

I am delighted to see that MAWAC is meeting today at NYU, in those premises steeped in history, scientific knowledge and culture.

I want to congratulate W-SMART and UNESCO for this organization, taking place at the same period as the UN WATER conference.

A big thank you to Professor Juran for giving me the floor here. I would have liked to be with you. But I'm speaking to you from my office, in Paris, and you can see pictures of New York behind me that's telling you how much I miss you and how much I miss Brooklyn.

I should have been with you and yet I stayed in Paris. And you may ask: what is more important than a MAWAC or UN meeting?

If the media in the country you live in are all on vacation or have camera blackouts, I'll tell you: a social movement against a pension reform is causing disruption in some areas, especially the collection and processing of waste. It is precisely this department that I have the honor of directing for greater Paris and its 6 million inhabitants.

Perhaps, you have seen photos or videos of mountains of trash on the sidewalks of Paris. Maybe you thought : these French people, they are often on strike, they always protest or maybe you thought these French people have an advanced social system. Or else, for those who know me, you maybe thought Denis and his team do not have enough of 24 hours a day to handle this waste problem.

But objectively speaking, what is the real problem to solve or the question to answer ? What is obvious is that in megalopolis such as New York or Paris, we collectively produce thousands and thousands of tons of waste. Thousands of tons of unnecessary waste since it is what remains after having consumed what is vital, food or what is useful consumer goods.

The revolution is underway and the solution is called “circular economy” which will transform production cycles **so as not** to produce waste because the objects will be reused, repaired, recycled, because wasting food will have become a thing of the past and we will reduce food waste by learning to recycle all the leftovers of the kitchen. But like all revolutions this one requires time and adaptation which is why we can modestly call it evolution or transition.

And yet you are here to share the observation that we no longer have time for a slow transformation. Just this week, the IPCC report, called “last warning”, highlighted the critical need to transform our model as a way to mitigate and adapt to climate change. What is the connection between climate change and waste you will tell me? Just think about food, the entire production cycle represents nearly 20% of GHG emissions.

If food wasting was a country, it would be the third largest emitter of GHGs after China and the USA. Food waste generates considerable water consumption throughout the production chain, between agriculture and livestock. To fight against this is to move towards SDG6. Reducing and recycling plastics also means avoiding micro plastics in breast milk or in rivers harming human health and ecosystems, it means preventing the 6th continent made up of plastic waste from developing harming to the oceans.

But we have to manage the transitional period, which will last a few decades until **what is still perhaps a myth, zero waste, will take place in the production process**. Well in the meantime, what we can strive for is turning this tremendous issue into an opportunity. We need energy both so as not to be too dependent on imports, so as not to be tossed around by prices which have sudden variations and have an impact on the lives of billions of people. And we must face this challenge head on. Did you know that the waste of 7 families is enough to meet the heating and hot water needs of one family?

Well this waste, the ones that remain we don't want to store them but transform them into energy.

We deliver nearly 3 TWh of energy to the Parisian heating network and to the electricity network.

The need for chilled water will grow in the future due to the anticipated effects of climate change. The production of cold from our **waste to energy plants** will thus be studied as well as the transport of cold to storage facilities in order to optimize recovery, particularly in summer.

What is **ingrained in our DNA is innovation**, and we will keep innovating to adapt and deliver the finest service possible: for example mobility projects using hydrogen **are developing at a fast pace, thus we will study** projects for the production of hydrogen from waste.

Syctom will also adopt a Climate Plan **which will take into account** all its internal and external output: development of recycling, reduction of the volume of waste, development of the food waste sector, energy recovery, energy efficiency while keeping the objective of **zero landfill**.

But maybe we should have a water plan as the two subjects are intimately linked and I let Corinne take over.