

*"Sustainable strategies for the ocean" - World Ocean Summit – San Francisco, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
Address of H.S.H. the Prince*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

First of all I would like to thank the organisers of this World Ocean Summit who have given us the opportunity to meet again today on a key issue.

For thousands of years, humanity has considered the sea as an infinite source of wealth, which was easy to exploit with no concern about its renewal. We now know that these vast expanses are not infinite. And above all, we know that our activities will have repercussions on them.

However, despite these certainties, we continue to reason as if our impact on the oceans were insignificant. This phenomenon of denial is not unique to the oceans. Whether it be the climate or biodiversity, for example, everywhere we can see the contradictions of our society, which is depleting the resources it needs and weakening the balance on which it depends.

These contradictions are not of course illogical. At a time when many of our contemporaries face crisis situations, it is difficult to convince them to give up comfort, progress or their usual livelihoods. That is why, when discussing the situation of the oceans with you, I wish to point out that this would be unthinkable for me outside the situation of the people who live on their shores.

Preservation of the environment cannot be accomplished against humans, on the contrary: it can only work by establishing a sustainable model, capable of reconciling the legitimate goals of population development and the impassable requirements of nature. This is the point of our meeting today.

To consider such a model and to build a sustainable strategy for the oceans, I believe we need to address three challenges. The first is feeding a global population of nearly nine or ten billion human-beings. The second is supplying it energy. And finally the third is managing our common natural heritage.

In order to leave time for dialogue, I don't want to be too long, so I will just outline a few ideas for action. I won't talk about the problems, of which everyone here is aware, and will focus on the solutions which I believe are possible.

First of all with regard to food, and its impact on the ocean.

Faced with the problems posed by both overfishing and aquaculture, as well as the numerous negative side-effects, we need to adopt an ecosystem approach to the issue.

This involves firstly protecting the most endangered species today, the disappearance of which would have a tragic effect on the entire food chain. This is what I have been doing for several years for the bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean. . This emblematic animal is currently on the way to being saved, but other species are still threatened. I feel it is important to point out here that protecting the seas means protecting each species living within them.

More broadly speaking, this same approach also implies protecting the ecosystems that are now vulnerable. For this, the most attractive solution is marine protected areas and economic exclusion zones. The protected areas make it possible to reconcile sustainable fishing with ecological imperatives. Even more, by fostering the regeneration of stocks, they allow for a significant increase in the number of fish caught in the surrounding areas, thus having a direct impact on local production.

With my Foundation, I am committed to promoting such initiatives, year after year. However, with 2.3% of the World's maritime areas under protected status today, we are still far off target; especially from the objectives fixed at the Nagoya Conference in 2010 and which anticipated bringing this figure up to 10% of marine areas by 2020, which in itself is undoubtedly still insufficient... It is therefore crucial to sustain all efforts in this respect.

The second challenge we need to address is energy. Once again, this is a key issue, both for the development of human populations and for the environment, directly threatened by global warming.

We can see this today: there is great temptation to go and look for new resources in the yet unexplored ocean depths. It is in fact estimated that most hydrocarbon resources available on Earth are situated beneath the sea...

But this would be a short-term solution which would not resolve energy problems, would intensify global warming and would put these areas, today more or less still intact, at risk. That is why it is essential to develop renewable energies, for which the sea is a valuable and undoubtedly infinite source.

From hydrokinetic, thermal and wind power to tidal and wave energy, there are many promising opportunities. It is important to arm ourselves with the proper means to develop them.

The third challenge that I wish to mention here is of a political nature: common ocean management. This is a challenge common to all environmental issues.

Like nearly all environmental issues, sea protection suffers from the lack of binding international tools. This is particularly true for the high seas, which represent close to half of the Planet's surface area and which are currently in a situation of an almost legal vacuum, conducive to all kinds of abuse.

That is why it is vital to reinforce the only tool we have: the Montego Bay Convention, whose revision is currently being examined by the United Nations. The status of the high seas and the ocean floor should be clarified on this occasion and be given a minimum legal framework.

Monaco, which signed this Convention in 1982, can only hope that it is successful and that it will unite us all, including the United States of America, the number one maritime power in the world.

These are the few points I very quickly wanted to mention, as a prelude to our discussions. I do believe that by modifying our approach to these three challenges - food, energy and politics - we can plan a sustainable strategy, the only way to ensure the coexistence of humanity and the sea.

Finally, I would like to add one last point: the need to increase knowledge of our oceans, which is an essential basis for any progress. Yet there are significant gaps in our knowledge today. Consequently I would like us to give ourselves the means on a collective basis, in particular by encouraging the work carried out by the scientists who explore it, to gain a better understanding of the ocean, its fauna, its flora and its depths.

This is a prerequisite in order for us to be able to address the key challenge represented by the ocean, one of the most important and most demanding of this century.

As the great American zoologist and pioneer in ecology Rachel Carson wrote in the introduction to her magnificent book *The Sea Around Us*, "the sea has always challenged the minds and imagination of men and even today it remains the last great frontier of Earth".

Thank you.

## **Supporting elements for the debate**

### **1) Food: overfishing and aquaculture.**

With 80 million tons of marine species fished every year, compared to less than 20 in 1930, it is estimated that 63% of fish stocks are exploited irresponsibly.

Aquaculture has increased by 6% per year for the past twenty years and has almost doubled since 2001. Today it represents 67 million tons per year, i.e. as much as the production of beef.

It also poses various problems: five kilos of fish converted into flour is necessary to produce just one kilo of fresh fish and is the source of many adverse effects: methane releases, pollution, transmission of animal disease, proliferation of micro-algae, migration of domestic species to natural environments and weakening of wild species...

Fishing or aquaculture, above all it is a question of scale and adaptation to the ecosystems and human realities. Example of Senegal where fish processing plants are being set up. Since 2011, 11 plants have been established along the coast to produce flour for aquaculture and farming purposes. These factories catch most, if not all the fish and are jeopardizing the survival of the local populations.

### **2) Energy: perspectives**

- It is estimated today that 70 million square kilometers of deep ocean sedimentary basins are likely to contain oil, 30 million of which are at a depth of less than five hundred meters.

- In addition to the oil spill risks there are other disturbances for the environment: indirect pollution caused by the installation of off shore facilities, noise of maritime traffic with a negative impact on marine mammals etc. All these realities deeply harm the ocean depths and also disrupt the life of many species.

- Marine energies could provide in theory 40 GTep by means of the wind force at sea (part of which transforms into waves and swell) and 2 GTep by means of the force of the tidal currents. As a comparison, for 2050, humanity's needs are estimated at 16.5 GTep.

### 3) Political

#### 3.1 Marine Protected Areas

- Marine protected areas in principle offer a triple benefit - ecological, economic and cultural. They also enable us to initiate action in a concerted manner at local level.
- The Principality of Monaco has been a pioneer in promoting marine protected areas with the Larvotto Reserve and the Pelagos Sanctuary.
- It is now vital to extend these areas, beyond the 10% of ocean surface by 2020 set out by the Aichi targets. I think that 20% is necessary.
- Some areas in particular should be protected, including the high seas and the Polar regions (Ross Sea in particular).
- Last fall I launched the Mediterranean Trust Fund dedicated to funding marine protected areas. The purpose of this fund is to strengthen and sustain the management of marine protected areas and help set up an ecological network of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean.
- Other funding mechanisms need to be developed, in particular through the valuation of the services provided by the ecosystems.

#### 3.2 The Bluefin Tuna

- This is an emblematic example of multi-level action, in a complex and fragmented multilateral framework, confronted with hostile and strong interests. Despite this, we have been able to move forward.
- This emblematic species of the Mediterranean was critically endangered a few years ago due to the explosion in its consumption, especially in Asia. Prices had risen, leading to significant investment by fishermen, including the purchase of vessels which they made cost-effective by increasingly larger fisheries.
- 74% of the species' biomass had consequently vanished in 2007 and it was expected to become extinct by 2050.

- Monaco decided to take action, first of all locally by banning the consumption of the animal in the Principality, then in international fora by using the tools available and showing creativity.
- When faced with the refusal of ICCAT, the regulatory body for blue fin tuna fisheries, to take the measures necessary, we decided to propose the ban on the trade of the animal to CITES (listing on Appendix 1). Although this was not successful, this initiative gave rise to international mobilisation.
- Fishermen themselves understood that the survival of the species was in their own interests...
- ICCAT finally decided to take appropriate measures and today the species has been more or less saved.