

*Davos, World Economic Forum
Oceans session, 22nd January 2016*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

First of all I would like to thank you for inviting me and for all of you for being here this morning joining this session which is devoted to the oceans. These issues related to the ocean are of vital importance and must not be overlooked.

Like some of you I was in Paris last December for COP21 during which I took part in various side-events and meetings focused on the oceans. For the first time, those addressing climate change fully integrated, within the climate agenda, maritime issues.

However, I am convinced that the Davos Forum can be as important as the UN conferences to find solutions in favor of the future of the oceans.

The UN meetings are necessary because no major issue can be solved without a political decision. We all know that this process must be complemented by the actions of the civil society.

Without the dynamism of the corporate world and economic players, we cannot achieve radical changes for a better world.

Therefore it is up to those who embody the vitality of our world, those who invent it day after day, to address this vital issue.

It is up to you to drive the change that scientists, NGOs and even States outline, call for and make possible. It is up to you to deliver the full potential to what is undoubtedly one of the greatest challenges of this century!

Because the sustainable management of our Oceans and the economic activities they generate is too broad and too complex to be dealt only with international negotiations.

It needs every individual, every vital force and every intelligence.

the oceans provide a particularly enlightening example of the interaction between ecological requirements and economic challenges.

I am thinking of course of the entire agro food industry, which, with a growing world population is increasingly reaching out to the sea and its extensive resources.

How can we imagine that it will be able to meet the needs of a population that will soon reach nine or ten billion human-beings, if our seas are polluted, depleted of their biodiversity by uncontrolled overfishing, deprived of life?

I am thinking especially of the fishing, aquaculture and shellfish industries, sometimes victims already of the indirect effects of global warming, and in particular of ocean acidification, a phenomenon still too little known and about which my Foundation strives to raise awareness. .../...

How can these industries develop sustainably with acid waters no longer offering satisfactory life conditions to

shellfish and crustaceans?

The marine bioresources offer profitable prospects for many industries, in particular the chemistry and pharmaceutical sectors.

How can we let such natural wealth pass us by, which can also provide us with products to substitute the plastic materials produced by a carbon economy, the cause of our climate woes.

This gives me the opportunity to highlight the considerable negative impact of plastic waste in the oceans and salute the actions taken for a transition towards a circular economy. Among these actions I would like to command the report published by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation just some days ago .

We cannot forget the energy issue, for which the oceans offer infinite resources, whether derived from the current, the wind, the tide, biomass or even heat exchange, such as the heat pumps we have successfully installed in Monaco.

How can we overlook this boundless, non pollutant and sustainable potential, at a time when our energy model is reaching the end of its tether?

Finally, the transport issue, of these container ships which are the driving forces of world trade. Today, close to 80% of transcontinental trade transits by sea.

This will certainly increase as the sea, with its gigantic container ships, enables us to transport 20 tones of goods from Asia to Europe for a cost lower than that of an air ticket in economy class!

This essential traffic must contribute to the sustainable management of the liquid infrastructure it uses. In particular by moderating its carbon emissions, so that it is not an irresponsible player in the ocean upheaval of which it is bound to suffer the consequences, including among others the multiplication of extreme weather events.

For all these reasons, today the future of the oceans largely depends on companies and economic players.

Those who make a living directly on marine resources and who need to learn how to manage them sustainably, to develop responsible practices and to think in the long-term.

But more broadly, the future of the oceans depends on all those whose actions and choices, have indirectly an impact on the climate, on biodiversity, on pollution and on the exploitation of natural marine resources which now need to be protected.

It is thanks to their mobilization, to the mobilization of you all, that we can hope for the emergence of new solutions.

Therefore I hope that our discussions today will allow us to define concrete outlines of such mobilization, in particular within the scope of a true New vision for the Ocean. Above all I hope that they will provide us the means to take action as quickly as possible for our common future.

As Jules Verne wrote, "*The sea is the vast reservoir of Nature. (...) The globe began with sea, so to speak; and who knows if it will not end with it! It is up to us more than ever before to protect this reservoir, so that our history does not end with the sea*".

I am counting on you for this. Thank you.