

Prince Albert II Foundation Garden Party – Monaco, Villa Girasole, 6th July 2015
Proposed address of HSH the Prince

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

On behalf of my Foundation's staff and of myself personally, I would like to say how delighted we are to welcome you today for this moment of conviviality.

We are here, I believe, because we all share the same philosophy and the same urgency.

We are above all united by one philosophy: a harmonious relationship between humanity and its environment which we need to develop and improve. A harmonious relationship – this means able to couple the fundamental needs of nature and the no less fundamental aspirations of humankind.

The time when environmental protection was conceived by rejecting progress, comfort and development is over. This is exactly what we are all working towards today through the actions we implement or support: towards a new development model. Sustainable development on a long-term basis, capable of meeting the requirements of a planet where soon ten billion human-beings will need food, transportation, lighting, heating and work....

Such development is an opportunity. It is an opportunity for the Planet of course and an opportunity for us all, since it offers prospects for innovation, progress and growth. But is an opportunity only if we implement it without delay.

We are also united by a pressing issue: that of a planet which is increasingly suffering from human activities. Year after year, scientific data remind us of this.

I am thinking of biodiversity which is eroding at the fastest pace ever in over sixty million years and which has made our era one marked by the mass extinction of species. I am thinking of the climate with temperatures increasing on a yearly basis, leading to global warming which may exceed the critical threshold of 2°C by the end of the century. And more broadly I am thinking of nature, weary of being over-exploited by unreasonable activities.

In order to address these dangers, our duty is to take action by every means possible as we do on a daily basis with my Foundation.

To date, we have implemented or lent support to over three hundred projects, each of which exemplifies our determination not to give up faced as we are with the degradation of our

environment. From Sub-Saharan Africa to Canada's Far North, from Oceania to the shores of the Mediterranean, we take action wherever it is possible, with local stakeholders and international organisations.

Because everything we do, we do with others, for others. With our local partners, with the populations directly concerned and with international institutions. We are doing it with you and with all those who, each year, support our efforts and make them possible.

This shared sensitivity and feeling of moving forward together, of meeting, exchanging and doing something for one another is what brings us together.

That is why I am particularly pleased to be with you today. And that is why I hope you all have a pleasant and enjoyable time here in Villa Girasole and its gardens.

Thank you.