

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**CLOSING REMARKS AT SIGNATURE CEREMONY FOR THE PARIS  
AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
New York, 22 April 2016**

Your Excellency Madame Ségolène Royal, President of COP21,  
Your Excellency Mr. Salaheddine Mezouar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, the governments of the world made history – just as they did last December in Paris at COP21.

With their signatures today, governments have made a covenant with the future.

The children who were with us this morning reminded us of our responsibility to them and to future generations.

The words they wore on their shirts said it clearly: “your promise, our future”.

Today’s signing is a vote of confidence in a new approach to climate change.

It is imperative this strong political momentum continues to grow.

If all the countries that have signed here today join the Agreement at the national level, the world will have met the legal requirement for the Paris Agreement to enter into force -- 55 countries accounting for 55 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

I will do everything I can to help us reach this goal.

I encourage all countries to raise their level of ambition.

I urge world leaders to continue to provide direct political oversight and guidance.

And I will look to civil society and the world’s young people to hold Governments to account for the promises they made today.

This covenant with the future is a covenant with you. Hold them to it.

Excellencies,

It has been a long journey to this moment. We have a long journey in front of us.

Too often, we see only dire scenarios ahead.

But when I look out at the horizon, I see, more clearly than ever, the outlines of a new and better world.

You have made history today. Now let us move swiftly, with courage and determination, to usher in the new era we know can be ours.

Thank you.