

Madam Director General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

Welcome to Monaco. I am delighted to see you all here today.

Through its history, its impact and capacity for innovation, the IUCN represents for me a reference as far as environmental protection is concerned. For sixty five years, your organisation has created a model for commitment that is open and determined, inventive and efficient, bold and realistic.

This model offers a network operation that gives priority to various fields of expertise. One of your ongoing concerns is also to build on the results of scientific research. Finally, it is a very broad approach, attentive to both local and global aspects, to the immediate and longer term. And it is a novel approach which has proven its relevance since 1948.

For all those who, like me, have chosen to become involved in this crucial fight for the conservation of nature, your organisation is a benchmark, with which I am proud to be associated.

I am all the more proud in that you have done me the honour of counting me as one of your Patrons of Nature, which for me is a source of great satisfaction. As you know, environmental protection is a priority that I pursue using all the means I have available.

I do so with the Monegasque State, by adopting a policy in the Principality that is environmentally friendly and energy-efficient, by implementing cooperation activities on a global basis and by addressing this issue among multilateral forums.

I do so with my Foundation, which is active in three key areas: climate change, water and biodiversity. Now in its sixth year, this Foundation has conducted over two hundred and thirty projects across the globe, some of which have been in partnership with the IUCN.

Consequently, I am especially pleased to be pursuing this commitment now with the IUCN, as a Patron of Nature of your organisation. It is a task of which I appreciate the importance and responsibilities involved.

At a time where consideration of environmental issues should lead to a radical calling into question by the entire world, we have an immense duty of conviction. The reforms that need to be implemented are profound and require the support of everyone. I am keen to contribute towards the creation of such support with you. I know that this is an onerous task, but I also know that I can count on all of you and all the talent of the IUCN to achieve it.

For these reasons, I was eager, as a prelude to our meeting, to thank you in particular, Mrs Marton-Lefèvre - moreover an active member of my Foundation's Board of Directors - for this token of esteem that you have conferred upon me.

I wish you all a successful and productive meeting for the IUCN - and above all for the wildlife that you defend.

Thank you.