

*Address for HSH Prince Albert II  
Launch of the World Alliance for Efficient Solutions  
Bonn, 14 November 2017*

DEAR BERTRAND PICCARD,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,  
DEAR FRIENDS,

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY  
FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE WORLD ALLIANCE FOR  
EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS.

IT GIVES ME PARTICULAR PLEASURE TO  
SUPPORT BERTRAND PICCARD IN THIS NEW  
VENTURE, 18 MONTHS AFTER THE COMPLETION  
OF SOLAR IMPULSE PROJECT, WHICH BROUGHT  
US TOGETHER ON SO MANY OCCASIONS DURING  
THE COURSE OF ITS MAGNIFICENT VOYAGE. THIS  
WAS OFTEN IN MONACO, WHERE THE SOLAR  
IMPULSE CONTROL CENTRE WAS LOCATED, BUT  
IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD TOO, UP  
TO THE FINAL LANDING IN ABU DHABI.

.../...

NOW WE COME AGAIN TOGETHER AGAIN FOR  
A NEW PHASE, A NEW ADVENTURE!

AS IT IS ALWAYS THE CASE WITH YOU, MY  
DEAR BERTRAND, THIS IS ALL ABOUT TAKING  
ACTION. THAT MAY SOUND TRITE; BUT IT IS  
CRUCIAL.

AT A TIME WHEN OUR WORLD IS FACING  
UNPRECEDENTED THREATS CAUSED BY OUR  
DEVELOPMENT MODEL, AND ABOVE ALL AT A TIME  
WHEN WE BOTH KNOW THE NATURE OF THE  
DANGERS AND THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO  
ADDRESSING THEM ; TAKING ACTION IS INDEED  
OUR ONLY CHANCE.

.../...

THIS IS THE REASON WHY, PEOPLE LIKE YOU, WHO NEVER LOSE THEIR APPETITE FOR ACTION, ARE SO VALUABLE. THOSE WHO, HAVING UNDERSTOOD THE "WHY", IMMEDIATELY THROW THEMSELVES INTO THE "HOW". THOSE WHO, HAVING ACHIEVED THE IMPOSSIBLE, THEN SEEK TO GO FURTHER STILL. THOSE WHO PERSIST IN THINKING THAT WE CAN CHANGE THINGS.

THAT IS WHAT MATTERS TODAY: CHANGING THINGS. AS YOU DID, WITH ANDRÉ BORSCHBERG, WHEN YOU COMPLETED A ROUND-THE-WORLD TRIP USING ONLY SOLAR ENERGY.

THE SOLAR IMPULSE PROJECT WAS NOT ABOUT A ONE-OFF INNOVATION, IT WAS REALLY ABOUT OPENING A DOOR TO THE FUTURE. IT WAS ABOUT MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR HUMANKIND TO CONSTRUCT A DIFFERENT WORLD, A DIFFERENT ECONOMIC RATIONALE, FOR A DIFFERENT WAY OF LIFE.

SOLAR IMPULSE WAS NOT SIMPLY A FORM OF TRANSPORT; IT WAS THE LAYING OF THE FIRST STONE IN A NEW DEVELOPMENT MODEL.

TODAY, YOU ARE OFFERING AN ADDITIONAL TOOL TO HELP IN BRINGING THIS ABOUT. BY UNITING THE WORLD'S STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CLEAN TECHNOLOGY SECTOR, WHO ARE TOO OFTEN WEAKENED THROUGH FRAGMENTATION, BY SHARING IDEAS ON SOLUTIONS, BY PROMOTING THEIR WORK, YOU EQUIP YOURSELF, AND YOU EQUIP *THEM*, WITH THE MEANS OF MOVING FORWARD MORE QUICKLY AND MORE EFFECTIVELY.

.../...

BY WORKING COLLECTIVELY, YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THESE IDEAS TO CHANGE THE WORLD MORE QUICKLY.

I BELIEVE THESE PRINCIPLES TO BE ESSENTIAL. THEY LINK UP WITH THE PRINCIPLES THAT I, TOGETHER WITH MY FOUNDATION, HAVE BEEN PUTTING INTO PRACTICE FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS.

BECAUSE COLLECTIVE ACTION IS THE ONLY WAY FOR TRULY EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO EMERGE, SOLUTIONS BASED ON USE AND PRACTICALITY, BASED ON NEEDS AND ON PEOPLES' REAL LIVES AND NOT ON ABSTRACT IDEAS, AS NICE AND ATTRACTIVE AS THEY MAY SEEM.

.../...

THIS IS HOW WE WILL BUILD AN ECONOMIC LOGIC BASED ON CARBON-FREE ENERGIES. A LOGIC WHICH NOT ONLY BENEFITS THE ENVIRONMENT BUT WHICH IS ALSO SYNONYM OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS, MAKING IT A TRUE ALTERNATIVE.

A LOGIC WHICH WE NEED NOW MORE THAN EVER, URGENTLY.

THIS IS WHY THE INITIATIVE YOU ARE LAUNCHING TODAY SEEMS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.

AND THAT IS WHY I FELT IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY, TO SUPPORT THE WORLD ALLIANCE.

I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS!