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PRESSRELEASE

Current statement of the Gyalwang Drukpa at the UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice: "Maybe it is a lack of empathy. So our job must be to fight. To ring all the alarm bells. We must remind people that we all share one home, the planet earth, and that we are all capable of saving it through action, or destroying it through ignorance."

On the UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland, the Gyalwang Drukpa gave a speech at the Action Hub on the COP24 site. The leader of the Buddhist Drukpa lineage in the Himalayas and founder of the international and secular initiative Live To Love, highlighted the urgency of recognizing climate change. The consequences of climate change would still be ignored worldwide.

Politicians as representatives of the state would be responsible, but many do remain sitting in their chair looking after their own well-being. At the same time, the responsibility begins with each one - in every little action. It is about getting up from the chair and do something: plant a tree, pick up a plastic bag or eat less meat.

The Gyalwang Drukpa encouraged to investigate how one tries to find one's own happiness. Many people in the current generation would focus on material success and progress because they have learned that this would make happy. It is about changing one's own value system, which includes the well-being of a larger world and is not just focused on individual success. Then the change would have to start. There is no time to waste. Mankind would become extinct if the attitude towards nature and one's place in this world were not changed.

The Gyalwang Drukpa is one of the great personalities of our time, a committed environmentalist, a champion of peace and an advocate of gender equality. He rode through the Himalayas by mountain bike along with the Drukpa nuns to educate the local population of India and Nepal on environmental destruction. On the way, tons of plastic garbage were collected.

He was guest of honor at the "TrillionTrees" launch event, organized by Plant-for-the-Planet together with Prince Albert II early March in Monaco. There he promised to plant one million trees internationally through Live To Love and other related organizations.

For his Live To Love initiative he was honored with the "Millennium Development Goals Award" of the United Nations in 2010. In 2013, the Waterkeeper Alliance awarded him the title of "Guardian of the Himalayas," and in 2017, he received the Honorary Fellowship Award from the University of Oxford's Wolfson College.

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