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Mr President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was supposed to have the privilege of joining you but circumstances beyond my control have deprived me of that pleasure. As I write these lines, my mother is seriously ill in intensive care and my deep affection for her prevents me from leaving her side. I'm sure you will understand and I hope you won't hold my absence against me.

My disappointment at not being with you is all the greater since the new political conditions and major events taking place on the international scene in relation to Iran mean it is more important than ever to make a real effort at explanation. So I have asked our Ambassador to Paris, who is also our country's accredited ambassador to the Principality of Monaco, to represent me before you.

I would like to emphasise that a new chapter is being written in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Western countries. The Presidential election of June 2013 and President Rouhani's victory with almost 73% of the votes opened the way for a new phase in the Islamic Republic of Iran's international relations, marked by our desire for dialogue, transparency and interaction with Western countries on the basis of equity and mutual respect, and cooperation to achieve peace and regional and international security. The negotiations which then began with the P5+1 countries, and the Geneva nuclear deal of 24 November 2013, opened the way to rebuilding trust between Iran and the P5+1 countries. But we should never forget that trust is a two-way street. Today's regional and international crises require every one of us to have a sense of responsibility and to cooperate with one other to rebuild peace and stability.

Please accept my apologies once again for not being able to join you today. I wish you a very successful "World Policy Conference".

My sincere regards,