

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be here with you today, two years after I last attended this Climate Week.

While all too often the crisis relegates environmental concerns to second place on the international agenda, it is heartwarming to find ourselves united around a shared conscience.

In these uncertain times, it is especially necessary to be bound by the same thirst for action.

Two years ago I highlighted the disappointments arising from the various Summits designed to advance international negotiations on climate change. Alas, I am unable to give a different or more reassuring speech today about the short-term prospects of a world that, in Europe at least, is failing to overcome the subsequent crisis, pessimism and decline.

However, I cannot help but believe that this crisis itself must be our ally.

Faced with the slowdown in their model and the depletion of their resources, our economies now need to be radically reinvented.

Reinventing their production methods, redefining their energy uses, rethinking their use of raw materials, reconsidering all their processes: the resulting reform will, without doubt be extremely substantial.

Today, the green economy offers our businesses prospects for growth and profitability. It also shapes the hopes for long-term development in this troubled world.

An increasing number of major players in the economy are committed to this path.

I have noticed this in Monaco, where the issues of green mobility and energy efficiency for example, are fundamental to the significant technological and commercial development efforts. And, I think, we are all seeing it, in each of our countries; the most creative minds, those that will contribute to the growth of the future, already have their eyes on the clean revolution.

This is certainly a positive prospect for our concerned countries, and even more so for our sick climate.

However, I fear that this is not enough. We must provide frameworks for stable and peaceful development for all those innovative individuals and all those ambitious entrepreneurs who are currently taking up the challenge of protecting the environment.

In this respect, large countries are making considerable efforts by encouraging those involved in the clean revolution and supporting their development. Throughout the world, communities are demonstrating a remarkable spirit of innovation and experimenting with relevant solutions. The Principality of Monaco is also acting, with significant results.

It is now up to us to do more. To mobilise policy makers yet further. To convince reluctant entrepreneurs. And particularly, to make consumers and citizens more aware of the challenges that depend on them.

This is the meaning of this Climate Week and it is the responsibility of each one of us. A responsibility that everyone must make their own, at their level, with their resources and one that we will work on together.

As Martin Luther King once said "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

Thank you.