

Thank you David.

I am pleased to be with you today to support the work of the I.O.C and the release of the very anticipated first *Global Ocean Science Report*.

UNESCO's leadership towards science and its dissemination for the purpose of improving world governance has been remarkable.

Monaco has been a long-standing partner of UNESCO on many projects and in particular of the IOC for the establishment of the *Ocean and Climate Platform*. We commit ourselves to make the *International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)* a reality and a meaningful success.

"The ocean" can be compared to "the climate" a few decades ago :

We don't know much about it, we don't see much of it and we assumed, until recently, that its vastness was a source of limitless resources.

Well, we know now that this kind of thinking is simply wrong. Wrong and dangerous as it prevents us from adopting the right policies to reverse damages and prevent further losses.

Science is crucial to address the present marine environmental challenges. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations to deepen our knowledge and develop our understanding of oceans.

We shall aim at discovering and protecting what we rely so much on for food security, sustainable tourism, energy, shipping and nothing less than the survival of nations and the true identity of their peoples.

The *Global Ocean Science Report*, a snap shot of the status of ocean research, will have a significant impact on decision-making processes at all levels : international community, national governments, local communities.

It will also promote technological innovation and capacity-building, by stimulating investments and strong economic incentives and highlighting as well great potentials findings for the future.

I can only endorse this quest for knowledge and the prevailing of truth.

This is why, back in 2015, I approached the IPCC and advocated for a Special Report on the interaction between the climate, the Ocean and the cryosphere.

The findings of which have confirmed the worrying consequences of global warming and the increase of greenhouse gases and their impacts on the oceans.

This conviction lies also at the core of the voluntary commitment I came to register on the occasion of the United Conference on the implementation of SDG 14: "The Explorations of Monaco", a marine scientific research program.

For 3 years, the Yersin, a state of the art vessel converted into a scientific platform, will set sail to remote places around the world.

The international and multidisciplinary crew of scientists will work in close collaboration with local experts to study marine ecosystems. Their findings will be shared and serve as means to raise awareness and promote education and knowledge for action.

This vessel is a "clean ship". Built with the aim to protect the sea and the environment at heart. Her material and equipment will match the technologies used on board for waste storage and energy consumption to ensure the minimum impact on the ocean.

By reviving my country's long-tradition of great expeditions of past centuries, I thus intend to contribute more science to our deliberations and to reconnect Humanity and the Sea.

Please let me take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the 8 Ocean Champions and thank them for their outstanding contributions.