

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today within the context of this 10th Hamburg Climate Week.

However, above all I would like to thank you for organising this forum, and for making it a key event for planetary protection and climate mobilisation.

This issue is indeed the key challenge of our times.

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Every year, we are witness to an increasing number of disturbing, if not catastrophic, weather patterns. Over the

past few days, we have seen the devastation caused by Florence, Isaac and Helene. Over the past few weeks, deadly fires have ravaged California and Greece. Over the past few months, floods have killed hundreds of people in Japan and India. Once again this year unprecedented heatwaves have hit Canada and Scandinavia. The highest temperatures ever have been recorded in Oman, Baku, Scotland and Algeria.

And these disturbances have only just begun.

The ice melt will lead to rising sea levels which will make whole regions uninhabitable, will engulf others, and will destroy many ecosystems. .../...

The disappearance of permafrost will release billions of tonnes of carbon, which in turn will accelerate global warming.

Ocean acidification, already perceptible and already tragic, will continue to intensify. It will further impoverish our seas which are already severely impacted.

Alteration of the ecosystems will result in the disappearances of thousands of species.

Agricultural yields will be affected: last year, a study published by the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America established that each degree-Celsius increase in global mean temperature would, on average, reduce global yields of wheat by 6.0%, rice by 3.2%, and maize by 7.4%.

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New viruses, until now trapped in the Arctic ice, are likely to re-emerge. Others, dependent on the temperature, may well affect new regions.

All these phenomena are of course likely to have consequences on a par with large-scale conflict on the Planet's geopolitical balance, and on peace itself.

I know that all of this may sound alarmist. I know that it is difficult to accept that a few degrees warmer in the atmosphere can have such an impact. Sadly, however, this is more than a likelihood: this is the future we are preparing if we do nothing.

But what can we do?

This is the question all of us are asking ourselves.

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This is the question with which we are concerned, and which has motivated Climate Week.

What can be done to ensure that we do not resign ourselves to leaving our children a Planet that has been completely destroyed?

What can be done to ensure that we are not witness to disasters of an unprecedented scale in the history of humankind?

What can be done to ensure that we do not appear, in the eyes of future generations, as a blameworthy generation? A generation that allowed disaster to set in, even though it had the knowledge, and in all probability the resources, to prevent it.

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Many of us are deeply concerned about these questions.

There is obviously no single answer to these questions, no miraculous formula.

However, there are solutions. We are not doomed to inevitability, or at worst to powerlessness. We can do something.

That is why I would like to talk about three areas I believe are important and complementary.

The first is to face up to reality.

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The bleak picture I have just presented to you is, I think of no surprise. You have been following the progress of Florence and Isaac. This summer you followed the horrific

progression of the fires. For years you have been witness to ever-growing extreme climate events.

And yet, all these news stories that follow in succession eventually negate each other. Their diversity prevents us from understanding the connection between them, and indeed the symptoms of a common cause. And the prism of current events detracts us from their consequences. And because of this we forget the extent to which each of these events is a source of untold suffering for those who bear the brunt.

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Our primary duty is therefore to understand what they mean, to give them the attention they deserve.

In order to do this, we need to support the scientists who for years have enabled us to gain better insight

of climate mechanisms and to gauge the consequences of our actions.

In this respect I would like to acknowledge the invaluable work carried out by the IPCC, without which we would not be able to understand the phenomena at work today, and without which we would find it even harder to take action. And I should like to say how delighted I am that the IPCC has accepted the proposal, primarily put forward by Monaco, to devote an interim report to the oceans and the cryosphere.

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We must take an active interest in these efforts to enhance knowledge and we need to understand the realities involved.

We need to look at these communities chased from their homes because of rising water levels, because of natural disasters, drought, famine, disease and crop failure.

We need to imagine the violence these situations generate, among all those for whom survival is a struggle. All those for whom resources are too scarce.

We need to accept the fact that the tragedies facing migrants, which have currently cast a shadow over the Mediterranean, are perhaps merely the warning signs of what might happen in the future.

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We need to understand that the climate situation, if we do nothing, is likely to be the cause of unprecedented humanitarian tragedies and violent conflict tomorrow.

We need to look at the human-being behind the figures. And to raise the awareness of our contemporaries.

Each one of us can do this. I do every time I am able, when addressing international fora where I am given the opportunity to do so. And my Foundation does this, via its

programmes. Each and everyone must be made aware of the reality.

Of course, this lucidity has a cost. Because it obliges us to meet a constant need: to act at all levels in our daily choices.

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We are all aware of these choices. And we make them every single day: saving energy, limiting waste, fighting pollution, promoting recycling, choosing to use seasonal and sustainable products.

This is the point of the partnerships we have built through my Foundation with many economic players. Whether they work in the energy, tourist or building sectors, they all offer ways to move forward, they all devise solutions. They all help us to take action.

These are perhaps small gestures. Some of them tiny even. In any event very far from the global tragedies I mentioned just a few seconds ago. However, they are crucial.

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They are crucial because there are billions of us and these billions of small gestures can change the world.

They are crucial because our world is a system, and this system operates mainly on economic mechanisms based on consumption.

Changing our consumption patterns, the way we travel, feed ourselves, the way we heat or cool ourselves, means embracing broader change.

Especially since our world is not based solely on economic mechanisms. It is also based on ideas. These ideas have already changed over the last twenty-five years.

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Having taken part in the majority of summits devoted to the climate since Rio in 1992, I have seen these changes take place. I have seen an idea, initially thought to be of marginal interest, gain foothold until it became a major global concern.

Of course, this change, unprecedented in speed, is still in its infancy. It is still incomplete. But it proves that nothing is set in stone, and that our world is changing.

To accelerate such change, there is a third course of action, which I would like to talk to you about. It involves creating new rules, new collective goals.

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This is what we are doing in multilateral fora, in particular the UN, where we have worked, year after year, to convince and involve as many States and stakeholders as possible in this noble cause of climate protection.

And this is what we are doing, each within our national frameworks, by implementing measures to combat greenhouse gas emissions, by promoting clean mobility, by restricting the use of hydrocarbons.

I know that Germany adopted key policies in this respect many years ago, which I wish to commend. The Principality of Monaco is also fully committed to doing this.

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However, over and above these political decisions and in order to reinforce them, each one of you is needed for these choices.

It is often under the pressure of public opinion, but also with the support of civil society, that States progress.

That is why this particular aspect is contingent on all of us: according to the means, energy and will of every individual.

This is the message I wish to convey today: to believe in your power, and to make it effective by taking action.

With your eyes, by accepting to look at the reality of the danger.

With your hands, by making the right choices in your daily lives.

With your minds, by inventing a new world.

We are often reminded of Goethe's beautiful words: "Whatever you think you can do or believe you can do, begin it. Action has magic, grace and power in it." More than ever before, these words should inspire us and pave the way for the future. The future of all of us. The only future possible for our fragile and endangered Planet Earth.

Thank you.