



Patricia Espinosa BARC video message transcript

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress. Climate change is a defining challenge of our times, and we are seeing its impacts, especially among vulnerable communities, like never before. From storms to droughts to heat waves, climate change is affecting lives, livelihoods, and the economic prosperity of people throughout the world.

In 2015, governments adopted the Paris Agreement to address climate change. The goal of the agreement is to limit global temperature rise this century to well below 2°C – ideally, 1.5°C. But to achieve this, we must achieve zero net emissions by mid-century. This will not be easy, but it is possible if we take urgent and ambitious action now.

The Paris Agreement is a party-driven process, but it recognises that governments alone cannot solve climate change on their own. They can only succeed if everyone gets involved, including businesses, local governments, and citizens – including all of you.

Not long ago, I had the opportunity to meet Madame Jiang Zehui, co-Chair of the Board of Trustees of INBAR. I was pleased to discuss with her how your sector continues to take significant climate action. Further to that, I am pleased to note that all 43 Members of INBAR are signatories to the Paris Agreement.

Bamboo and rattan can make an important difference in the fight against climate change. You will hear from other speakers about bamboo and rattan's potential to store carbon at fast rates; you'll hear about its durable products which lock in carbon; and its ability to rebuild and restore degraded soils. You'll also hear how, across the world, rural communities are using bamboo and rattan for their livelihoods; as a source of robust disaster-resilient housing; as a fast-growing and locally accessible form of fuel; and as a valuable carbon sink. In short, bamboo and rattan represent an important part of reducing net emissions. This is exactly what the world needs right now.

Ladies and gentlemen, climate action goes hand in hand with sustainable development. It also depends on, and creates, green jobs. Your industry provides incomes for tens of millions of people across the tropical and subtropical South. This is a win-win approach to climate action. I applaud your commitment to aligning your sector even more fully with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Recognising the extraordinary challenge that we face, I encourage you to work with your governments, your Members, and your partners, to raise your ambition even further. I wish you a successful conference. Thank you.