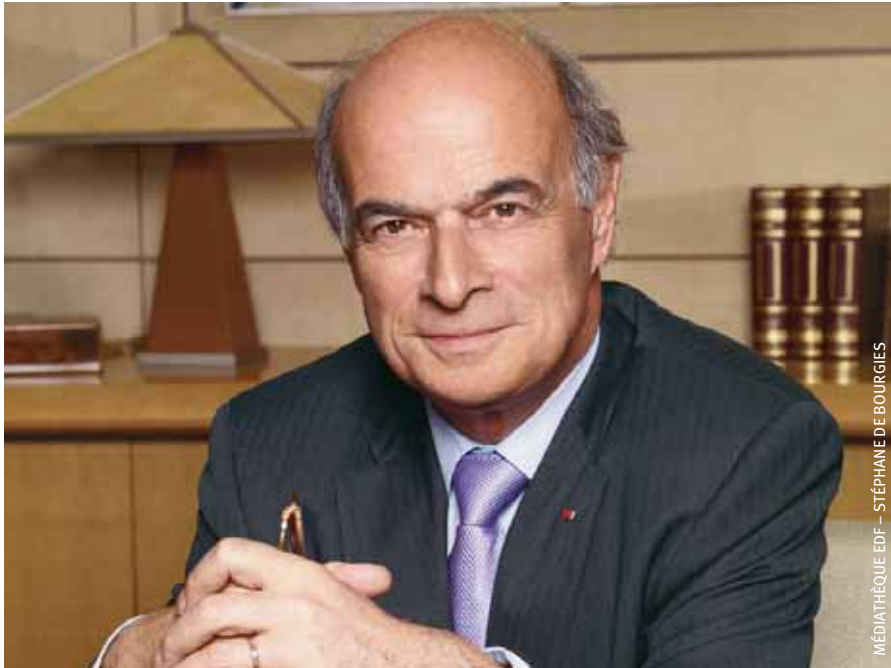


CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Pierre GADONNEIX



These are truly times of “planetary emergency”, to cite former Vice-President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Al Gore. Today, it is universally recognized that the growth model of the past is no longer sustainable: as we know, it is disrupting the ecosystem by provoking climate change. Nor is curbing growth an option, as it would increase inequality. We need to move towards responsible growth, reconciling economic development, climate preservation and the reduction of global inequalities.

WE CAN RISE TO THIS UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE.

Energy investment is being ramped up across the globe, creating a historic opportunity to make progress in reducing CO₂ emissions. We already have mature, competitive technologies both on the demand side, including insulation, solar water heaters and heat pumps, and on the supply side, with hydro, nuclear and wind power.

THE CAPACITIES ARE AVAILABLE. WHAT IS REQUIRED IS THE DETERMINATION TO FOSTER INNOVATIVE POLICIES.

Power industries and markets require appropriate regulatory frameworks and energy policies. These

should be forged on the basis of exchanges that make all stakeholders – citizens, industrial groups and NGOs – aware of the role they can play. A good example of this kind of productive dialogue was the French national conference on the environment (*Grenelle de l'environnement*). Policy frameworks must provide consumers with standards and incentives to guide their choices, and encourage investment in lower-carbon generation. Safety measures should be clearly set out. Appropriate policies can also help foster public acceptance of necessary infrastructures. They can also make it possible to promote research on the technologies that will be mature in the second half of this century. Our role as industrial groups is to provide information to policymakers regarding the choices that are available and realistic.

IN SHORT, WE NEED COOPERATION ON ALL LEVELS TO MOVE FORWARD.

This means cooperation between public and private actors, and between developed and developing countries, to sow new seeds of solidarity. Global cooperation on climate change must include developing countries. To take this a step further we must ensure cooperation between the energy, construction and automobile industries, and thus stand a better chance of designing a brighter ecologically friendly future for housing and transport. Naturally, all stakeholders, including local populations, elected officials and NGOs, will need to be involved. Dr. Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC, the co-laureate of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, suggested that we need to “reinvent the energy future”. This means changing our approach, moving outside our comfort zone and accepting the discomfort that goes with change. It means forging ties with new players, working with them, listening to them, and respecting them. Only then can we learn to establish common ground and share a common language.

