

December 2, 2019

Please attribute the following statement to **HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco**, on the opening day of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid.

“As world leaders convene at COP25, it’s critical we commit to taking immediate action to address the crisis facing our global Ocean”.

The Ocean plays a vital role in combating climate change and maintaining the general health of our planet, absorbing more than 25 percent of carbon dioxide emissions and more than 90 percent of the excess heat due to global warming. The recent IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere made it clear; climate change and other human activities have inflicted unprecedented damage on the Ocean and the biodiversity within it.

We cannot effectively address climate change until we take timely, ambitious and coordinated action to protect and preserve the Ocean. The world will be watching COP25 and expect nothing less than a collective commitment of responsibility of how we can both ensure the protection and integrity of our Ocean ecosystem and mitigate further damage to the Earth and all its living things.

What’s most crucial right now is that countries take immediate action to meet the commitments of the Paris Agreement and drastically reduce carbon emissions to limit global warming to well below 2° Celsius.”