

# Bertrand Piccard

A pioneering spirit in the service  
of clean technologies and efficiency



*A visionary explorer and trained psychiatrist, Bertrand Piccard embodies an original approach to ecology: convinced since the early 2000s that ecological transition can only succeed by ensuring economic profitability, he has made energy and technological efficiency his battle cry and promotes a qualitative economy that reconciles carbon-free energy, reduced consumption and increased profitability.*

*His next challenge, Climate Impulse, embodies this vision: to complete the first non-stop, zero emissions flight around the world in a green hydrogen-powered airplane in 2029, demonstrating how clean technologies and efficiency can drive the ecological transition.*

Heir to a lineage of explorers and scientists who conquered the stratosphere and the abyss, Bertrand made history by achieving two major aeronautical firsts – circumnavigating the globe in a hot air balloon without stopping and, more recently, in a fuel-free solar airplane.

Founder and President of the Solar Impulse Foundation, he has led his team to identify and certify more than 1,600 efficient solutions, proving that sustainability and profitability are not mutually exclusive. His voice is now heard by political and economic decision-makers, who recognise him as an opinion leader on innovation and energy transition. Drawing on this portfolio of efficient solutions ready for large-scale deployment, he encourages political and industrial decision-makers to take ambitious environmental action and modernise infrastructure, legislative frameworks and economic models.

To overcome resistance to climate action, he proposes a new narrative demonstrating that by exploiting the incredible potential of efficiency, cleantech and renewable energies and avoiding the unsustainable waste of resources, it is possible to protect the environment while creating jobs and prosperity.

A passionate communicator, Bertrand Piccard shares his experience and pioneering spirit at conferences around the world, in his books, and with the younger generations he strives to inspire.

More than an explorer, he sees himself as a catalyst for the forces at play, revealing solutions and developing synergies where others see only contradictions – to build a more efficient, qualitative and sustainable society.

## **Awards and Honors**

Champion of the Earth, 2012

Grand Prix of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences

Olympic Order (IOC)

Commander of the Legion of Honor  
*France*

Officer of the Order of Alawites  
*Morocco*

Officer of the Order of Leopold  
*Belgium*

Commander of the Order Adolphe de Nassau  
*Luxembourg*

Knight of the Order of Saint Charles  
*Monaco*

Aeronautics Medal  
*France*

Gold Medal for Youth and Sports, gold class  
*France*

Gold Medal of the International Aeronautical Federation –FAI

Hubbard Medal of the National Geographic Society

Gold Medal of the Explorers' Club

## **Academic Distinctions**

Honoris Causa Doctor for Science, Technology and Letters in Cranfield, Fribourg, Mons, Leuven and Silesian Universities

## **Publications**

«Réaliste, soyons logiques autant qu'écologiques»  
*Editions Stock 2022*

«Objectif Soleil» with André Borschberg  
*Editions Stock 2017*

«Changer d'altitude»  
*Editions Stock – best-seller in 2014*

«Around the World in 20 Days» with Brian Jones  
*Wiley Editions, New York – best-seller in 1999*

«Une Trace dans le Ciel»  
*Editions Favre 2005*

## **EXPLORATION**

Pioneer of hand gliding and ultralight flying in Europe

*European Hang-Glider Aerobatics Champion in 1985*

Winner of the first transatlantic balloon race

*Chrysler Challenge in 1992*

Initiator of the Breitling Orbiter project; Captain of the first non-stop round-the-world balloon flight

*8 FAI world records for the longest unrefuelled flight in distance and duration in the history of aviation*

*45,633 km in 20 days*

Initiator, Chairman and Pilot of Solar Impulse; first round-the-world solar flight

*22 FAI world records in solar and electric categories*

*43'000 km without fuel*

Co-founder and president of Climate Impulse

*project for the first non-stop, zero emissions flight around the world in a green hydrogen-powered airplane, planned for 2029*

## **MEDICINE**

Medical doctor, specialist in psychiatry and psychotherapy for adults and children

Lecturer and supervisor for the Swiss Medical Hypnosis Society

Professor at the Nice Faculty of Medicine

## **ENGAGEMENT**

Initiator and Chairman of the Winds of Hope Foundation

Initiator and Chairman of the NoNoma Federation

United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Population Fund (UNFPA),  
*from 2000 to 2012*

United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Environmental Program (UNEP), *from 2015 to 2023*

Initiator and Chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation with which he published: "The New Climate Narrative"; "Energy Efficiency, the silent money maker"

## **CONFERENCES**

More than 3000 public, private and institutional lectures

## SOME KEY DATES

	Lausanne (Switzerland)
1986	Medical doctor
1996	Doctor specialized in psychiatry and psychotherapy for adults and children; specialized in hypnosis
1974 & 1985	Pioneer of hang-gliding and microlight flying in Europe; European hang-glider aerobatics champion
1992	Winner of the first transatlantic balloon race Chrysler Challenge
1994 to 1999	Initiator and Captain of the Breitling Orbiter project. First non-stop round-the-world balloon flight
1999 & 2000 to today	Initiator and Chairman of the Winds of Hope Foundation to today and the NoNoma Federation until 2023
2000 to 2012	United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Population Fund UNFPA
2003 to 2016	Initiator, Chairman and Pilot of the Solar Impulse project. First round-the-world solar flight
2015 to 2023	United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Environmental Program UNEP
2016 to today	Initiator and Chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation. Launch of the 1000 Efficient Solutions Challenge
2024 to present	Co-founder and President of Climate Impulse: project for the first non-stop, zero emissions flight around the world in a green hydrogen-powered airplane, planned for 2029