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Thank you. First, I wish to express my appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco, its king and people for their great country's customary hospitality.

Some people believe that we have paid too little attention to Africa during this conference. I would therefore like to give voice to Africa as head of the African environmental and climate group.

Africa has decided to speak with one voice at the Copenhagen conference; this shared voice will be presented by the Ethiopian prime minister in Copenhagen.

The current crisis, which will continue for some time, is actually the result of several interlocking and concurrent crises, including economic, financial, environmental and biodiversity crises as well as the overall crisis of modern life. In simple terms, it seems to me that the underlying reasons, basic elements and drivers of this crisis can be summed up by a single factor. I believe that humans have abused their drawing rights and overstepped their boundaries, including the capacity for debt in the various regions and its impact on future generations as well as the overuse of scarce natural resources that are difficult to regenerate. As we have stretched these resources to their limits, we have almost forgot that they are finite and must be protected.

I believe that we have reached a point at which humans are facing a threat to their security. This so-called "enlarged security" concept poses a fundamental problem to the continued existence of human beings.

In view of these issues, certain factors will, of course, eventually exacerbate this crisis. With a projected world population of 8 to 9 billion, a number of major emerging countries will have a propensity to consume more raw materials and natural resources. On the other hand, we also have opportunities created by the new wave of technologies, such as nanotechnology, biotechnology and information and communication technologies – all of which will give rise to green technologies, a major opportunity for humanity to jump on the development bandwagon and take full advantage of a major growth engine based on a new technology.

Faced with such instability, it has become essential to establish environmentally oriented governance, with a flexible structure that adapts to an ever-changing reality – a reality that will never stand still. We must continually adapt because we are convinced that good governance must always seek approval and always be ready to start over. It's important, it's a quest, it's a shaky balance; we must move towards better governance to achieve the right balance.

To my mind, the new structure must address significant challenges, specifically six issues that underlie this structure.

Everyone, with few exceptions, agrees on a point that we consider to be of major importance, namely that Africa and developing countries should not adopt the moral stance of placing blame on developed countries. Instead, our position should be one of constructive negotiation and responsibility. I believe it is important to say that.

1 - Vision

Vision is the first actor that raises an issue. Africa has a common, consistent vision for the preservation of its home in this multipolar world. We must first take account of everyone's position, show empathy by putting ourselves in the other's place, as a Moroccan expert said at this conference, and work towards the common denominator that will lead to a common position based on common objectives. I believe that Africa is making the right choice by proceeding in this way.

2 – Restoration

The second factor that raises an issue is repairing what humans have destroyed. It is up to all of us, but developed countries are responsible for putting things back in place, for restoring what has been destroyed during a century of industrialisation. It is at this level that progress is not being made and things are most difficult. As Hubert Védrine said yesterday, while we may agree on the situation, we do not agree on what must be done.

There are several positions on the environmental issue, particularly on climate change. Europe and Japan have taken a progressive, proactive and prominent position. The United States and other countries are lagging somewhat behind and it is absolutely necessary to help them overcome this delay so they can develop a constructive position on the environment and climate change.

Emerging countries have a range of views. They have a right to sustainable development. We must give them this right but their national efforts must be supported as they strive to adopt this approach. Then of course there is the Group of 77 oil-producing, island and less advanced nations with their wide-ranging positions. We must not demand an effort harmful to their development because they have not been historically responsible for the situation we are currently facing.

We are experiencing strategic momentum and a trend towards negotiation. While we are not putting all our cards on the negotiating table, we believe it is essential to foster the emergence of a major momentum in preparation for the future at Copenhagen and beyond.

3 - Adaptation

In my opinion, the third important question is "How do we prepare for a world that will have to face climate change issues head-on?" Concerns include diversifying agriculture to ensure balanced

diets; water stress; energy shortages; and risks related to extreme phenomena that pose insoluble problems to the less advanced countries.

For these reasons, it is essential to provide humanity and populations with the types of resilience, reserves and protections that will allow them to thoroughly adapt to future vagaries in the coming carbon-free world.

It is today imperative to aid Africa in particular, to help developing countries acquire a certain number of methods and technologies to adapt to climate shock and these uncertainties in the areas of water, agriculture, energy and major risks. This presents us with an opportunity. We believe that Africa can take a significant shortcut by using green technology to proceed directly to sustainable development.

4 – Financial and technological support

The fourth issue concerns funding. This does not involve setting up a fixed and complex financing structure; instead, we can adapt and improve the existing one. Creating a financial structure takes time and we need to act quickly. For that reason, we must improve the existing system and move towards a mixed policy, combining multilateralism (even though some developed countries have reserves) and bilateralism, which is significant in certain cases, while taking the carbon market into account. Meanwhile, however, we must re-establish trust and ensure bilateral efforts, a policy the European Union has undertaken with its “fast start” initiative. This programme funds a number of major projects that seek to make Africa energy-independent.

We have identified a package of important projects that we plan to present together in Copenhagen. These projects aim to increase the energy independence of African countries, notably in the Congo basin and central African regions, with a focus on solar and water power. This effort is dubbed “A new green deal for Africa”. This is the crux of the fourth issue.

5 – Monitoring and assessment

The fifth issue concerns assessment. This involves developing a monitoring policy to limit the extreme risks of flooding and drought, which includes evaluating completed projects and monitoring those that consume and emit high levels of carbon. The aim is to set up an oversight mechanism that will enable us to monitor and correct these actions through various means, such as observation and intelligence-gathering.

6 – Local-global coordination

The sixth issue is the interface between global and local efforts. Climate and environmental issues must not be the exclusive domain of government. A few days ago, I attended a meeting with many U.S. governors held by Arnold Schwarzenegger in Los Angeles. We think it is important to listen to



local and regional voices because they are responsible for conducting local initiatives with citizens, stakeholders and businesses. It is vital to include those who are closest to the reality on the ground in any negotiations on matters of pressing importance to citizens and humanity as a whole.

While we must lay the groundwork for a new policy and spark momentum in Copenhagen, the conference is not an end in itself. Copenhagen is only a beginning. The path forward will be extremely long and we must choose between two strategies: a passive strategy based on a denial of responsibility and reality or an active strategy, which I believe is important. Absent in Kyoto, timid in Bali, Africa will be a full participant in Copenhagen in order to create an Africa that is, as André Gide said, a land of the unvanquished that will make a major contribution to the world, help humankind follow its natural bent and, above all, fight its way back.