



Esteemed guests,

Distinguished Chairpersons and

Members of the Committee,

Dear friends, Dear ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank you for being here with me today at this honorary ceremony and for sharing in this proud moment. It is a tremendous honor to be presented with this prestigious award.

My professional journey, spanning more than 40 years, has included roles as a judge, an academic, and a banker, culminating in my experience in the glass industry. It is very impressive both in terms of motivation and responsibility to know that what we do is followed and appreciated in this sector. I would like to thank the distinguished members of the committee.

I would also like to thank the chairman of the committee who said very kind words about me. I won't say more about myself or what I've done. In my 43-year professional career, I have had very good memories, outcomes, and friends from whom I have learned a lot. I am grateful for them all. Without boring you too much, I would like to talk about the need for the glass world to address some key issues.

Except for technological advancements, humanity throughout its history has not demonstrated enough progress in its ways of thinking and acting – especially regarding its desire to engage in conflict. Human history is filled with people who have been repeating the same mistakes for centuries in different forms.

Those who rule and lead the world's societies, especially politicians, are like little naughty children: they know what they shouldn't do but they cannot stop themselves from doing it.

As I thought about what to say in such a world as we live in today, I saw and felt the difficulty of linking the many critical issues the world is facing to the glass industry.



Clearly, it is not possible to confine these pressing issues to the glass industry. The world's problems exist as interlocking rings. Due to this interdependence, these critical issues require sincere action beyond the mere words of the involved parties.

In my opinion, three of the world's many problems are the most critical and the glass world also has a role to play in each:

The biggest issue facing the world is unequal income distribution, which is on the verge of becoming uncorrectable.

In addition, unequal distribution of income by the rapidly increasing world population is causing this problem to become chronic. Moreover, the problem has gone beyond the distinction between rich and poor countries alone.

We live in a world where 1.2 percent of the world's population manages 48 percent of the funds available in the world, and 52 percent owns just 1.1 percent of the world's total assets. The fact that the majority of the world population is living at the poverty line is a critical issue that affects social peace and stability.

The glass industry is also highly concerned about the income distribution issue. First of all, spending on glass industry workers has increased to USD 16 billion, up about 30 percent over the last 15 years. Providing better economic conditions is also a must for the future viability of the industry.

We should adopt a more constructive and inclusive approach that enriches not only our shareholders but also our employees.

We must go beyond explaining everything with costs, EBIT, and EBITDA, and step up our efforts to correct the income distribution in the glass ecosystem.

Another pressing issue is that the concept of a sustainable world is not sufficiently taken into account for the sake of political and economic interests. Undoubtedly, glass manufacturers have a lot of work to do in this arena, especially in terms of carbon emissions.

Glass producers deal with a great number of issues, including lowering energy consumption, switching to electric furnace use, reducing water use, recycling and developing new products that will serve the same purpose.

We must not overlook the fact that although we manufacture a product that can be recycled endlessly, our operations create a significant environmental impact that must be



reduced. We need to leverage shared wisdom to address these issues. This is an important opportunity that requires working together.

In addition to individual efforts, the glass industry is large and effective enough to play a major role in addressing these issues. Glass has been a part of human life for 5,000 years.

The glass industry today boasts 194 million tons of production capacity with 2,060 furnaces, direct and indirect employment of millions of people, annual investment expenditures of USD 20 billion, a market value of USD 200 billion, and an extensive range of value-added products.

First of all, individuals and organizations related to the glass industry need to act together and with shared wisdom to address resource use. To tackle our common problems effectively, we must create shared wisdom, free from the desire for profit, and focused on collaboration rather than competition.

We all know that there is more than one way to achieve this. So we have to make an effort to do it.

At this point, I would like to highlight the vital role that the committee, in particular, plays and the importance of its contribution to facilitating this collaboration.

Another critical issue is that the world's population has exceeded 8 billion and women, who make up more than half the total, are still not offered an equitable environment despite a lot of sophisticated rhetoric.

Balanced management of the world's population is also a reality that needs to be taken into account. The glass world should express its sensitivity to this issue of inequality. We should also work harder to provide equal opportunities for women in the glass industry at all levels, including management, and at every stage of production.

Today, the female employment rate in the glass world is 23 percent. I sincerely believe that there is much to be done in this regard.

Critical issues such as these require rising above ideas and decisions based on day-to-day concerns and developing a future plan and understanding that goes beyond the 'today.' I hope humanity is up to the task.

At this point, there is something I would like to add. As you know, the Republic of Türkiye, founded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, one of the world's leading statesmen, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Şişecam, founded by Atatürk with the same forward-



looking vision, is approaching its 90th year soon. I would like to honor him with my utmost respect and gratitude.

I would like to thank our esteemed guests, everyone from the glass world, distinguished committee members for their kindness to share this memorable evening with me and to teams for having worked so hard on the organization. I want to extend special thanks to Ms. Nicklas, Ms. Öner, and Ms. Özcan, whom I fondly refer to as the 'three musketeers.'

I also would like to express my love and gratitude to my beloved daughter Ezgi and son Alp, who have helped me to understand today's world and have made me feel up-to-date,

And finally, to my beloved wife who has provided love and support to me at every moment for over 40 years and has always remained by my side.

My best wishes to you for a healthy and happy day.