

Mr Mayor,

Mr Chancellor of the University,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

First of all I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk to you, in the magnificent setting of your prestigious University, about issues that I hold close to my heart and that Chancellor Angelo Riccaboni has just skilfully discussed.

Moreover I wish to express my total support for the initiative he presented, as I know that nothing is more precious than the development of knowledge, its sharing and dissemination. In a climate marked by great difficulty in taking action - I will come back to this later - our primary duty is to enlighten our contemporaries so as to convince them. Thanks to this programme placed under the aegis of the SDSN, I know that the University of Sienna has an eminent role to play.

For my part, I will continue to act as I have been doing for years, not as a scientist like you, but as a practitioner determined to advocate your findings and carry them over into action. This is the sense of my commitment, whether it be through traditional political channels, at the Head of the Monegasque State, or through the action implemented by the Foundation I created in 2006.

This commitment is built around three key challenges faced by our Planet, and in particular by the Mediterranean: global warming, biodiversity loss and depletion of fresh water resources.

Of these three planetary issues, global warming is currently the best known by the general public and may be the easiest to perceive, with regard to both its mechanisms and the mitigation or adaptation methods. We must applaud the large number of scientists, those from the IPCC in particular, who made decisive findings on these issues for years.

Thanks to them, we have been able to establish the human causes of such warming. We now know that this is mainly due to the use of fossil fuels, as well as other human actions such as deforestation. And we also know, according to the latest report adopted at the end of

September, that it may increase by over 4.8 degrees by the end of this century if nothing is done to counter it. A bleak outlook with profound implications, some of which are already apparent.

I am thinking of the rising sea levels due to the melting of the polar ice, the increase in extreme weather events, and the upheavals of entire ecosystems. And I am also thinking of the indirect consequences of global warming, such as the changes in marine currents and ocean acidification, brought to the fore in 2009 in the Monaco Declaration, signed by over 150 scientists.

All these phenomena are of course also already under way in the Mediterranean, with an effect sometimes accentuated by the characteristics of an enclosed sea, fragile ecosystems and sometimes an extremely dense population.

Faced with this challenge, our implementation methods seem particularly limited. I believe that they consist of at least two types: the establishment of binding international tools and the development of technical solutions aimed at restricting the use of hydrocarbons.

As far as international initiatives are concerned, we all realise the difficulty of the exercise. Having taken part in most international negotiations on this issue since 1992 and the Rio Summit, I recognise the complexity of the situation.

Many countries refuse to be tied by binding agreements, which they feel are contrary to their aspirations, especially in terms of economic development. Against a backdrop of economic crisis, such reservations may seem legitimate. Nobody wants to embark on the hazardous road of decline for benefits that will only be measurable after a few decades.

But this is short-sighted reasoning. Because nobody stands to gain from the disturbances endured by our Planet.

That is why we need to convince as many people as possible of the fact that the implementation of truly sustainable development, in ecological and economic terms, can be a source of progress. I believe that more and more of our contemporaries have understood this and are refusing to forge recklessly ahead - action fuelled by the impoverishment of nature.

Fortunately, we can see the increasing mobilisation of civil society year after year all over the world. While the challenges are considerable, progress is considerable too. Nobody would have imagined twenty years ago that the environment would become a main cause for concern across the entire globe.

This increasing pressure of opinion also promotes the development of alternative energies and more efficient use of the energy available, imperative perspectives against global warming, and a source of economic growth right now.

This is what we have chosen to do in Monaco, where an active clean mobility policy has been implemented and where important efforts are made in terms of energy efficiency. We are thus aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050.

Many countries are committed to such an imperative approach. I am delighted to see that countries often reticent to ecological logic, such as China and the United States of America, are conducting bold policies for the development of clean energies and energy efficiency, especially at local community level.

In our region, the European Union, like the Union for the Mediterranean, has seized upon these concerns. This gives us hope, I believe, for forthcoming outcomes, thanks to several significant initiatives, including the Mediterranean Solar Plan. The long hours of sunshine in our region should enable it to be a leader in this battle!

In addition to global warming, the other major threat hanging over the Mediterranean is loss of its precious biodiversity. This modestly sized sea is in fact one of the Planet's key reservoirs of marine and coastal biodiversity. It harbours 28% of endemic species, 8% of the world's marine fauna and 18% of its marine flora.

Its climate, insulation and numerous islands partly explain this wealth, making it a major wintering, breeding and migration area.

However, for several decades this natural fragility and density have been confronted with intensive coastal development, an explosion in shipping, increasing pollution, overfishing, changing water regimes and the proliferation of invasive species... all of which are likely to have severe repercussions.

Among them, I would like to point out the damage caused by a certain type of irresponsible fishing, often concentrated in areas where the biotopes are the richest. Bottom trawling destroys the seabed, which is often a spawning area. And aquaculture is not particularly reassuring either, since it is also the source of many forms of pollution, the transmission of epizootic disease and the evasion of domestic species to the natural environment.

Faced with this situation, once again we have to implement coordinated solutions.

The first concerns the strengthening of international standards, currently inefficient in the Mediterranean. I am thinking of the Montego Bay Convention in particular, which is the main international sea management framework. Yet this convention dedicates only two rather vague articles to semi-enclosed seas such as the Mediterranean, and its environmental section is no longer appropriate taking into account the current threats....

Regional institutions, especially the European Union, have admittedly taken up these issues and provide concrete solutions. For years now, Brussels has advanced in a resolute manner and has implemented some of the strictest regulations in the world. But these initiatives do not cover the whole Mediterranean region and remain therefore insufficient. This is why other more targeted initiatives must be encouraged.

I am thinking of the action conducted a few years ago by Monaco for the bluefin tuna. Even though it did not lead to the prohibition in the international trade of this critically endangered species, our efforts did, I believe, result in the preservation of its survival thanks to a drastic revision of the views of ICCAT, the regulatory body. This action has thus proved that affirmed determination can bring about change in a complex institutional framework.

I am also thinking of the Ramoge agreement set up in 1976 between Italy, France and Monaco, and which has enabled us to conduct important cooperation programmes of a scientific, technical, legal and administrative nature.

In the wake of Ramoge, the Ramogepol agreement on accidental pollution is also a key tool for addressing these recurring and sadly significant risks.

These initiatives are prompted by a philosophy which I believe to be crucial: the delimitation of priority perimeters, exclusive economic zones and marine protected areas, enabling certain sectors to be preserved.

More than twenty years after the signing of the Ramoge agreement, the Pelagos Sanctuary was thus created by the same States. Today, it is an innovative area for the protection of marine mammals.

In many Mediterranean regions, as well as in almost all the seas of the world, other marine protected areas have met with real success, from an ecological, economic, scientific and educational point of view.

It is based on this proven success of marine protected areas that I have advocated for many years. I consider that these areas open the way for pertinent local solutions, all the more

pertinent in that they are developed in agreement with and in the interest of the local populations. I think that the upcoming international marine protected areas congress, which is being held in Marseille in a few weeks time, will confirm these prospects.

All these initiatives prove that well-designed environmental preservation is not to the detriment of human progress, quite the opposite. This is one of the lessons proposed by biodiversity. In the Mediterranean in particular, it is a source of direct human activity, of which tourism could be the most obvious example. And it is also the source of a great number of innovations, either ongoing or future, especially in the biotechnology sector. It is an essential element for the implementation of a more sustainable economy.

The final point on which I would like to focus, while talking about the future of the Mediterranean, is water.

Once again, the figures are alarming. Close to 30 million people around the Mediterranean have no access to drinking water. In some countries, almost 70% of the population are frequently not connected to any water treatment system. And the sea, which as always is the ultimate victim of such negligence, receives 60,000 tonnes of detergent, 100 tonnes of mercury and 12,000 tonnes of phenol every year... in addition to the various types of maritime pollution inflicted on this area which plays host to half of the world's oil tanker traffic.

Over and above the consequences on the sea itself, the inadequacy of the water supply and treatment networks has a significant impact on all the region's ecosystems. Especially as a large number of Mediterranean countries, in particular in the south, have one of the lowest water supplies per capita in the world, which accentuates the pressure. It is estimated that 180 million people live in the Mediterranean below the water poverty line, i.e. 1000 m<sup>3</sup> per capita per year, and that 60 million have less than 500 m<sup>3</sup> per capita per year.

Such a situation poses extremely serious ecological problems, and even more dramatic human problems: health-related of course, but also economically and culturally. Because water supply and the implementation of efficient treatment systems have a direct impact on a region's ability to develop, not only in agricultural and industrial terms, but also from an educational point of view...Added to these issues are water-related strategic challenges, in an extremely tense geopolitical climate.

That is why, once again, it is vital to take action.

Yet many water-related issues are dependent on simple decisions by traditional national political authorities, and which therefore can be made quickly. Resources are naturally necessary. However, despite the difficulty experienced by certain countries, political will remains a decisive factor, as proved by the issue of water treatment systems, both in the north and south alike.... Here again, it is a question of mobilising decision-makers and public opinion.

But governance efforts can also help drive things forward, as we can see today with the experiences conducted in fifty or so countries concerning integrated water resources management. The principle is simple: it involves forming a partnership between all the players involved in certain regions, taking into account the resources and disparate realities of an entire region, and uniting all the stakeholders.

These experiences have already proved their efficiency for the populations confronted with severe shortages. They show that a sustainable policy can have benefits, including in the short-term.

Once again, I believe that the main thing is to prove to our contemporaries that environmental preservation is not to the detriment of their living conditions, rather the opposite. By virtue of its elementary and essential nature, water represents here a valuable link, capable of embodying the benefits that each one of us can reap from the more responsible management of common resources.

This is a key challenge we face in the Mediterranean and elsewhere: to make environmental preservation a trigger for collective progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

For 3,000 years, the Mediterranean has been the cradle of most of the great advances of our civilisation. Although its natural environment is now endangered, I also see an opportunity, for our region, to reinvent a better world. A more responsible and united world. A world which is more inventive, more open and shows more respect for others. In short, a more sustainable world.

The great French writer, Albert Camus, born on the southern shores of the Mediterranean, wrote: "I admire that certainties and rules of existence can be found on the shores of the Mediterranean, that our reason is fulfilled and that there are grounds for optimism and social

sense." I believe that it is such optimism, on which the rules of existence are founded, that we once again need to seek along the shores of our sea, so beautiful and so endangered, so fertile and so inspiring.

Thank you.