

Mr. Secretary-General of the Rio+20 Conference,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my most sincere and warmest thanks to all the participants who have accepted our invitation to attend the Monaco Workshop.

I am appreciative for the hard work you have all provided and the quality of the presentations you have offered.

Your presence and the broad spectrum you represent confirm the wide interest and mobilization in favour of oceans within the preparatory process

Mister Secretary-General,

Like other countries, Monaco has answered your call to take the lead for oceans and the promotion of a “Blue economy” as an integral part of a successful outcome in Rio, next June.

This workshop is the result of our first encounter in New York in September 2010 when I personally committed to lend my support for oceans.

I share your vision that Rio +20 must be a Conference of implementation dedicated to promoting the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. In that perspective, I endorse your plea for further “integration, implementation and coherence”.

Achieving a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication is an imperative, to be supported by the relevant institutional framework for sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us remember why we are on this journey. At the Earth Summit in 1992 we adopted two of the three Rio Conventions (Climate Change and Biodiversity) as well as Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 on Seas and Oceans.

The Earth Summit also initiated the Fish Stocks Agreement.

Notwithstanding the adoption of the Johannesburg Plan of Action in 2002, our commitments were not fulfilled.

Ten years later, we have an opportunity to mend this implementation gap and set a new agenda to address the emerging challenges we are facing.

And we are committed to honor Brazil's leadership which recognized as early as 2007, the need to come back together as a global family for achieving sustainability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Oceans and seas are part of Monaco's history and culture. They have inspired our policies and shaped who we are.

Both through the actions of my Government or my Foundation, I have made the protection of the oceans a high priority.

The Third Edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative, that will be held early next June, in Yeosu, in parallel to the World Expo, will address the development of marine protected areas, with a special focus on the large predators.

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2012 will also mark the Thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which has become the Constitution for the oceans. It is our primary responsibility as States, to ensure its full and effective implementation.

While abiding by our commitments under the Convention, we shall aim at enforcing it and considering, whenever necessary, to elaborate new instruments to tackle emerging challenges.

The Monaco Workshop addressed three areas pertaining to the oceans: food security, energy, tourism and their related governance.

In particular:

We recognized the imperative of developing a green economy to eradicate poverty, promote growth and employment and creating a conducive framework to give real incentives to the private sector to provide the required research and technology.

We acknowledged the necessity to guarantee safe and decent livelihoods for all people relying on coastal activities, be them involved in small-scale fishing or tourism activities.

Finally, we have underlined the imperative to respect ecosystem approaches and reduce land-based pollution to help preserving the fragile balances of the ocean biodiversity.

It is my sincere hope that the Monaco Message on oceans be given due consideration in the Rio process.

Thank you.