**Closing remarks by Robert Calcagno and Olivier Wenden (total duration 5.50 minutes)**

Dear friends of the Monaco Blue Initiative,

We are very pleased that this digital edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative could take place despite the current context, during which all our habits have been turned upside down. It was the wish of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II and of our two Foundations to ensure that this platform for debate and dialogue, launched 10 years ago, may continue without interruption.

We believe that this first-ever digital MBI, was a success - and that is thanks to our distinguished speakers, moderators and panelists\*. Thank you greatly.

Thank you also to all the attendees for connecting, you were close to 200 to attend one or several of these workshops over the past month.

A considerable number of topics were discussed during these online sessions and important recommendations emerged which we hope will be taken into account in the high-level Ocean gatherings to take place in the coming months.

From the place of Marine Protected Areas in international negotiations, on to the importance of community involvement in MPA management, and ending by the sustainable blue economy today – we have had three sessions full of inspiring messages, engagements, and concrete examples and ideas to stand up to the challenge which lies ahead of us.

We can highlight a few salient points:

The Covid-19 crisis seems to be intimately linked to the degradation of the environment, itself linked to anthropogenic activities. However, in many countries, due to the worrying sanitary, economic and social context, environmental protection is not the priority. It may be more important than ever to make sure that Marine Protected Areas and other effective conservation measures are placed at the centre of international discussions.

As highlighted by His Serene Highness and by many keynote speakers and panelists our collective goal should be the protection of 30% of land and Ocean by 2030. with a substantial part under strict protection. Workshop 2 stressed that ultimately though, what we need is 100% sustainable use of the oceans.

(handover)

Today’s final session on the Blue Economy showed concrete examples of the commitment of economic actors to ocean protection, and of how to make economic activities go hand in hand with conservation. We welcome the efforts of the private sector to create this ocean-friendly strategy.

We would like to convey a clear message of engagement: we will be there, the Principality of Monaco will be there, to support such positive initiatives, and to help ensure that your efforts are known to the decision makers and the general public.

It is in this spirit, and thus on the topic of the Blue Economy, that the 12th edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative will be held on 21st and 22nd March 2021. We count on you all to help us identify champions of the sustainable blue economy who will be able to testify to their commitment and their success stories, but also difficulties and lessons learned. Thank you in advance for your suggestions!

There is still a long way to go to make the blue economy truly sustainable.\*\*

The ability of different actors to put their ideas on the table, recognizing different points of view and finding compromises, will be critical.

For such exchanges, the knowhow developed by “Sustainability science”, a concept cofounded 30 years ago by our speaker Prof. Carl Folke will be essential. It is necessary that scientists are able to work transboundary and holistically and to consolidate an actual scientific analysis and advice which will be palatable to entrepreneurs and policy makers.

We therefore call for these discussions to ramp up in the weeks and months to come, and we count on the commitment of all our partners. You are all aware of the very busy Ocean agenda ahead.

Dear friends, despite the difficult context of this pandemic, we have noticed during these workshops, that your efforts and commitment remain intact and even strengthened. On behalf of His Serene Highness, His Foundation and the Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation, we would like to extend a sincere thank you for your tireless work to protect our ocean!

*(Pour info, le secrétariat remerciera Rolex à la fin).*

We do hope to meet you again in Monaco for the next edition of the MBI in March 2021.

With this, I give the floor back to the Secretariat.

*\* Keynote speakers: the State Secretary Mr Jens Frølich Holte of Norway, the Minister for Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation of Chile, Mr Andrés Couve Correa, the French Secretary of State to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Ms Brune Poirson as well as Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissionner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries.*

*Moderators: Mr Jose Maria Figueres Olsen, of Costa Rica, Ms Grethel Aguilar, of the IUCN and Ms Nina Jensen, CEO Revocean.*

*\*\* Pour information, nous allons suggérer à Nina Jensen de rappeler la définition de la blue economy de la World Bank: "The sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems".*