

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

The third World Future Energy Summit which ends today could not have been more timely.

Since April 2006, Abu Dhabi took a bold and historic decision to embrace renewable and sustainable energy solutions.

Under the patronage of H.H. General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, the launching of Masdar – a global cooperative platform dedicated to building a zero carbon, zero waste city – will allow us to find ways to meet the needs of our future.                   .../...

I will not fail to recall the selection of Abu Dhabi to host the global headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) that reinforces the UAE capital's position as the emerging hub for renewable energy.

In these times of doubt about our future, it is common to hear commentators and players in international life talk about *the* crisis, as though the issues facing us merely amounted to one problem.

I personally believe that we are confronted with numerous challenges. There is not just *one* crisis, but several.

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We are certainly facing a financial crisis, an economic crisis, too, but also - as tens of millions of humans are struggling for daily subsistence - a humanitarian crisis. Above all, this major ecological crisis, which the world is gradually waking up to, as we saw in Copenhagen, will be long and complex to resolve.

Economic crisis, humanitarian crisis, ecological crisis: these subjects are interrelated and represent the greatest unknown areas of our century.

The energy issue, the common feature of all these crises, lies at the heart of this uncharted territory.

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Naturally, I am thinking of the future of the car industry, the development of agriculture or climate warming, all central challenges for the future of our world, key to our lives. But I also believe more deeply in a model of civilisation which is intimately linked with the resources that it exploits, whose very depletion we are witnessing at the present time.

To overcome these difficulties, we know that it will be necessary to do more than merely tweak a few details of our current lifestyles. We need to rethink, in depth, the way in which we live, produce, travel. We need to invent a form of development which is less voracious in terms of raw materials, more respectful of the environment, which is also capable of integrating our natural heritage into the wealth of men and nations. .../...

I believe that the 2010 Biodiversity year will provide an opportunity to raise everyone's awareness on this

issue. We also need to be more sober, learn to consume less, in a more efficient manner.

However, let us not be under any illusions. I hope and I believe that major, rapid progress is possible. However, the task will not be easy and above all it will be necessary, over the course of a few decades, to change an economic and energy model which, for two hundred years, has provided just one section of humanity with comfort, wellbeing - an unprecedented easy life. In order to be successful it will be necessary to convince ourselves of the need for such far-reaching change.

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Let us not forget that our efforts are not in response to an abstract idea. They should be made for the good of humans today and tomorrow.

For this reason we have a duty not only to foster a profound change in mentalities and habits but also to plan for new growth which acts as a relay which can take us away from

the existing model and allow humanity to continue to develop. Doubtless develop in another way, but develop nevertheless, especially the most disadvantaged among us.

To achieve this end, our first challenge is to facilitate the emergence of cost-effective clean energy available in sufficient quantity for all.

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By clean energy I mean energy whose use does not endanger the fragile equilibrium of our planet. It is a matter of urgency. Notwithstanding the disappointing results of the recent Copenhagen summit, more than ever before the attenuation of climate change is our main imperative.

Such energy also needs to be cost effective. I just mentioned the inequalities preventing whole swathes of humanity from accessing the minimum energy necessary to travel, heat themselves, feed themselves or for basic hygiene. This is another urgent issue around which we need to also mobilise. Our world, with its shrinking frontiers, will not be able to exclude hundreds of millions of women and men, for the most part young, eternally. It is a question of humanity, (and also in our interests). .../...

Finally, it will be necessary for such energy to be readily available to all. By this I mean sufficient to meet the needs of a planet with a population of nine or ten billion.

Without such a major ambition it would be pointless launching into experiments which, at best, will only reproduce or accentuate, tomorrow, the scarcity problems that we are experiencing today.

The criteria that I am setting out may appear inaccessible to some. However, both myself and everyone here, knows, that this is not the case. Every day, thousands of researchers are busy working away on these subjects across all continents, in both companies and research laboratories. And the results that they are producing are already extremely encouraging. .../...

Wind, hydraulic, water, tidal, solar, geothermal energy, biomass or bio fuels: numerous solutions have already been developed today. They have the same objective, limiting the damage we are inflicting on our planet to the greatest extent possible.

There is evidence of major progress, every day, every month. In China, in the United States, in Europe, in Africa... Everywhere, renewable energies are developing apace to the extent that they now constitute sizeable, reliable and profitable sources of supply.

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We need to redouble our efforts in technical, economic and political terms. Although it is up to researchers to imagine the energy of the future, it is also up to company leaders to rise to the challenge of the necessity of invention, take the necessary risks which will facilitate the industrial successes of tomorrow. Finally it is up to the politicians to create conditions that foster innovation, promote research and encourage the use of new energies, in particular in the form of subsidies which make them more competitive in relation to fossil energies.

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Researchers, entrepreneurs and political decision-makers need to pool their initiatives and organise for enhanced co-operation. These three areas of action are indispensable and inextricably linked.

Faced with the challenge that lies before us, every one of us needs to summon up our will and determination. Moreover, this is the very purpose of this forum, that is, to provide an opportunity for the different players in our energy future to convene.

Everyone has a stake in preventing climate change. This observation is a rallying cry for the one hundred and ninety-two countries to reach unanimity. However, a considerable ground swell will be only achieved when everyone, on his or her level, contributes to such a global objective.

This is what motivated me in 2006 to set up a Foundation dedicated to preventing climate change and preserving the planet's biodiversity and water resources. Today the Foundation supports a range of projects dedicated to renewable energies. Each one is working on finding solutions on varying scales, in different regions, with varying constraints, resources and objectives.

Although our objective is still to find a global solution, in all likelihood the latter will be the result of a combination of complementary energy resources, more often than not exploited on local levels. For this reason all solutions need to be explored, all lines of investigation pursued.

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It is in this frame that ,among others,we support the development of solar energy through local programmes in several countries on the southern coast of the Mediterranean.

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Furthermore, we are following the Desertec project dedicated to the use of solar energy in desert areas with close interest. Its principle is simple and well known to those of us here, i.e. in six hours of sunshine, the planet's deserts receive energy which is not owned by anyone, sufficient to supply the whole of humanity for one year. Thanks to the harnessing of this resource, one could provide Europe with 15% of its energy by 2050 ... The concept opens up considerable prospects for the Southern regions to access clean, renewable energy, paving the way for development, in particular for countries in Saharan Africa that benefit from part of such solar resources].

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Beyond pure production, the issue of new energies requires us to reflect on their use. In this context in particular we are working on the issue of clean vehicles and energy efficiency. Next Spring Monaco will be fortunate to host a Euromed Forum on this central topic.

My Government's agenda also addresses such dossiers. I have set out very clear energy objectives: financial support for the building of thermal solar installations to replace fossil sources, new schemes to buy back electricity produced by solar energy, development of pilot public building infrastructures, development of less polluting public transport, stringent vehicle procurement policies at State, regional and local authority and public services level. .../...

Over the past fifteen years the Principality has implemented a clean mobility policy which promotes the use of electric or hybrid vehicles. I drive one myself and endeavour to lead by example. Also, we are delighted to be hosting EVER,

the ecological vehicles and renewable energies tradeshow which, every year, gathers all professionals and authorities involved in these areas.

Ladies & Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Energy is a central issue in all societies. Naturally this is due to its impact on the economy and development. It is also due to the relationship that it institutes with nature, by being a source that creates movement, generates light and transforms matter.

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In the history of humanity, each energy revolution has thus led to an in-depth change in our economic, social, geographical and also conceptual structures.

The change that we are currently experiencing is no exception to this rule. Today, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are writing a new page in our history.

We are striving for common objectives: a new relationship with the world; the reaffirmation of our responsibility to those who will live tomorrow; a reinvented way of producing; the opportunity for each and every one of us to shape his or her own destiny - with everything that this implies in economic and political terms.

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They are vast objectives, but, above all, they are noble objectives - a fact that we should keep uppermost in our minds.

Thank you