

SPEECH AT INTERNATIONAL LEADERS LUNCHEON
10 OCTOBER 2009
CAPE GRACE HOTEL

On behalf of the City of Cape Town, I would like to thank you for giving our city the privilege of hosting the third Lausanne World Congress. I know that you have definitely made the right choice, and I hope that you will take full advantage of everything this city has to offer you.

As the City of Cape Town, an important part of our developmental vision is to attract visitors who can contribute to our economy as tourists, or invest in our city in different ways. This means we are ready and willing to provide any assistance we can, and we are working hard to make our city as accessible and as satisfying an environment as we can for large events.

In your preparations, I invite you to take some time to appreciate just what an extensive range of possibilities await you around this city. Hike the mountain, tour the winelands, dine on our food, relax on the beaches, see the views, and soak up the culture and the heritage. Go and see, or get involved in the good work that is being done by many different organisations in our more marginalised communities.

I must warn you however, that by the time your meeting occurs next year, some things in Cape Town will look very different. We are currently doing everything we can to make sure our large infrastructure projects are completed by the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ next year, so you may need to use your imaginations a little to understand what things are really going to be like, especially around the city bowl and Green Point areas.

Your congress next year will focus on difficult questions and dealing with challenges that this planet faces in the 21st century, and I trust that in your time here now you will be able to ensure that those discussions are extremely interesting and productive, to the benefit of people all around the world.