

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

First of all I would like to thank you most sincerely for having devoted your time and intellectual input to these two days which have been intense, demanding but worthwhile.

The third edition of this international workshop on the economic consequences of ocean acidification has confirmed the importance of this event which my country is proud to host, together with its partners: the International Atomic Energy Agency of course, but also the Monaco Scientific Centre, the French Government, the US State Department, the ICRI, the IUCN, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and my Foundation.

Its originality and its multidisciplinary approach appear more and more important in developing a relevant message and making sound recommendations.

For Monaco, ocean acidification is a major concern and an ongoing commitment.

It is here that in 2009 the declaration was signed which was one of the first to alert public opinion and world leaders to this phenomenon.

It is also here that the International Atomic Energy Agency set up the International Coordination Centre on Ocean Acidification within its marine environment laboratory.

The creation, last year of the Monaco Association for Ocean Acidification provides a centre for coordination of activities.

With my direct intervention, as well as that of my Government and my Foundation, we take action on this issue whenever we can, just as we are doing today.

In this respect, these working sessions have kept their promises. I believe they have enabled us to gain a clearer understanding of various attributes relating to ocean acidification as well as climate change and the transformation of our environment.

We have been able to hear various points of view over the past couple of days from top experts from diverse backgrounds including sociologists, economists, biologists and oceanographers as well as those from environmental organizations. In light of their contributions, I would firstly like to draw attention to a phenomenon that I believe is important; the powerful convergence in the speeches and analyses presented to us.

Of course this does not preclude a variation in the nuance of the approach or the differences in terms of priority.

However, this overall consensus, when faced with an environmental issue, creates a relatively new situation which opens up significant prospects from a political point of view. This is because the challenge is to find collective solutions which respect everyone's interests and which provide joint opportunities.

The economic approach plays a key role in this. By promoting a common language, the economy enables us to share three key elements: observation, objective and responsibility.

The observation is that acidification is already under way and its consequences will be both serious and universal.

These consequences will strike ecosystems as well as human activity. Their impact on coastal communities has been widely developed here. However we know that there will be wider effects, on our living environment and on our economy, on our food and on our leisure activities...

As such, ocean acidification is, I believe, one of the greatest scourges resulting from the considerable development of anthropic greenhouse gas emissions, to have both concrete and global impact.

This first adverse consequence is already quantifiable and climate change is its best known factor.

It thus provides us with an initial point of convergence so that we are finally able to take effective action.

This shared view naturally encompasses the objectives which we focused on during our working sessions: firstly, the limitation of greenhouse gases which is the only way to enable us to combat the main cause of ocean acidification sustainably.

This is a complex issue which requires very diverse actions:

↳ At a local level, as in Monaco where we are firmly committing to an energy efficiency strategy and withdrawing fossil energy sources or as my Foundation is doing, by supporting such initiatives in many areas of the world.

↳ And at a global level, through the creation at last of binding regulations. This is one of the objectives of the UNFCCC Paris meeting, the preparations for which I am actively working on.

Another objective which we need to focus jointly on is limiting coastal water pollution which is also responsible in part for significant ocean acidification. In the Mediterranean especially, this is a growing problem for which solutions need to be developed.

In the same way, the preservation of certain areas which help to increase the resilience of marine organisms and ecosystems and limit destructive factors should be encouraged. The coastal populations should be the first beneficiaries. This is one of the objectives of the scheme we are undertaking to promote marine protected areas.

Finally, the last objective which we need to jointly focus on is the inevitable adaptation to climate change and its consequences. Faced with the difficulty of making progress in international negotiations on this issue, and aware of the pace of the chemical processes under way, we know that we will struggle to reverse the trend by the end of the century. At the very most we may be able to curb it which would in itself would be a good start.

That is why honesty and responsibility must drive us to work as quickly as possible on adaptation procedures, whilst continuing of course to look for global solutions.

This is the last point I would like to mention here: our sense of responsibility when faced with global changes affecting the planet which we will leave for our children.

However we choose to take action, whether it be through the development of science, political undertaking, economic initiatives or through our own individual choices, we are all part of the same world, governed by common laws, but we often struggle to see the true consequences. This is the power of the economic approach that has brought

us together today: to demonstrate this convergence in a concrete manner and, at the same time, highlighting its urgency. But it is the responsibility of all of us to learn from this experience.

Archimedes said that with a place to stand and a lever he could move the Earth. The objective, scientific and economic approach that has brought us together today provides this. It is up to us to bring the levers - all the levers - available to us into play!

Thank you.