

Your Majesty
Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am pleased and honored to be with you today in this gathering of distinguished personalities in the fields of medicine, press and social activities.

When I accepted to launch the campaign against osteoporosis, I was driven by the objective of preventing large segments of the population, especially the most needy, from being affected by the consequences of this dreadful disease and sparing them unnecessary suffering. I deeply believe that what anyone could offer in the particular case of fighting osteoporosis, or in any cause which serves human beings in general, is indeed a duty; a duty performed in gratitude to God, the ultimate source of health and well being, and consequently no thanks or appreciation should be expected.

I am pleased to point out that the 206 Bone Fund program has received a very positive reaction from distinguished persons who rose to the call and who showed utmost understanding and generosity to make our initiative a big success. These contributions supported the awareness campaign, reinforced the capacity for research into the disease and allowed the national osteoporosis societies to treat the afflicted persons without differentiation among people and religions.

Finally, I should like to give my sincere thanks to Professor Pierre Delmas and to the international organization that he heads for choosing me as first ambassador of the IOF. And please allow me to pay tribute also to the thirty personalities who joined me in realizing this great achievement.

God bless you,

Nazek Rafic Hariri

Lisbon, May 11, 2002