

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**MESSAGE TO THE VIP OPENING OF TOWNHALL EUROPE –
THE DAVIGNON CENTRE FOR NEW LEADERSHIP
Brussels, 19 February 2019**

I am pleased to send my warm greetings to all those gathered for the launch of TownHall Europe – The Davignon Centre for New Leadership. I extend a special note of gratitude to President Étienne Davignon for his many decades of service in support of multilateral solutions.

Perhaps the most precious – and increasingly scarce – resource in our world today is dialogue. I welcome your focus on bringing people together to broaden understanding, share ideas, and find common ground. You are creating a vitally needed platform to respond to collective challenges – and utilizing cutting edge technology to do so.

Our world needs this more than ever. Global challenges are increasingly integrated, but the responses to them are more and more fragmented. Multilateralism is being questioned precisely when we need it most.

To rebuild trust, we need to show people that we care. We need to build a fair globalization that delivers for all. We need to empower and invest in young people.

Our world has seen remarkable progress in recent decades, but we still face grave threats. From armed conflict and intolerance to rising inequality and the worsening impacts of climate change -- the defining issue of our time.

International cooperation is the only path to solve these issues – and to build a better future for all.

I have no doubt that this Centre will help to forge shared solutions for our common future. The United Nations counts on your continued engagement as active global citizens.

Please accept my best wishes for the success of this new endeavour.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'António Guterres', written in a cursive style.

António Guterres