



Good morning Secretary General, President of the General Assembly, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates and guests.

It is with deep regret that I must inform you that Carl from the Philippines cannot be with us today. Carl and I have been working on this speech together for the last month, and he asked me to read his section on his behalf.

I come from a country which possesses the world's 2nd largest coral reef cover. It is home to a people proud of our diversity and culture. But my people are also among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Last year, my country faced two of the deadliest disasters from climate-related weather events, killing over 2500 Filipinos – that's roughly twice as many people in this room today - and affected almost 800,000 families.

To avert the worst impacts of climate change, we need short, medium and long-term targets. A short-term target without a long-term goal is short-sighted. A long-term target without a short-term goal is prone to procrastination and political maneuvering – I should know, I only do my homework the night before it's due.

Our future lies in renewable energy, not dirty, polluting industries of the past. Therefore, you must avoid the distractions pushed by industry lobbyists, and those bought by them, of so-called “clean coal” and nuclear energy. These are all things my organization, Solar Generation, has been calling for, for years.

Developing nations must highlight issues of climate justice and ecological debt. Our right to develop is dependent on a stable climate. Our actions domestically, and in the international arena, must reflect this.

Industrialized nations must aggressively take the lead in ensuring deep emission cuts, financing true solutions and transferring technology to developing nations.

I challenge you to show true leadership. Today, when you take the floor, commit to addressing this urgent threat and put yourselves on the right road to a strong mandate in Bali.

Aujourd'hui n'est pas la première opportunité que j'ai de m'adresser aux dirigeants. À Montréal, à l'occasion de la onzième conférence des parties, j'ai été une des cinq représentantes de la jeunesse à prendre la parole devant les délégués.

[This is not the first time that I have had the opportunity to address leaders on the urgent need for climate action. I was one of five youth that called on you to take the first steps towards a strong post-2012 regime in my hometown of Montreal, at COP11.]

À Montréal, le temps des excuses était révolu et nous vous pressions d'endosser vos responsabilités envers les générations futures. Nous avons exprimé comment les jeunes, à travers le monde, optent pour des modes de vie durable et s'engagent dans leur collectivité pour agir dès aujourd'hui.

[In Montreal, we youth urged you to act now as there could be no more excuses. We described how youth all over the world are moving towards sustainable lifestyles and are engaging our communities to take action now.]

À Nairobi, nous vous demandions d'envisager un monde dans lequel vous souhaiteriez voir vos enfants évoluer et de le créer. Il était évident que nous devons rester unis pour s'attaquer à cet enjeu planétaire, certainement le plus critique et dévastateur du millénaire.

[In Nairobi, we asked you to visualize the world you wanted for your children and then to go out and create it. We urged that you stand united on this critical, potentially devastating, issue.]

Entre temps, ce message ainsi que nos engagements n'ont pas changé et représentent toujours une part de la solution. Parler de mon future et de celui de mes enfants ne sera jamais une question dépassée. Vous avez le pouvoir d'assurer cet avenir et la responsabilité de prendre ce mandat. C'est pourquoi nous devons agir ensemble et nous devons le faire dès maintenant.

[These messages and our commitments to be part of the solution have not changed. Talking about my future and my children's future will never get old. You have the power to protect our future and the responsibility to do so. We must act together and we must act now.]

But some things have changed. Report after report from the IPCC has told us that there is a small window in which global emissions need to peak if we are to avoid dangerous climate change. The citizens of the world now realize the potential magnitude of the problem and they will no longer tolerate elected leaders that do not act accordingly. I turned 18 this year and am now among the many that will vote for the climate.

The climate regime has changed too. We have seen it grow from the foundational work that was laid in Rio with the adoption of the Convention, to the first baby steps of the

Kyoto Protocol and the first Meeting of the Parties in Montreal. But Bali is different. It can be no small step, next step, inch forward. Bali must mark the watershed of a new phase in the Kyoto Framework.

There are spin doctors in certain capitals that will try to convince you otherwise with their 'diplomatic breakthroughs', 'bridges' and 'complementary processes'. But there is only one road to a safe climate and it leads to Bali.

I've grown out of the training wheels on my bike. So has the climate regime. I have nothing but my future ahead of me and you have nothing but my future to protect. Our future is in your hands.

Catherine Gauthier on behalf of Greenpeace Solar Generation, the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, Environnement Jeunesse, SustainUS and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition.