

Docteur MATHUR,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to stand before you today in this prestigious institution TERI and to speak on an issue of the utmost importance as you all know.

Thank you for your kind words.

An issue which concerns all of us and which goes beyond the distance which separates India and the Principality of Monaco. And beyond the undeniable differences which exist between our two States.

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Because between your great country, one of the most populous in the world, and the Principality of Monaco, the differences vanish as soon as we address environmental issues.

Whatever our size, whatever our geographical situation, whatever our economic situation, we are all united by the same destiny the moment we broach the subject of the situation of our shared Planet.

As inhabitants of a single global ecosystem, we are all subject to the same risks. And we all face the same demands, the same responsibilities, the same duties: to do everything possible that is in our power to stop our world being plunged into a disaster whose consequences we struggle to measure, but which we know will be dramatic, and even fatal. .../...

Sadly, we are already seeing the first signs of such a disaster.

Year after year, temperature records are broken all over the world. Here in India, over the past few years readings have exceeded 52°C, a temperature which is obviously impossible to bear for most living organisms.

Across the continents, similar warning levels have repeatedly been reached. In 2018 alone, different meteorological institutes recorded temperatures exceeding 50°C in California, 40°C in Japan and 30°C in Scandinavia, at the edge of the Arctic Circle...

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Unfortunately, this movement is likely to continue and to intensify - because the mechanisms at work are multiple and deep-rooted, and because they feed off each other – this is what is known as positive feedback, which leads to an acceleration of these phenomena.

We also know the causes of this disaster.

Thanks to the converging efforts of thousands of scientists worldwide, we now know with certainty that the increased heat beating down on our Planet owes nothing to chance, nor just to the long cycles of nature.

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The heat wave affecting our Planet has one main cause: it is primarily the burning of fossil energies which increases the concentration of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and it is the destruction of our environment, in particular different ecosystems, which play a key role in the mitigation of climate change and its effects.

This phenomenon striking our Planet has a single culprit: humankind.

You, me, all of us. It is our development paradigm founded on a predation rate much greater than the natural resources available. It is our irresponsible behaviour with regard to the treasures provided to us by nature, the true value of which we fail to take into account.

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And it is our self-destructive dependence on fossil energies.

However, all this is not set in stone.

There is still time to act. The looming tragedy can still be prevented.

Provided that we take the necessary steps to do so very quickly. Provided that we make determined choices. Provided that we demonstrate clear-sightedness and courage.

Clear-sightedness, because it is of course not easy to accept making a complex mechanism – one hardly discernible by human sensitivity – a priority. We all know that other tragedies demand our attention and our resources. Tragedies seemingly more concrete, because more spectacular, more tangible or more immediate. .../...

But we need to be clear-minded and to accept what we are seeing is due to the many effects of the use of hydrocarbons. Their effects on the ecosystems which we are ravaging in order to extract them. Their effects on the seas, which are acidifying as a result of the concentration of CO₂ and other gases are deteriorating as a result of oil spills. On landscapes, as well as on the oceans, disfigured and polluted by solid plastic waste derived from hydrocarbons, and on our food, contaminated by their proliferation. Their effects on our

health which is undermined by air pollution. Their effects on our biosphere which is destabilised by greenhouse gases...

.../...

And faced with these facts, we must have the courage to make climate change a priority, by taking effective and ambitious measures to promote energy transition. Measures to promote the development of renewable energies, energy efficiency, and all the solutions which will enable us to step away from our dependence on oil.

These are very concrete prospects. Directly operational. Immediately applicable. And undoubtedly very effective.

These are solutions which have positive effects on our environment, but also on our health. Positive effects on our economies, as well for which they offer new and numerous

opportunities. Positive effects on our world, which they are helping to save.

.../...

That is why we all need to get involved, both here in India and in Monaco and other places as well, both at government and corporate level, with both NGOs and research laboratories.

This is what I endeavour to do in Monaco with my Government.

This is what I endeavour to do across the globe by supporting scientific research, especially with my Foundation, which, for example, played an active role in the implementation of the IPCC's special report on interactions between the ocean and the climate sphere.

This is what I endeavour to do at the UN and in other fora in my discussions with my peers, by supporting every measure aimed at promoting energy transition. .../...

This is what I endeavour to do by becoming involved, also through my Foundation, in many projects across the globe, some local, others on a much larger scale.

And this is what dozens of States, hundreds of NGOs, thousands of companies and millions of people across the world are already doing.

I can see many people in this room, thanks to the determined action of the Energy and Resources Institute. And I am aware of their determination – your determination.

I hope that now, more than ever before, we are able to move forward together.

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Because in the words of the great Mahatma Gandhi, “We must be the change we wish to see in the world”. This eternal thought is more relevant than ever before.

Thank you.