

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, all protocol observed.

Minister El Haite, Special envoy of Morocco for COP 22, would have very much liked to be among you during the past few days. Those of you who were in Washington recently for the Climate Action Summit or in Paris last year for COP 21 will have been exposed to her leadership, drive and passion. As a leader, she is travelling the world together with many Moroccans to spread the word about the importance of efforts like Adaptation Futures and to invite new partnerships and collaboration. It is my privilege and honour to speak to all of you, distinguished peers, in the same spirit of partnership and collaboration.

First, I would like to tell you about an animated movie I saw recently. It's a popular one so chances are you have seen it as well. It's about a bunny who wants to become the first bunny police officer in a world full of fluffy animals. The parents of the bunny are not too keen on the idea and I recall the father telling the daughter at some point "Have you ever wondered why your mother and I are happy ? It's because we have abandoned our dreams and we have adapted"

What all of you here have shown throughout the past few days is that effective adaptation is no pipe dream. Fruitful adaptation, based on wide capacity building, eagerness to learn from each other, real access to technological solutions, contextualised problem solving can be the the **enabler** of dreams. You have all shown the willingness to dream, with open eyes, for a better world for ourselves, our children, and as a young person mentioned here two days ago, our children's children. That world is to be an inclusive one, that has adapted successfully to the greatest challenge and opportunity of our time. Climate Change.

Our world is not always as fluffy as the one depicted in the movie I mentioned earlier. The negative impacts of Climate Change are felt and felt deeply by the most vulnerable amongst us. Christiana told us about three women that we we won't soon forget. Queen Máxima graced us

with her keen insights and reminded us of the importance of widespread financial inclusion for sustainable development.

The COP 22 presidency is committed to maintaining the trust and solidarity that were rehabilitated in Paris. That's the trust that the princess was referring to yesterday. COP 22 will be a COP of implementation, a COP of action, a COP of solutions. All of us will be demonstrating to ourselves and to each other the depth of our commitment to engage Climate Change with concrete, tangible results and a sense of pre 2020 urgency.

The famous Chinese proverb goes "The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now". So today, at Adaptation Futures, let us emphatically water the tree that was planted in Paris. So that it may grow all the way to Marrakech in November into a beautiful palm tree filled with delicious dates. Now, I am taking a bit of a shortcut here, it takes a bit longer than that for a palm tree to mature.

But with the level of expertise and creativity that there is in this beautiful room. With the level of genuine mobilisation there is all over the world, the impossible is proving to possible. And, that is why, in honour of our generous hosts, the beautiful city of Rotterdam, I will say a few words in Dutch "**Alle beetjes helpen**". Every bit helps.

I would like to conclude by saying that before COP 22, there is a whole bunch of events that we are hosting in Morocco. The first of which, on Climate Action, will be on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Tangiers. And you are most welcome to join us there.

Thank you.