

*PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE*

*REPUBLIQUE DE COTE D'IVOIRE*

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*Union-Discipline-Travail*

**EMERGING MARKETS FORUM**  
**PRELIMINARY REMARKS OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS**  
**SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT ALASSANE OUATTARA**  
**PARIS, APRIL 11, 2016**

Honorable Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear friends,

It is a real pleasure to participate once again in the Emerging Markets Forum, which is taking place this year in Paris, after Abidjan in 2013, at this great institution: the Banque de France under the leadership of Governor, François Villeroy de Galhau. Governor, thank you for your warm welcome and your hospitality.

I wish to thank my dear friend, Michel Camdessus, for his kind invitation and commend him for his valuable contributions provided to the Forum over the years. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to our friends Horst Koehler, Former President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Hiroshi Watanabe, the Governor of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation who have both along with Michel, brought this Forum to new heights and made it a powerhouse in the intellectual circle. I would also like to greet all the eminent participants and leading researchers who are here with us today.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 26 authors for the launch tomorrow of the book, *The world in 2050: Striving for a more just, prosperous, and harmonious global community*. This title in itself demonstrates the aspirations and ambitions of the authors.

Today's conference follows the various Regional Fora that have taken place around the world, notably in Tokyo in August 2011 on the theme of "Asia 2050" and in Abidjan in June 2013 on the theme of "Africa 2050." Today's forum adopts an even higher vantage point. It allows us to place the regional fora into the context of a larger vision for our global village: the planet in 2050. Indeed, the theme of today's Forum highlights the great challenges faced by today's leaders in preparing for a better world for future generations.

The judicious approach, based on an analysis of socio-economic developments over the last 50 years, succeeds in clearly identifying 10 major global trends or "megatrends" that will be presented in the next session by Michel Camdessus. The response to these trends will define

tomorrow's world. Indeed, if addressed successfully, they will allow our global community to move forward in peace, justice and harmony.

On the other hand, if appropriate policies are not put into place to adequately take these trends into account, our planet and future generations could face heavy consequences. .

This is the strong message for today's world leaders and which calls upon our individual and collective responsibilities.

As far as I am concerned, I am convinced that policy decisions and economic strategies at the national, sub-regional, and continental levels should not be developed on the basis of day-to-day, short-term, and immediate electoral concerns, but must be defined in a coherent manner around short-, medium-, and long-term objectives, taking into account the major trends at the continental and international levels.

The future of humanity depends on the policies, actions, and programs, which we develop together, in our countries, our continents, and our world. In other words, the world of tomorrow will become what we want it to be. To paraphrase a French saying, " Il ne faut pas conduire le nez dans le guidon sinon on risque d'aller tout droit dans le mur" meaning "Do not drive looking at the steering wheel, or you'll find yourself in a ditch."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Analyzing these trends, while ensuring food security, we can no longer ignore the impact of our actions on the environment, namely, on global warming, the destruction of our ecosystems, the forests, and other scarce natural resources like water, a theme dear to my good friend Michel Camdessus.

Similarly, public policies and economic and social strategies must better take into account major demographic trends, migration flows, youth employment, rapid urbanization, the rise of inequality, and the impoverishment of the poor and vulnerable groups. I will develop further these key points tomorrow afternoon during my address.

It is essential that we reduce all forms of discrimination, particularly those related to gender and put in place policies to promote more equitable and efficient income redistribution at national, regional, and global levels.

We must reinforce measures to fight fiscal fraud and tax havens.

We must also address the real impact of major technological advances, and take a close look at the ethical aspects of research.

We can no longer ignore interreligious tensions. In this regard, we must deepen our understanding of the causes of the rise of religious extremism in order to better deal with it.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Terrorism is a growing scourge that threatens our vision for a better world in 2050. A more harmonious and fair global community requires that at the national, continental and global level, we relentlessly fight terrorism in a coordinated manner. In this context, security and defense are key priorities for all countries in the world and must be adequately taken into account in national policies and budget.

Long-term solutions in the fight against terrorism require a better understanding of its root causes, within communities and across communities. In this regard, while fighting terrorism, we should always strive to build bridges and not walls between communities, and never forget that a migrant has the right to respect, dignity, and care.

Finally, we need to review current global governance, including the role of major international and sub-regional institutions, to better adapt it to tomorrow's world. In this regard, to build a fair and harmonious world, the voices and aspirations of developing countries, emerging countries and future emerging countries must be better heard in the International Institutions. It is also essential that national policies fully take into account their impacts on the rest of the world.

Today's Forum is important because it allows political leaders, economists, intellectuals, researchers, to better understand the challenges looming ahead. The analyses and recommendations of this Forum will better prepare decision-makers in the political, religious, cultural, or civil society spheres to fully play their part to build a more humane world and preserve our planet.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to conclude by quoting the First Article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948 in Paris at the Palais Chaillot. I quote, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." End of quote.

We should all strive to keep alive the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights so that this world can be a better place to live in 2050.

I wish you all a successful conference. My congratulations to the authors of the book: **The World in 2050**, which will be launched tomorrow.

This book will contribute to a better understanding of the challenges ahead.

Thank you all for your attention.