

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

First of all I would like to thank the organisers of this World Ocean Summit who have given us the opportunity to meet again today on a key issue.

For thousands of years, humanity has considered the sea as an infinite source of wealth, which was easy to exploit and had no concern about its renewal. We now know that these vast expanses are not infinite. And above all, we know that our activities will have repercussions on them.

However, despite these certainties, we continue to behave as if our impact on the oceans were insignificant. This phenomenon of denial is not unique to the oceans. Whether it be the climate or biodiversity, for example, everywhere we can see the contradictions of our society, which is depleting the resources it relies upon and weakening the balance on which it depends.

These contradictions are not of course illogical. At a time when many of our contemporaries face crisis situations, it is difficult to convince them to give up comfort, progress or their usual livelihoods.

That is why, when discussing the situation of the oceans with you, I wish to point out that this issue is not something we should comment on without considering the situation of the people who live on their shores.

Preservation of the environment cannot be accomplished against human wishes, on the contrary: it can only work by establishing a sustainable model, capable of reconciling the legitimate goals of population development and the constant requirements of nature. This is the point of our meeting today.

To consider such a model and to build a sustainable strategy for the oceans, I believe we need to address three main challenges. The first is feeding a global population of nearly nine or ten billion human beings. The second is supplying its energy. And finally the third is managing our common natural heritage.

In order to leave time for dialogue, I don't wish to speak for too long, so I will just outline a few ideas for action. I won't dwell upon the problems, of which everyone here is aware, but will focus on the solutions which I believe are possible.

First of all with regard to food, and its impact on the ocean.

Faced with the problems posed both by overfishing and fish farming, as well as the numerous negative side-effects, we need to adopt an ecosystem approach to the issue.

This involves firstly protecting the most endangered species today, the disappearance of which would have a tragic effect on the entire food chain. This is what I have been doing for several years for the bluefin tuna in the

Mediterranean. This emblematic animal is currently on the way to being saved, but other species are still threatened. I feel it is important to point out here that protecting the seas means protecting each species living within them.

More broadly speaking, this same approach also implies protecting the ecosystems that are now vulnerable. For this, the most attractive solution is marine protected areas and economic exclusion zones. The protected areas make it possible to reconcile sustainable fishing with ecological imperatives.

Even more, by fostering the regeneration of stocks, they allow for a significant increase in the number of fish caught in the surrounding areas, thus having a direct impact on local production.

With my Foundation, I am committed to promoting such initiatives, year after year.

However, with 2.3% of the World's maritime areas under protected status today, we are still far from achieving the target; especially from the objectives fixed at the Nagoya Conference in 2010 and which anticipated bringing this figure up to 10% of marine areas by 2020, which in itself is undoubtedly still insufficient... It is therefore crucial to sustain all efforts in this respect.

The second challenge we need to address is energy. Once again, this is a key issue, both for the development of human populations and for the environment, directly threatened by global warming

We can see this today: there is great temptation to go and look for new resources in the yet unexplored ocean depths. It is in fact estimated that most hydrocarbon resources available on Earth are situated beneath the sea...

But this would be a short-term solution which would not resolve energy problems, would intensify global warming and would put these areas, today more or less still intact, at risk. That is why it is essential to develop renewable energies, for which the sea is a valuable and undoubtedly infinite source.

From hydrokinetic, thermal and wind power to tidal and wave energy, there are many promising opportunities. It is important to arm ourselves with the proper means to develop them.

The third challenge that I wish to mention here is of a political nature: common ocean management. This is a challenge common to all environmental issues.

Like nearly all environmental issues, sea protection suffers from the lack of binding international tools. This is particularly true for the high seas, which represent close to half of the Planet's surface area and which are currently in a situation of being almost a vacuum in legal terms, conducive to all kinds of abuse.

That is why it is vital to reinforce the only tool we have: the Montego Bay Convention, whose revision is currently being examined by the United Nations. The status of the high seas and the ocean floor should be clarified on this occasion and be given a minimum legal framework.

Monaco, which signed this Convention in 1982, can only hope that it is successful and that it will unite us all, including the United States of America, the number one maritime power in the world.

These are the few points I very quickly wanted to mention, as a prelude to our discussions.

I do believe that by modifying our approach to these three challenges - food, energy and politics - we can plan a sustainable strategy, the only way to ensure the coexistence of humanity and the sea.

Finally, I would like to add one last point: the need to increase knowledge of our oceans, which is an essential basis for any progress. Yet there are significant gaps in our knowledge today. Consequently I would like us to give ourselves collectively, in particular by encouraging the work carried out by the scientists who explore it, to gain a better understanding of the ocean, its fauna, its flora and its depths.

This is a prerequisite in order for us to be able to address the key challenge represented by the ocean, one of the most important and most demanding of this century.

As the great American zoologist and pioneer in ecology Rachel Carson wrote in the introduction to her magnificent book *The Sea Around Us*, "the sea has always challenged the minds and imagination of men and even today it remains the last great frontier of Earth".

Thank you.