders. This mobilization remains essential for a good implementation of the Paris agreement.

In this sense, the independent initiatives which you offer in order to guarantee greater transparency, through controls

and frequent assessments, are a major contribution.

This agreement is an important historical turn. I would like to tell you a few words about its making, its meaning, its content and its follow-up;

As you know, the agreement reached during the Paris COP21 in December 2015 is of utmost importance to the United Nations and to the 195 countries who attended the

conference, but also to local authorities and to the EU which played such a big role, to the private sector, to civil society, as well as to non-official actors.

The agreement is the result of a long-term effort from all countries involved and is a great achievement for France and its diplomacy. We are proud of the logistical achievement, some days only after the most terrible

terrorist attacks that we have ever had in Paris. But we are also proud of having reached out in the preparation to so many partners, in particular Peru, the COP20 President, and Morocco, the COP 22 President. François Hollande was recently in Lima to thank our Peruvian friends. We could count also on the highly efficient support of Germany, as G7 Presidency with Angela Merkel's personal action in

Elmau, and also of Barbara Hendricks and Jochen Flasbarth who played a very useful active role during the conference itself. I had myself dozens of contacts in 2015 with all stakeholders in Germany, in the politics, the economy, the academic life and the civil society at the federal level, in the Länder and the cities and I take this opportunity to thank again warmly our German friends.

Some words about the meaning of this agreement: - This agreement is particularly important for the future because it is more science based than most of the international agreements we had so far. The role of science was essential in its negotiation. Also, this agreement strengthens really the global legitimacy of the UN. I would like it also to underline the close link with

other global challenges (migration, sustainable development, poverty reduction, security). You know well the content : the agreement defines a common goal for the fight against climate change: we have to make sure that global warming does not increase to more than 2 degrees by 2100 and then try to make to reach a further target, which is a

temperature increase of just 1, 5 degrees.

In order to achieve this ambitious aim, we have to fix a ceiling level for world emissions. We can help reducing them in a significant way thanks to the energetic transitions.

The logic of the Paris agreement is that it is based on national commitments which will be expanded throughout time, so that

States deliver greater and greater efforts according to the needs which will be further aroused with the help of science.

A financing plan has been elaborated. Green Climate Fund will incentivize private investment. This part of the deal was crucial. There will be also a close cooperation between developed nations and developing countries. Innovation, cooperation and

mobilization are the key words of this agreement of December 2015.

– On the implementation and the follow up

Regarding the issue of transparency, which we are interested in today this agreement forecasts an enhanced monitoring system, measures, feedback systems, verifications, in order to

manage the implementation and the compliance with standards established at the time of the climate summit.

The national contributions, known as INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) published by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CCNUCC), allow us to measure national commitments. This

international community will review regularly the reductions of those emissions and the measures enforced to do so. Already in November 2015, France and China had proposed that a comprehensive verification should be conducted every five years to assess the progress in this field. We have to make sure that the commitments taken during the Paris Conference are

implemented and we need to guaranty transparency in order to foster mutual trust between the different governments. France and Germany will launch in 2019 Merlin, the first Franco-German environment-oriented satellite to measure, onwards, the methane concentration in the atmosphere. We have also such a project for CO2 emissions.

The principle of transparency is at the core of the Paris agreement. Transparency means truth and efficiency: applied to all countries, while also taking into account their special features. It is exactly what the Paris agreement needs to be correctly implemented.

Climate Transparency produces assessments which evaluate on the one hand the efforts made by governments

and on the other hand the transparency of financial issues. These two fields are exactly the most important issues at stake. The Climate Assessments produced by Climate Transparency are therefore extremely useful to evaluate objectively the national contributions and efforts, which will be measured every five years, but also to evaluate government

transparency regarding
financial issues.

Long term commitments

Even if our common priority is to act quickly to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and to help the energy transition move forward now, we will do everything in our power to guarantee the longevity of the December 2015 commitments.

The agreement signed this year in April will come into effect in 2020. But already in 2018, all the countries will gather again to report on the measures taken since the agreement and to present their future projects.

From 2023 onwards, we will ask for a global assessment of the progress made by then, and this assessment will be renewed every five years.

- The private sector, which has been an important part of the Paris Conference, will play a leading role in the years to come. It will participate in the common project of reducing emissions, and it will encourage us to continue our efforts. In this way, the main cash flows invested in CO₂-emitting sectors, especially the fossil fuel industry, are going to be redirected towards sectors with a lower carbon

footprint. This private sector commitment is essential to achieving our goal by 2020.

- I would like to emphasize the importance of the coalitions to which France will remain committed in fields such as solar or geothermic energy, forestry and water. Minister Ségolène Royal, the new President of the Climate conference recently confirmed that Africa is “one of the key

priorities”. France will clearly engage in financial and technological support in this continent, in order to help infrastructure construction and the renewable energies development. I know that the foreign involvement in Africa is also a priority for the World Bank, its development is a major part of Mr Eigen’s work.

- Last but not least I would like to recall the Lima-Paris action agenda, also called “Agenda of solutions”, which plans to push certain initiatives, to keep mobilizing non state actors, firms, local authorities and non-governmental organizations. This action plan is all about financing reduction and adaptation projects in key sectors such as energy, technology, cities or

transportation. Resilience is at the core of our most immediate preoccupations.

So, France will not stop fighting climate change. The organization of the December 2015 Climate Conference, and the success of the negotiations are certainly great victories, but they have to be followed by others. Your efforts are, I repeat, a major contribution to keep the movement. We

remain united to work
together against climate
change and we still have a lot
on our plates until 2020!

Thank you for your attention.