

*Statement by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco
At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015
New York, 26 September 2015
(Unofficial Translation)*

Mr. Co-Presidents,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

Encouraged by the remarkable progress achieved by the Millennium Development Goals, but alarmed by the scale of the new challenges that rise ahead including the threat of climate change, we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations by adopting its most holistic and transformative program.

We bear the ambition to develop a new ethics of responsibility and solidarity to unite us for the next fifteen years.

In establishing the sustainable development goals, we have restored the connection that brings us back to our origins, our cultures and our humanity. Children of one Earth and one Ocean where life first originated, we embrace once again our common destiny.

The future of mankind cannot be conceived without the Planet's capacity to sustain it. This inescapable evidence brings us back to basics and reminds us of the precious value of natural resources and biodiversity that are necessary for our lives and that we have however jeopardized.

We recognize the urgency to correct our excesses, which exacerbated the depletion of the Planet while coping with the demands of an ever-growing world population. In the past century and a half, we have neglected the Earth and the Ocean fertile and life saving, indispensable to sustainable prosperity.

Empowered by our experiences and lessons learnt, let us resist the urge to give in into the present, so that the twenty first century be the century of education, social justice, respect for the rule of law and human rights, cornerstones of Peace. Let us evolve towards ideal societies of sustainable development.

My determination in endorsing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development lays on my deep convictions and personal experiences.

My country's actions are set in a secular tradition of world openness and sharing with the most vulnerable, particularly women and children.

Our commitments, in partnership with civil society, have always aimed to promote a harmonious development in combatting the tyranny of poverty and restore the dignity of

those left behind as well as the ever more numerous victims of conflicts, extremism or natural disasters.

Monaco has committed to adapt itself to the challenges of sustainable urban development. We have opted for ecologically rational solutions, particularly in areas of transportation and energetic efficiency, giving priority to quality of life and creation of green urban spaces. We pledge to the objective of reducing green house gases emissions by 50% by 2030 compared to 1990s levels.

Within fifteen years, three quarters of the world population will live in urban areas and the majority of young people will be concentrated in developing countries. Monaco is dedicated to pursue its efforts towards offering young people the opportunities they need to succeed and thus ensure that they can fully contribute to our countries' growth.

I am delighted that the role of sport in promoting sustainable development has been duly recognized within our Program of Action, as you all know of my attachment to the values of sport and those of Olympism.

Sport for development and peace is today indivisible from progress in all countries. It unites and reunites, prevents and educates. It teaches the respect and tolerance of others, while inviting one's self to excel.

These qualities can only incite individuals and populations to transcend themselves to "transform our world."

In this global partnership, I will remain personally involved in promoting healthy and productive oceans; as oceans act as climate regulators and ecosystem services providers.

Hindering the discovery of the unexplored ocean's treasure would deny the unexploited human's potential.

Like a sailing crew facing oceanic immensity, the capacity to reach the goals we have set for ourselves will be measured against the progress of the weakest of us.

Let us have the courage and give ourselves the means to not disappoint those who still see the ocean as a sea of hope.

This is the key to our survival but even more so it is our responsibility to build a more balanced world.

As Charles Baudelaire once wrote: "Free man, you will always cherish the sea. The sea is your mirror; you contemplate your soul."

I thank you.