

*Message de S.A.S. le Prince Albert II de Monaco
Sommet sur le Changement Climatique,
New York 22 septembre 2009*

I have responded to the call of the Secretary General at the Summit on Climate change to guarantee that we seal the deal in Copenhagen, next December. I have witnessed, first hand when I led Monaco's Arctic expedition in 2006 and again earlier this year, when I embarked upon a three weeks' long scientific Mission to Antarctica, the melting of the icecaps and I know we cannot afford to further ignore the urgency.

I have come to help seal the deal because I feel that I, as a human being, and even more so as a Head of State, have a moral obligation to act to alleviate the suffering of populations.

Science has asserted that the change in climate patterns has increased the violence and the intensity of meteorological events and in the process, jeopardized the food security, the health, the security and even the survival of millions of people worldwide. And yes, often those most affected are the most vulnerable and we, the United Nations, must be their voices.

I will ensure that Monaco contribute to seal the deal because I am convinced that we can achieve a green economy whose benefits can be shared throughout the world, in poor and rich countries alike. Yes, it will take a collective vision, strong political leadership and concrete incentives to involve the essential contribution of the private sector and appeal to the public conscience.

The United Nations must continue to provide the institutional framework and coherence needed for the task ahead, which consists of insuring a fair and sustainable development for all.

For it is high time we rallied and faced the reality. The levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere resulting from human emissions must be drastically reduced to control rising temperatures responsible for Climate Change. Developing countries as well as the most vulnerable countries such as Small Islands Developing States must be given the means to mitigate and adapt to climate change, through adequate financing and relevant clean technology transfers. In turn, altogether we must also commit to participating in this global effort.

Monaco fait partie des pays industrialisés dont les émissions par habitant sont les plus faibles au monde. Nous sommes cependant parvenus à les réduire progressivement à un niveau aujourd'hui inférieur d'environ 10 % par rapport à celui de 1990.

Cet effort sera poursuivi et amplifié et mon pays s'est engagé à réduire ses émissions de moins 20 % d'ici 2020 et de moins 60 % d'ici 2050, avec pour ambition de devenir carbone neutre.

Je réaffirme mon engagement à ce que Monaco remplisse ses obligations et agisse en partenaire responsable au sein de la communauté des nations.

C'est pourquoi les actions de coopération internationale de la Principauté s'inscrivent dans le cadre du Mécanisme de Développement Propre, respectueux des objectifs de développement social des populations les plus défavorisées. A ce titre, j'ai décidé de privilégier le continent africain.

Et je m'engage aussi personnellement. La Fondation que j'ai créée en 2006 promeut la recherche et le développement de solutions innovantes et écologiquement responsables dans les domaines de la protection de l'environnement et du développement durable.

Elle soutient de nombreux projets dans le bassin méditerranéen, les Pôles et les pays du Sud, visant à lutter contre le changement climatique et la désertification et à promouvoir la biodiversité, les énergies renouvelables et la gestion rationnelle des ressources en eau.

As a Patron of UNEP's Billion Tree Campaign, I am encouraged by the incredible response it received that shows the expectations of our societies but as the Head of a State Party to the UNFCCC I am extremely worried by the lack of progress in defining a post-Kyoto agreement.

We owe it to our Planet and to Mankind. Together and without further delay, let us seal the deal.
