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Florencia Soto Nino

Monday, 7 December – Day 8

10:30 am

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon tells world leaders:

In Paris we have the unique opportunity to define our own destiny.

In rising to the climate challenge, we can set the world on a sustainable footing for generations to come, and lay the foundation for prosperity and security for all.

Mr. Ban also emphasised that world leaders must heed the voices of civil society – including the more than half a million people who took to the streets last week all over the world – religious leaders and businesses that have expressed their support for a strong, universal climate agreement.

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8 a.m.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will open the High-Level Ministerial Event this morning at 10.40am CET (9.40am GMT, 3.40am EST).

Watch his speech live here: <http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/cop21/events>

It's also important to note that Monday is "Energy Action Day" on the Lima to Paris Action Agenda (LPAA). Accelerating global energy transition at heart of COP21 dynamic.

Governments will join companies, cities, energy organizations and civil society to present more than 15 collective initiatives to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and access to sustainable energy – aiming at creating a new model for energy development

Find out what's happening – and how you can get involved, [here](#).

Sunday, 6 December – Day 7 The day in photos:

This slideshow requires JavaScript.

Midnight

Human Energy illuminates the Iron Lady

Using virtual energy generated by the actions of hundreds of millions people worldwide, the "Iron Lady" of Paris will be illuminated as a powerful statement that we can unite to deal with the climate crisis.

Led by French artist Yann Toma, this artistic installation is the largest ever virtual energy generator, involving hundreds of millions of people worldwide, everyday. It's even measuring the volume of tweets generated live using #COP21 – so the more we tweet, the brighter the Eiffel Tower will shine.

The original idea was to light up the Eiffel Tower from a UN village under the monument where over 20 thousand people were to dance and bike and thus illuminate the iconic monument. But the Paris attacks of 13 November changed all that, and a large gathering was no longer feasible. So the [Human Energy](#) team put on their thinking caps and in partnership with a group of brilliant mathematicians came up with a new idea: to harness the energy of millions and not merely thousands.

On Sunday 6 December, their efforts paid off and they Paris gave the Eiffel Tower its original vocation which was to transmit energy and messages. Artist Yann Toma described it, saying: "Now, the monument has been turned into the largest participative art installation ever made."

The Eiffel Tower will be illuminated every day until the end of COP21, generated by the number of tweets sent around the planet using hashtag [#COP21](#).

So the more we [tweet](#) about the Climate, the brighter the Eiffel Tower will shine! :-)

4 p.m.

| *“Aujourd’hui, moi aussi je suis Parisien”*

On Sunday Ban Ki-moon paid his respects to victims of the terrorist attack in Paris last month. The UN chief laid flowers outside the Bataclan Theatre, where 89 people were killed by terrorists.

The attacks on 13 November left 130 people dead and more than 360 wounded.

With bowed head, Secretary-General laid a bouquet of flowers in front of the concert hall. Tens of bystanders applauded the gesture with chants of “Merci, merci, Monsieur Ban Ki-moon”.

Afterwards, accompanied by the Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo, the Secretary-General visited the nearby café “A La Bonne Biere”, where three people were killed. Drinking coffee with city officials and community leaders, Ban Ki-moon said the United Nations stood in solidarity with Paris and all victims of terrorism across the world.

Outside, moved by his presence, a group of Parisians thanked the Secretary-General for his “heartwarming visit”

3 p.m.

Environmental advocate and actor **Robert Redford** is in Paris to lend his support to the UN Climate Change Conference, and took part in a very special event at UNESCO today.

In particular, Redford drew attention to the role of indigenous people in tackling climate change, saying:

| *“We need to draw attention to those that are the most vulnerable to climate change – indigenous people.*

| *“Time has run out for talking. We need to start acting.*

| *“And indigenous people can tell us how because of their close relationship to the land.*

| *“We must listen to the stories they have to tell us,”*

12 p.m.

Ban Ki-moon met a group of young children in a very special location today – on board to scientific exploration schooner “Tara” – a boat which has sailed across the arctic and the world.

“Tara” is moored on the Seine in Paris during the UN Climate Change Conference to highlight the need to take climate action for the oceans. As Tara bobbed gently upon the water, the UN chief told the children:

| *“Our oceans are sick. As Secretary-General of the UN I want to leave you a healthy planet that is environmentally sustainable, so that you can live in a peaceful and healthy way”*

As he stepped off the boat, a journalist asked the Secretary-General about the negotiations at COP21 – he replied urging UN Member States to “look beyond your national boundaries” and have a “global vision, global solidarity”.

Visit the [Tara Expedition website](#) to find out more about the SG’s visit and the awareness-raising work on oceans the Tara team are carrying out.

9 a.m.

Africa has an “enormous stake” in the success of the COP21 climate change conference, said the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday.

Speaking at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, taking place in Paris alongside the historic summit, he acknowledged that several “key issues” remained before a deal could be reached by the close of COP21 next weekend.

Mr Ban told the ministers from 54 African nations that they were a “powerful bloc” and speaking with one voice in the on-going world climate change negotiations gave them greater influence in the drive towards a deal.

At this half-way point in the COP21 conference he said they were all “on track” towards a “meaningful” agreement, but he acknowledged there several key areas of concern for African countries in particular that would need to be met during final negotiations in the coming days.

“Africa is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change,” he said, pointing out that extreme weather, economic and political fragility, meant that Africans would suffer more than most if global warming remained unchecked.

In particular, he pointed to the contentious area of financing to enable impoverished states to meet their national targets on climate change.

Developed countries needed to understand that investment in Africa was a “tool that helps us raise collective ambition,” he added.

Saturday December 5 – Day 6

• 2pm

We start much later today, not because we are on a weekend schedule but because there has been too much going on already!

First things first:

- This morning, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon [announced](#) that a broad group of organizations will partner in 2016 to maintain momentum for multi-stakeholder climate implementation. The Secretary-General, joined by groups such as the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and the Compact of Mayors, and individuals including Michael Bloomberg – the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change – will co-sponsor a “Climate Action 2016” summit of leaders from government, business, cities and localities, civil society and academia next 5 and 6 May in Washington, D.C.
- Mr. Ban also met with UN Messenger of Peace Leonardo DiCaprio. Both agreed that there is now a sense of urgency, and that we have no time to waste. Mr. Ban said:

“I am urging countries to accelerate the pace of negotiations.

Nature does not negotiate with human beings. They just go to their own way. As human beings who have caused climate change phenomenon, we just have to adapt to the Nature. We do not have any negotiating power with Nature.

Then when people negotiate coming from different countries, they should understand that we don’t have time. We have to leave Paris with a universal robust agreement for humanity.”

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- Today is also Action Day at COP21! What does this mean? The focus is all about the ways non-state actors can help address climate change. Civil society organisations, businesses and public figures like Al Gore and Sean Penn are here showcasing climate solutions. We will have much more on this soon!
- To top it all, the social media platform Snapchat is giving some love to COP21 snaps with a series of fantastic filters, including one of Ban Ki-moon!

Friday, December 4 – Day 5

The day in photos:

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10pm

Ban Ki-moon and hundreds of mayors from across the world launch the City Climate Finance report in Paris, on how to mobilize investment in #Cities4Climate&ampampamp;span class="_58cm"&ampampampgt&ampampamp;span&ampampampgt. Read it here: <http://bit.ly/1N18v5W>

The UN Secretary-General thanked the mayors, including former New York mayor &ampampampampamp UN Envoy for Cities and Climate Change Mike Bloomberg and the Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo for showing “tremendous leadership” in building climate-friendly cities and told them: “You are the ones who will he&ampampamp;span class="text_exposed_show"&ampampampgt; turn this global agreement into reality on the ground.&ampampamp;span&ampampampgt

“In this great “City of Light” I urge you to continue to shine a light on a more sustainable future.”

Read his speech here: <https://t.co/txFMXtflso>

Listen to an overall view of what’s been going on at the COP21:

2 p.m.

Teaching young generations about climate change – and what they can do to mitigate its effects – is vital. So it’s no surprise that an entire day of the two-week COP21 is dedicated to education.

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, is here at the Conference today. Speaking to an audience of delegates, civil society and media she emphasized the importance of education, saying:

"We must educate today's children to adapt to the immediate challenges of climate change and to understand the future roles they can – and must – play in meeting them"

Join the conversation on social media about how we can use education to meet the challenges of climate change using [#EduDay](#).

Discover what UNESCO is doing – and what you can do in your own family and community – here: unesco.org.

1.30 p.m.

Happening now at the Climate Change Conference Paris – Laurent Fabius, the President of COP21, and Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, are speaking to the press about the status of the negotiations – and what's coming up in Action Day on Saturday.

9 a.m.

The morning started off looking grey and blustery but the sun is coming out, and inside the UN Climate Change Conference the atmosphere is vibrant and busy. Today is Oceans Day at COP21, and the President of Palau is at the centre of events happening in the Climate Generations zone (which is open to the public).

The aim of Oceans Day is to emphasize the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable peoples and ecosystems and suggest the next steps – both within and outside the UNFCCC framework. The President of Palau, Tommy Remengesau, will speak about the profound affect climate change has on Pacific Islands, and will be joined by many other stakeholders who'll focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in particular.

We'll bring you highlights later on, but if you want to know more now, check out globaloceanforum.com and the [programme](#).

03 December – Day 4

11 p.m.

The day in photos

This slideshow requires JavaScript.

10 p.m.

Time is flying by.

Here are the major announcements of the evening:

- Transport representatives presented 10 initiatives today that aim to reduce these emissions and build more sustainable transport systems. [See the list here](#).
- The UN Children's Fund [launched a digital map](#) to help young people tell their climate change stories.
- Speaking to the press in New York, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: "Paris can and must deliver," before flying back to Paris to rejoin the Climate Change Conference today."Upon my return to Paris, I will participate in the COP 21 "Action Day" Mr. Ban said. Action Day is meant to showcase the tremendous number of climate partnerships and initiatives involving cities, and private sector and civil society.

"In the global economy, the transition to a low-emissions future is well under way. In the negotiating room, there is still a lot of work to do. Key issues remain unresolved, and there is not much time left."I continue to press developed countries to recognize their responsibility to take the lead, while urging developing countries to do more in line with their growing capabilities.

"The world has gone too long without a universal climate agreement that includes all countries as part of the solution. We cannot delay any longer."There is no perfect agreement. But our goal is clear: an agreement that truly addresses climate change, and puts the world on track for long-term prosperity, stability and peace. That is what the days ahead in Paris can and must deliver."

Read his full remarks here: <http://bit.ly/1PAFSk6>

- Finally, Mr. Ban's Assistant General on Climate Change, Janos Pasztor, answered questions on Reddit. Two hours that went flying by thanks to many of your very thoughtful and intelligent questions! Janos had a blast. You can [read the full thing here](#).

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2pm

Young people are definitely [making their voices heard today!](#) They are all lively, enthusiastic and optimistic about the prospect of the conference. Let's hope this holds up.

The visitors' space – Espace Generation Climat, or Green Zone – is also now fully operating. Many civil society organizations have exhibits here, showcasing sustainable solutions and sharing their vision of a carbon neutral world.

We must give a shoutout to the Solar Sounds System crew who made us bike for juice – very fitting for transport day.

And now a little taste of that young energy that negotiators will definitely need over the next week...

09:30am

Good morning! The sun came out today for the first time at Le Bourget since the conference started.

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Today is all about youth, transport and buildings. We start off with a video message from the UN Youth Envoy, Ahmad Alhendawi.

Wednesday 2 December – Day 3

Today in photos:

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10 p.m.

Poet Kathy Jetnil Kijiner, who comes from the Marshall Islands, recited a few lines from her poem “2 Degrees”.

“2 Degrees” refers to the 2-degrees-maximum increase in global temperatures that negotiators at COP21 hope to agree on, but Kijiner says an increase of 2 degrees will leave small island states like hers under water, and what's needed is a maximum rise of 1.5 degrees.

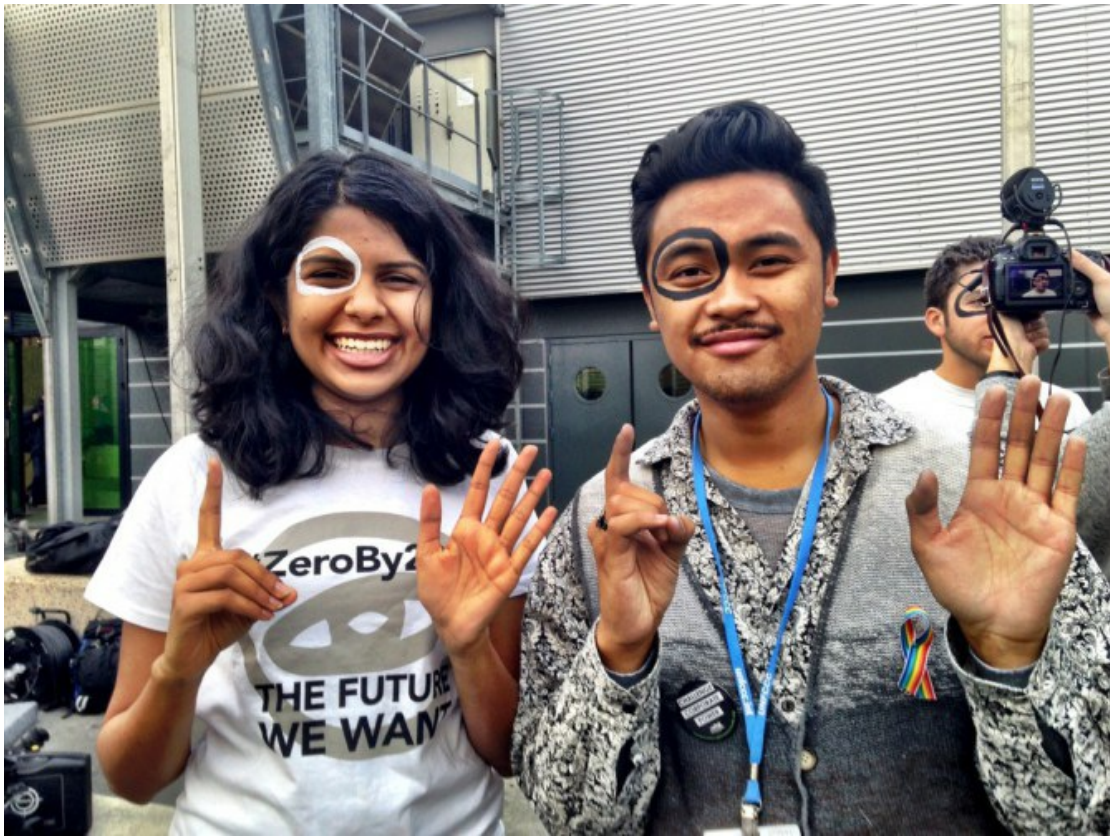
Kijiner was at COP21 to take part in an event that aimed to raise awareness on climate resilience through poetry and documentary. The event included a screening of award-winning UNFCCC short film “Adapting to a Changing Climate,” which is available in nine languages. You can watch it here: unfccc.int/8889.

7 p.m.

A massive one billion dollars has been mobilized to protect the most vulnerable from climate impacts, it was announced at COP21 today. The new international initiatives will protect millions of people.

The announcements were made today under the Lima-Paris Action Agenda at a “Resilience Focus” event, dedicated to building more resilient societies and economies for people who are vulnerable to climate change impacts. Click this [link](#) to read the details.





6 p.m.

Youth leaders from a number of the most at-risk countries to climate change spoke at the UN Conference on Climate Change today, calling for an ambitious and strong long-term goal which would support the countries most at risk of global warming.

Sagar Aryal, 20, from Nepal, said “Growing up in the foothills of the Himalayas I was 10 years old when I realised the urgency of climate action. I began to see the mountains melt, glacial lakes flood and the human impact of the climate crisis on the 2.3 million people who depend on it for fresh water and natural resources”.

Sagar and the other young people wore circles of face paint around their right eyes to symbolize “0” – zero fossil fuels by 2050, which they said is necessary to keep warming below 1.5 degrees celcius. Led by indigenous youth they then marched through the Conference site to the COP21 civil society space. It was a powerful moment – the youth voice was certainly heard today!

2 p.m.

Breaking News! UN Assistant Secretary-General on Climate Change Janos Pasztor is here at the Climate Change Conference in Paris, and will answer your questions during a Reddit “Ask Me Anything” (AMA) this Thursday at 5pm CET/11am EST.

Start thinking about your question!

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10:00 am

Today is all about resilience and farmers:

We also got a taste of carbon neutral chocolate, which supports an afforestation project – sounds like a pretty sweet deal to us.

The Lima to Paris Action Agenda got off to a strong start, with an announcement of the [Paris Pact on Water and Climate Change Adaptation](#), which is a coalition of countries, businesses, civil society and water basin organizations to make water systems more resilient to climate impacts. The initiative has already secured \$1 billion for its operation.

Why is water such an important element for resilience? Climate change is causing widespread impacts on societies and economies, creating droughts, floods and warming which affect all water systems and trigger negative and often fatal impacts.

Without improved water management, it is harder to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to end poverty and reduce inequality.

[Read more about the Paris Pact on Water and Climate Change Adaptation.](#)

Tuesday 1 December – Day 2

The day in photos

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6pm

This afternoon the Lima to Paris Action Agenda [was dedicated to agriculture](#), a sector seriously affected by climate change due to droughts, floods are other extreme weather conditions.

It also accounts for **24 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions** which cause climate change.

The initiatives highlighted this afternoon focus on four key areas:

- Soils in agriculture
- The livestock sector

- Food losses and waste
- Sustainable production methods and resilience of farmers

Notable among these initiatives was the “**4/1000 Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate**”, which officially launched today, and aims to protect and increase carbon stocks in soils to limit greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere. What’s with the name? The initiative intends to show that a small increase of 4/1000 per year of the soil carbon stock (agricultural soils, notably grasslands and pastures, and forest soils) can greatly improve soil fertility, resilience of farmers and contribute to keeping the global average temperature increase below 2 degrees.

[Find out more about all the initiatives presented today.](#)

12 pm

Some of the key announcements on Forests:

- **Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom**, announced a collective aim to provide \$5 billion from 2015 to 2020, if forest countries demonstrate measured, reported and verified emission reductions.
- **42 major companies** committed under the We mean Business Coalition to remove commodity driven deforestation from all supply chains by 2020.
- **Members of Consumer Goods Forum** that represents 400 companies and commodity traders are committing to preferentially source commodities from these areas, such as through quantity or pricing guarantees. Commercial banks and private investors are committing to mobilize a specific amount of financing for land sector development in these areas.

[Read the full press release from UNFCCC9 a.m.](#)

Good morning! We start with a recap of the first day:

The UN Climate Conference gets going today with a High-Level event on [Africa featuring Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and several Heads of State](#), as well as a focus on the impact of climate change on forests and agriculture.

Today is also the first day of the [Lima to Paris Action Agenda](#), a joint undertaking of the Peruvian and French COP presidencies, the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the UNFCCC Secretariat, which aims to highlight and mobilize robust action by businesses and other non-state actors towards a low carbon and resilient societies.

The Lima to Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) will go on until 8 December and will focus on 12 areas. Today the themes are forests and agriculture.

The first event was opened by Prince Charles of Wales, who called on accelerate action to protect and sustainably manage forests.





Monday 30 November – Day 1

The day in photos

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9pm

Listen to a [roundup of our coverage here](#).

8pm

It has been an afternoon heavy on press briefings and panels.

- Mr. Ban launched a [new initiative to strengthen climate resilience](#) of the world's most vulnerable people, which focuses on early warning-early action systems, insurance, and increasing investment in bid to accelerate climate resilience efforts.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with French President Francois Hollande and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, then launched a solar alliance initiative of over 120 countries to boost the use of durable and clean energy.
- In a remarkable show of unity, six Heads of State – Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, Ethiopian Prime Minister Halemariam Desalegn, French President Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, called on the world to start pricing carbon pollution to address climate change and transform the global economy.
- Other news at the opening of COP21 included a [pledge by 11 donor countries](#) of close to \$250 million dollars in new money for adaptation support to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), a climate fund hosted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- A new [Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform Communiqué](#) was presented to Christiana Figueres, the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), by the New Zealand Prime Minister John Key. The Communiqué calls on the international community to increase efforts to phase out perverse subsidies to fossil fuels by promoting policy transparency, ambitious reform and targeted support for the poorest.
- In addition, the World Bank [announced](#) it has been working with four European countries – Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland – to set up a new \$500 million initiative that will find new ways to create incentives aimed at large scale cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries to combat climate change. The initiative, called the Transformative Carbon Asset Facility, will help developing countries implement their plans to cut emissions by working with them to create new classes of carbon assets associated with reduced greenhouse gas emission reductions, including those achieved through policy actions.



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12pm

The Leaders event is well under way, with the first remarks being made by President Francois Hollande and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Mr. Ban [strongly urged the 150 Heads of State](#) – the largest gathering of world leaders ever outside the UN – to show leadership, courage and vision to reach an ambitious agreement.

“We cannot afford indecision, half measures or merely gradual approaches. Our goal must be transformation,” Mr. Ban said.

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6:30am

We are off to an early start! Lots of activity (and long coffee lines) as early as 5:30am at the Le Bourget conference centre.

150 Heads of State have been confirmed to be in attendance, over 180 countries have submitted national commitments covering close to 100% of global emissions.

Sunday 29 November

Welcome to our live blog of the UN Climate Change Conference, also known as COP21.

For the next two weeks we will share highlights here from the heart of what will be one of the biggest climate conferences ever.

The conference starts on Monday, but already the huge COP21 site – Le Bourget, on the outskirts of Paris – is buzzing with preparations for the historic opening day.

Delegates, journalists, business and civil society representatives, UN staff and all the people working behind the scenes are running around getting their accreditation and security passes, checking out meeting rooms and setting up interactive spaces for the big day when more than 140 Heads of State and Government will be here to share actions they will take to tackle climate change with a global audience.

COP21 will officially open at 10am CET by the President of France, Francois Hollande. You can [watch all the proceedings live from here](#).

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has arrived in Paris, and will address leaders tomorrow at 11am CET.

This morning he met with leaders of civil society, and he also donated his “marching” shoes to stand in solidarity with the people of Paris who were unable to join a climate march today.

A note by Mr. Ban next to the shoes says,

“As the world gathers in Paris to stand for climate action, let us also stand in the shoes of all victims of terrorism, war and persecution... and respond with compassion.”

The shoes were placed at the city’s Place de la République, near the scene of the terror attack of Friday 13 November, and where the climate march originally planned for today was due to start. The thousands of shoes contributed were donated to NGOs working with Syrian refugees.

In the evening Mr. Ban attended a ceremony to launch the One Heart One Tree, a collaborative artwork which will transform the Eiffel Tower in a forest of light. Also in attendance were advocate of indigenous issues, Chief Raoni of the Kayapo people, and French actress Marion Cotillard.

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