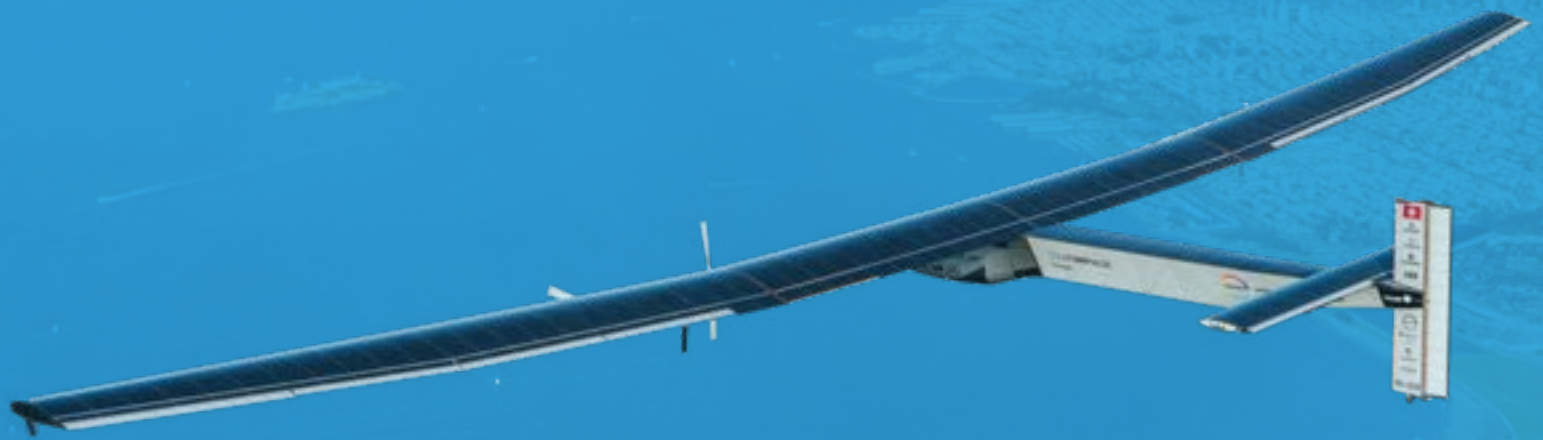


BREAKING BARRIERS: ZERO EMISSIONS IN THE SKY



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ABOUT VOICES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Voices of Sustainability is a thought leadership platform launched by the Zayed Sustainability Prize to explore the challenges and opportunities of the global transition to an inclusive and

prosperous future. Each month, the series hosts the world's thought leaders to discuss the latest trends and themes in the sustainability agenda.

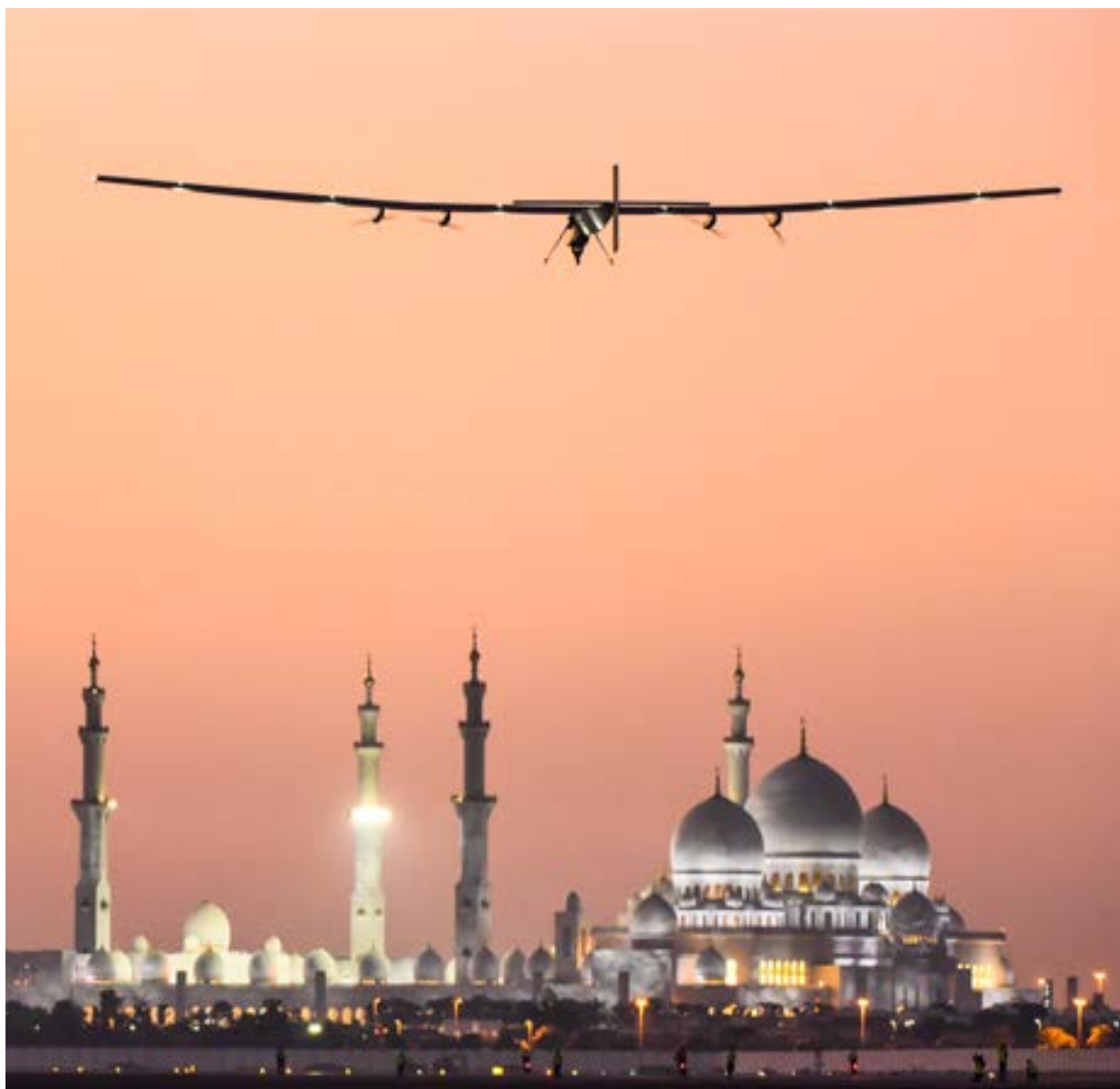


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INTRODUCTION

On 29 February, the Zayed Sustainability Prize aired the 33rd episode of its 'Voices of Sustainability' virtual fireside chat series, featuring the acclaimed explorer, Founder and Chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation, Bertrand Piccard, who is also a valued member of the Prize's Selection Committee in the Energy category.

This episode explores Piccard's forthcoming Climate Impulse project, shedding light on his visionary endeavour to lead the way in sustainable aviation through the adoption of innovative green technologies.



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SUMMARY

In the latest 33rd instalment of 'Voices of Sustainability,' viewers were introduced to a one-on-one interview format in the episode titled 'Breaking Barriers: Zero Emissions in the Sky.' This episode spotlighted the intrepid explorer Bertrand Piccard, who is at the helm of Climate Impulse, a project that's currently capturing the imagination of environmentalists and technologists alike.

Bertrand Piccard is no ordinary adventurer. With a background as a medical doctor, a psychiatrist and an explorer, Piccard has always been drawn to the unknown, whether it be circling the globe in a balloon or in a solar powered airplane. His latest venture, Climate Impulse, symbolises a leap into the future of aviation—a hydrogen-powered aircraft aimed at completing a global flight with zero emissions.

This bold endeavour is driven by Piccard's frustration with the prevailing narrative of despair surrounding climate change. His mission with Climate Impulse is to prove that technological solutions exist, that the impossible is achievable and to rekindle hope for a sustainable future. The transition from solar to hydrogen power marks a significant evolution in Piccard's quest for sustainable aviation. While his previous project, Solar Impulse, showcased the potential of renewable energies through a symbolic journey with numerous stopovers, it was not without its limitations. However, Climate Impulse will feature a more compact, faster and operationally revolutionary aircraft designed to make a practical difference rather than just a symbolic statement. This project is not just about breaking records; it's about sparking a revolution in the aviation industry, demonstrating that decarbonisation is within reach, even in sectors as challenging as aviation.

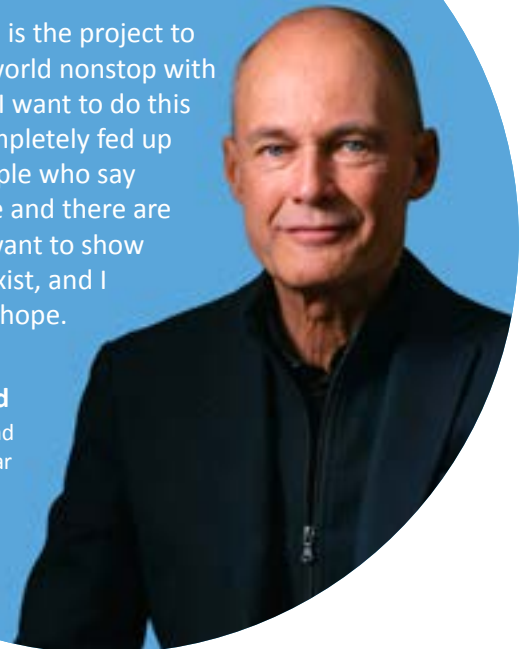
One of the most captivating features of Climate Impulse lies in its remarkable technical ambition:



Climate Impulse is the project to fly around the world nonstop with zero emissions. I want to do this because I'm completely fed up with all the people who say there is no hope and there are no solutions. I want to show that solutions exist, and I want to restore hope.

Bertrand Piccard

Explorer, Founder and Chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation



the ability to sustain liquid hydrogen at -253 degrees Celsius throughout its journey.

This achievement alone marks a substantial breakthrough in aviation technology. The aircraft's unique design, characterised by two fuselages and a wing that spans across them, housing a compact cockpit, underscores the innovative essence propelling this project forward.

Piccard envisions hydrogen power as a cornerstone of sustainable aviation. By using renewable energy sources to produce hydrogen, and then converting that hydrogen back into electricity and water through fuel cells, Climate Impulse aims to showcase a closed-loop system with zero carbon emissions. This vision extends beyond aviation, with

SUMMARY

implications for other modes of transportation and industries, offering a blueprint for a carbon-neutral future.

Throughout the interview, Piccard emphasised the importance of a pioneering spirit in driving climate action. He critiqued the inertia and pessimism that often hinder progress, advocating for a shift in mindset towards optimism and action. His approach to overcoming psychological barriers to climate action—making change desirable and using the language of key decision makers to highlight the economic and social benefits of sustainable solutions—reflects his unique perspective as both a psychiatrist and an explorer.

The episode concluded on a note of hope, with Piccard, a Selection Committee member for the Zayed Sustainability Prize, reflecting on the Prize's role in fostering innovation and promoting solutions with a tangible impact on millions. He emphasised

how the Prize, by providing recognition and reward, plays a crucial role in supporting innovators and advancing the sustainability agenda globally.

Bertrand Piccard's interview with 'Voices of Sustainability' serves as a powerful reminder that the solutions to our environmental challenges are within our grasp. Through technological innovation and collective action, a sustainable future is not just a possibility but an achievable reality.

As Piccard eloquently put it: we are not the victims of the past but the architects of a better future. The Climate Impulse project, with its bold vision and innovative technology, stands as a beacon of hope, inspiring us to embrace change and work towards a world where zero emissions are not just an aspiration but a norm.



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SPEAKER

Bertrand Piccard

Explorer, Founder and Chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation

Bertrand Piccard is an influential voice for efficient solutions. One of the first, back in the 2000s, to look at ecology from the angle of profitability, Bertrand Piccard is considered an opinion leader on the themes of innovation and sustainability. President of the Solar Impulse Foundation, he promotes “qualitative economy” by demonstrating the economic potential of clean technologies. Denouncing the absurdity of the polluting and inefficient systems still too often used today, he advocates modernising the legal framework to facilitate market access for efficient solutions. To support its approach, it strives to bring together the forces at work, raise public awareness and support political and economic decision-makers in their ecological transition. His voice is heard in major institutions such as the United Nations, the European Commission and the World Economic Forum, and his commitment has earned him several nominations, including Champion of the Earth and Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations.



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OUTCOMES



Climate Impulse showcases hydrogen's potential to achieve zero-emission global flights, highlighting practical climate solutions.



Piccard's shift from solar to hydrogen marks a significant advancement towards renewable energy use in challenging sectors like aviation.



By aiming to demonstrate the feasibility of maintaining liquid hydrogen at -253°C , Climate Impulse embodies the innovative spirit needed for sustainability breakthroughs.



Beyond record-breaking, Climate Impulse aims to spark an aviation industry revolution, proving decarbonisation's viability.



Piccard champions optimism and action against climate despair, stressing innovation and a pioneering mindset as key to environmental progress.



The Zayed Sustainability Prize's role in elevating impactful sustainability solutions underscores the power of recognition and support in driving global environmental efforts.

Watch the full episode on the [Zayed Sustainability Prize's YouTube channel](#)

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