

Dear Princess Laurentien,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you here at the Maison des Océans, for this funder seminar organized by the European Climate Foundation.

I want to thank all and everyone of you for your strong participation today despite the recent heinous attacks in Paris.

I am all the more delighted to welcome you for this rather special day in the extensive program of COP 21.

It is special firstly due to its theme. While the focus is currently on interstate negotiations, it is important to give voice to other players, to promote dialogue with civil society.

It is also special due to the location hosting us : this Oceanographic Institute is in fact a hybrid venue, in the same way as the issues we are to discuss today. An institution created by my great great grandfather, Prince Albert I, in a unique partnership between the Principality of Monaco and the French Republic, between political powers and academic institutions, the Institute welcomes various initiatives all of which are committed to sharing knowledge.

This vital link between science and action is, I believe, at the heart of the issues bringing us together. Nothing can be achieved in respect of environmental conservation without a solid basis of scientific knowledge. However, science alone cannot change the world: it enlightens it and enlightens those who take action, whether this be NGOs, companies or States. It is therefore crucial to support and encourage research, but crucial also to share the results and disseminate the conclusions.

Finally, if this day is so special it is also, I believe, due to the values that unite us. While COP 21 is dominated by a difficult conciliation between conflicting interests and points of view, we are here today with the same belief: the need to take action, together, for the common good.

Combining the forces of civil society is not however an easy task. We are all aware of the difficulties of this world, the uncertainty and crises it is experiencing.

But we can also see, and the whole of COP 21 has proved this throughout the week, that these emergencies must not lead us to ignore the vital issues posed by our development model. Because the challenges of global warming are indeed these: the consequences of an economic and industrial model which is gradually destroying our biotope and disrupting global balance.

o resolve this, we are well aware that the decisions made during this COP will not suffice, no more than those made at future multilateral meetings. However determined they are, States will never succeed alone in changing the everyday lives, points of reference and dreams of thousands of human beings. They will need to have the support of civil society, to involve people, intellectuals, scholars, artists, companies and unions – all the driving forces that make nations and allow them to progress.

This is what spurred me back in 2006 to set up a Foundation dedicated to environmental issues, and in particular three key challenges : the climate, biodiversity and water.

For me it was not a question of competing with the action I was implementing for my country but of supplementing it, thanks to a flexible grassroots mode of action, open to partnerships with private institutions and non-governmental organizations. And today I can vouch that this complementarily has proved its worth.

I will take an example about which I think all of you here have heard – conservation of the blue fin tuna, for which various levels of action were implemented. Whilst the Principality of Monaco took major initiatives in international forums, including CITES and ICCAT, my Foundation mobilized civil society stakeholders and consumers. Thanks to this unique alliance we succeeded in restoring the blue fin tuna population in the Mediterranean sea.

Faced now with the climate challenge the same attitude should guide us. In order to exit the carbon economy which is the main cause of global warming, we need to convince our contemporaries to change the way in which they travel, feed themselves, work and consume... in other words, the way they live.

Of course this will not be easy. We will need to sway reticent minds, to support the most fragile among us, but also to invent new solutions, test theories and stimulate innovation. Above all we will need to convince everyone of the huge potential of this reinvention movement, which should be a source of progress, well-being and growth for the majority of people, without which it is likely to fail.

How can we do this? How can we get the people and populations of this world involved in this century's great adventure? How can we prompt and develop innovation? How can we mobilize good will? How can we collect and disseminate good practice? These are the many questions we are facing today.

These are questions I wish to address you, all of you who represent the most dynamic, the most inventive and the most generous of what civil society offers. It is your experience, your analysis and your ideas that alone can help us to address the vast challenge we face together.

I hope that this day of discussions will enable us to outline answers to these questions and to define potential courses of action. Above all I hope that it will resonate beyond this institute, to political leaders and the populations who need to work with us to build a more sustainable world.

the race against climate change, we need resolute, clear and accessible communication, courage and a long term perspective. In this respect I would like to honor the presence of very special guests here today, and in

particular to acknowledge Al Gore's initiatives, as well as the work of Bill Mc Kibben, whom I recently had the pleasure to award a prize from my foundation.

To convince and engage decision makers and the public is not easy, but it is vital to advance environmental causes and ensure a sustainable future for our society.

I am very pleased to see gathered here so many international foundations involved in the fight against climate change worldwide. I have no doubt that sharing experiences from around the world will stimulate cooperation, rendering your actions even more effective.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

In a memorable page of the *Misérables*, Victor Hugo wrote "Daring is the price of progress" and he went on to say "The dawn dares when it rises. To strive, to brave all risks, to persist, to persevere, to be faithful to oneself, to grapple hand to hand with destiny (...), to hold fast, to hold hard - such is the example nations need, and the light that electrifies them."

More than ever before, we need to dare, to strive, to persist and to persevere. The world is in vital need.

Thank you.