



## LAURENT FABIUS

### French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development (recorded message)

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I am sorry I cannot be with you in person at the eighth World Policy Conference today. By the time you are watching this, I will be in Brazil on a climate tour that took me to India the day before yesterday, South Africa yesterday and Brazil today, a few days before the Paris Climate Conference, COP 21, which I will have the responsibility of chairing at the end of next week.

The Paris Conference will open at a difficult time for France, which is still reeling from the tragic attacks that struck my country. There has been an outpouring of solidarity from around the world, and I would like to thank all those who expressed their support. But we could not cancel COP 21, quite simply because it is a key event for our planet's future; calling it off was out of the question. Our determination to reach a global, far-reaching climate agreement is stronger than ever. I would like to say a few words about this.

From 30 November to 11 December, 195 nations will come together at Le Bourget, near Paris, where security will obviously be tighter than usual. Our talks will be the result of many months of work, negotiations and mobilisation. Much progress has already been made but, to be perfectly honest, I must admit there is still a long way to go if we want to achieve success, which is indispensable, by the end of the Conference.

As you know, our main goal is to reach an agreement between governments, all governments, that will limit global warming from greenhouse gas emissions to two degrees or, if possible, 1.5 degree, by 2100.

A week before the Conference starts, where do we stand, in a few words?

We have had a draft agreement since the round of talks in Bonn a few weeks ago. That is a good thing, but the text is still long, too long, with many opt-outs, parentheses and brackets that remain to be addressed, but there is a strong political willingness to succeed.

A few days ago, I brought approximately 60 ministers from around the world together in Paris for what could be called a pre-COP, sort of a dress rehearsal before COP 21. The meeting was successful and we made headway towards compromises on several key issues. Since then, we have had the recent G20 summit in Antalya, where the talks, in a different framework, were more difficult, but eventually we were able to move forward anyway.

Progress has also taken place in recent weeks on the crucial issue of funding, which is the key to trust and, therefore, to the agreement that is necessary in Paris. We must show that the wealthy, developed countries are willing to follow through on the pledge they made in Copenhagen in 2009 to contribute \$100 billion a year by 2020, from both public and private sources, to a fund that will help the developing countries limit their greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. We have made strides on that issue because, according to the OECD, in 2014, last year, the amount reached \$62 billion. Since then, several countries and multilateral development banks have made announcements that will bring us closer to the indispensable target of \$100 billion by 2020. But the wealthiest countries must still make crucial additional efforts. The developing countries, the poorer nations, must be guaranteed that these efforts will not only be maintained, but also stepped up after 2020. Lastly, it will be indispensable to get the private sector more involved in this financial effort.

In addition to funding efforts, which are a key element to reaching an agreement in Paris, we must set highly ambitious goals to develop and share technologies, in particular to boost performance and bring down the cost of renewable energy sources in order to make the transition from carbon-based development, which began with the Industrial Revolution, to decarbonised development. That requires setting a price on carbon and, at the same time, making decarbonised energy less expensive.



Ladies and gentlemen, success in Paris is within reach, but — and I would like to stress this point — it does not depend on government negotiators alone. There is an urgent threat. A huge challenge lies before us. The commitment of governments is therefore essential but not enough. The commitment of all is indispensable. When I say *all*, what am I talking about? I am talking about local authorities and regions, which play a key positive or negative role in greenhouse gas emissions; about investors; about research centres; and about civil society as a whole. I know that many of you are involved in this effort, and I am glad about that. There will be initiatives and strong commitments, especially from companies and local governments, all of which will become public knowledge at COP 21 in Paris.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to tell you how much I, we, in other words the whole world, are counting on you to contribute, each according to your means, to the ambitious global compromise we need.

It is sometimes said that the Paris Agreement will be historic. Let us be careful about using that word. It is often hackneyed, but not in this case, because reaching the goal is literally vital for humankind. The planet will still be here, but if we fail to take the right decisions, humankind's capacity and very way of life will be in jeopardy.

Have an excellent conference. And please allow me to share my wishes for a successful Paris Conference with all of you. Thank you.