

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure for me to see you all again this evening for this quite exceptional event; you represent a very broad spectrum of the various regions of the world and their attachment to our Principality.

Through you, I am delighted to celebrate Monaco's ambition for openness, which has always been honoured to welcome a large number of foreigners within its territory. I would like to remind you that our country, which is home to residents of close to 130 nationalities, is distinct in that it is one of the only states in the world whose national population is in the minority...

This characteristic undoubtedly explains in part Monaco's ambition to project itself beyond its borders and to feel unified with the rest of the Planet.

It is due to this need that my great great grandfather, Prince Albert I, embarked upon intrepid expeditions for that time, to explore the world's oceans and the polar regions. He thus was a forerunner of what would later be known as ecology.

In turn, I have decided to lead Monaco along the path of this commitment for the sake of the Planet. After representing my country at a very early stage at international negotiations focused on the environment, in 2006 I chose to set up a Foundation dedicated to these issues.

It is involved in three areas in particular: the fight against climate change, the preservation of water resources and the protection of biodiversity.

Faced with issues that extend beyond the traditional framework of States and require different levels of action, I was keen to develop a flexible mode of action, closer to the reality in the field and more open to civil society.

This is how this Foundation has become involved over the last eight years in close to two hundred and fifty projects, all conducted in partnership with local players. These commitments currently amount to over twenty-two million Euros, focused especially on three key geographical areas: the Mediterranean, which is an especially precious sea but also

particularly under threat; the Poles, also critically endangered and yet essential for the entire Planet; and the developing countries.

In this increasingly globalised world, I believe it is crucial to understand that although environmental damage first of all affects the weakest, no boundaries will be able to protect us for long from the devastating effects of inaction. Taking action today there is the only way of preventing a tragedy occurring everywhere tomorrow.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends, this is the broad outline that guides the action undertaken by my Foundation, which I am pleased to explain to you today.

I am indeed aware that in the face of universal issues, such as the environment, the responsible commitment of everyone is vital.

According to the words of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, "To be a man is, precisely, to be responsible. It is to feel, when setting one's stone, that one is contributing to the building of the world. »

It is up to us to build a world that is truly sustainable for our children and for all the children of this Earth

Thank you and thanks also to Guillaume Sainteny, an eminent member of the Scientific and Technical Committee of my Foundation, who kindly agreed to join us this evening and who will take the floor later on to discuss the economic value of safeguarding biodiversity.