

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

I am particularly pleased to be with you today at the opening of this important week.

Almost a year after the disappointment of Copenhagen and several weeks before the Cancun summit, many doubt our collective ability to act effectively against climate change. Despite the major advances achieved by many countries, there is indeed evidence that international negotiations remain difficult and that the prospect of comprehensive political agreement is uncertain.

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These concerns must not discourage us. (Politics, while it remains the preferred tool for collective action, is not the only means of progress). Alongside the Heads of State and diplomats involved in negotiations, there are now others who play a significant role in the fight against climate change.

Scientists, engineers, manufacturers, citizens and consumers: tens of millions of our contemporaries are taking responsibility for their own destiny and, each on their own scale, each in their own way working for the future of our planet. Whatever the size of their action, it is a decisive factor.

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In the field of electric vehicles, an area which is dear to me and in which my Foundation has established a successful partnership with the Climate Group, daily progress is being made.

This progress is the result of the determination, efforts and talent of an industry which recognises not only the urgency, but also the benefit of comprehensive change. In many companies, at all levels, everyday people are uniting.

Thanks to them, a new motivation is well on the way to becoming reality: a motivation which finally respects the environment and marks out the prospect of a more responsible economic development.

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Their efforts, like those of all the good initiatives at work in various other sectors are irreplaceable and should be encouraged, supported and extended.

To do so, Governments must act, in particular by implementing a suitable and stable economic, legal and regulatory environment. They also need to understand that it is in their interest and that of their people. We must help them with this.

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This is why I am delighted to be with you today, in this place of discussion and consultation between local and international decision makers, economic and political players.

And this is why I will relay your thoughts in the international forums in which the Principality of Monaco is now active, in order to make the fight against climate change a priority.

Thank you.