

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

I know that your work during these last two days has been particularly intense and productive. I will therefore be brief.

Some people believe that protecting the environment and the fight against climate change are distant realities. For populations like that of Monaco, who live alongside the ocean, these are very real phenomena. You have seen it for yourselves: when we turn our eyes towards the sea and the mountains, we are struck not only by the beauty but also the fragility of this Nature, without which we would be unable to live.

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Here, there is more than one declaration of faith: an inner certainty, the profound and lasting cornerstone in our life which is shown by this museum, built a century ago.

However, for a century information regarding the environmental problem has been changing, in particular, in terms of the now widely held belief that our development model is unsuitable and even dangerous.

Based on the intensive use of fossil energies, this model is indeed directly threatened by the shortage in the resources which fuel it.

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It also, and without doubt, faces an even greater threat due to the significant and sometimes irreparable damage that it inflicts on the environment.

However, above all it suffers as a result of the deep-seated misunderstanding upon which its growth was built: the idea that Nature is inexhaustible and that its balance, laws and needs are insignificant when evaluating the costs and benefits that our technical, economic and political choices are based on.

Nature is now telling us the opposite.

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Nature is telling us that it is the environmental need that must be paramount in our choices, since the economy is one of the parameters to be taken into account in this evaluation.

We are used to considering ecology as a sub-system of the economy; I think that from now on we must reconcile economy and sustainable development.

It is a question of necessity for our environment, but also a tremendous opportunity for economies that are often struggling to regain momentum.

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The example of mobility, which you saw yesterday, is proof of this. In Monaco, we are fully aware of the need for clean vehicles, for which we have managed an ambitious policy for almost twenty years. This policy has long been hampered by sceptical attitudes and the limits of an unsatisfactory offer, as much in terms of power as independence or cost.

However, due to the commitment of enterprising manufacturers, the progress of research, the motivation in some countries and the will of consumers, a new car industry, full of promise, is today being developed.

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In Monaco, where we host many events related to clean mobility, we are measuring the progress achieved year on year. For us, as for those involved in the car industry this progress is the best incentive to continue our efforts and convince our partners to take on these challenges.

This is why I became personally involved and encourage my Government to be active in all international arenas where the future of our planet is at stake. While Monaco's size imposes a certain modesty on us, we know that the power of words and the example of behaviours can sometimes be effective weapons.

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Since the question of protecting our environment goes beyond States and international negotiations. It affects everyone's life, their choices, their beliefs, their commitment towards humanity. It affects people's existence, whatever their geographic, social or cultural situation.

Since 2006, this belief has inspired me to create a Foundation whose actions not only complement those of my Government, but also mean that we can be present on all continents, always working with local or international parties.

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Designed as a project accelerator, this foundation works with a network of partners in order to increase initiatives and today supports over one hundred and thirty projects around the world, all monitored by a rigorous scientific expertise.

I would also like to pay tribute here to the scientists who play the vital role of providing us with intelligence, in a context dominated by doubt, uncertainty and quite often, fear. I know that there are many scientists among you and I commend their fundamental contribution to our action.

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With them, we will invent technical solutions that will allow us to resolve the difficulties in our system. With them, we can persuade our contemporaries of the urgency of a complete change in our way of life.

Since our key objective now must be to convince. Convince the governments of course, who in several weeks will meet in Cancun for negotiations about the climate that I hope will be productive. But even more, to convince the people, without whom the governments will have neither the will, nor even the opportunity to carry out the bold policies that are needed.

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Here again, considerable progress has been made in just a few years: barely twenty years ago, the perception of environmental issues was still very limited, but it is now capable of stimulating opinions on all continents.

In the United States, in China, in Africa, everywhere, consciences are forming, initiatives beginning.

These consciences and initiatives are our main asset. They remind us that the issue of global warming relates to man and his behaviour.

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As such, it cannot be resolved unless we look to rally people by practically improving their lives, and in particular those of the most vulnerable, those who have already suffered the most from climate disruption.

This is why I have been particularly aware of the fact that you have included a working session on the issue of the developing world in your program. Whether in terms of energy, biodiversity, preservation of water resources or protection against the effects of global warming, for us, the developing world must be a major concern as well as an ally.

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If this is not the case, we will only give credit to the idea of a process that changes to suit our needs, which would be highly damaging, implying that defending the environment is a luxury reserved for privileged populations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

In a striking expression, Lord Nicholas Stern once said that climate change represented the greatest market failure. It is indeed a major risk factor weighing on the economy and created solely by the development of the market economy itself.

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Now this failure is global; it concerns us all and in the future risks affecting entire sections of our economies.

To overcome this, we must broaden our discussions, considering not only ourselves but also others, those who live far away or those who will live in the future.

We must successfully unite strengths and energies from all over the world, from all sectors, from all ways of life.

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Together, we must invent a more responsible, more just and more sustainable world.

If we achieve this, we will have made great progress. Not only in protecting our planet, but also in the advancement of all humanity.

Thank you.