

## Speech Liz Mohn

[Salutation]

I am pleased today to be allowed to present the Reinhard Mohn Prize 2013 to an outstanding personality of our times, Kofi Annan. Like few other figures in the past decades, he has in various functions been successful in advancing understanding between peoples, cultures and religions. He has throughout paid close attention to the promotion of a sustainable development of humanity and society. And he has done this in a time in which globalization above all has left its social, economic, environmental and cultural markings.

His vision was and is to enable people even in the smallest villages to obtain education, and thus prosperity. His goal is to diminish the gap that still all too often exists between rich and poor. He has always followed his chosen path tenaciously, never allowing himself to be discouraged by setbacks or criticism. His work and his success should therefore serve us as a model, showing one means of making our world a bit more human, a bit more just, a bit more social and a bit more peaceful.

That, my dear Kofi, makes your work so valuable! For if we are speaking of sustainability, we must in the same breath note its necessary preconditions: justice, responsibility, tolerance and humanity.

Because sustainability entails nothing other than the pursuit of a world that is more just and more humane. Between people, within a society, between generations and thus for every individual person!

My dear Kofi,

I have learned much from you in the course of our meetings. Your mixture of determination and kindness has impressed me a very great deal.

I am thus delighted to be able to present you today with the Reinhard Mohn Prize 2013. I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart, and ask you now to take the stage.