



An idea born in Switzerland

STATEMENT

BERTRAND PICCARD SPOKE WITH U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON LIVE FROM THE COCKPIT DURING THE PARIS AGREEMENT SIGNATURE AT THE UN HQ

Bertrand Piccard spoke with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon directly from the cockpit of Solar Impulse 2 while flying over the Pacific Ocean during a video conference on Friday April 22 from the United Nations in New York where 175 nations had just signed the Paris Agreement on ClimateChange.

“You know, Mr Secretary-General, what you are doing today in New York by signing the Paris Agreement is more than protecting the environment – it is the launch of the clean revolution,” said Piccard from the solar airplane that is currently flying over the Pacific Ocean without using a single drop of fuel. He urged Ban Ki-moon and the delegates to keep working hard to overcome resistance to fighting climate change. “If an airplane like Solar Impulse 2 can fly day and night without fuel, the world can be much cleaner.”

“I am inspired by your pioneering spirit,” the Secretary-General said after telling Piccard he looked like an astronaut flying to the moon. “While you are making history flying around the world, we also are making history today. More than 175 countries signed the Climate Change Agreement. Thank you for your leadership and inspiration. We wish you a smooth flight. You are leading us into a new era. Bon voyage!”

Additionally, Bertrand Piccard was greeted by Doris Leuthard, Vice President of Switzerland:

„Good afternoon Bertrand it is an honor for Switzerland that we have you as a pioneer and the entire world is looking at you and your fantastic project and it gives us a lot of hope that something is possible that clean technologies are the future. I think it is the most inspiring project since the flight to the moon but with solar energy, renewable energies we follow efficiency. That is what we need to proof; it is possible to make a change. Have a safe flight back to Europe to your home country Switzerland. We are proud of you!”

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