

*Charity dinner on the occasion of Monaco National Day - Milan 2015
Proposed address by HSH the Prince*

Signore e Signori,

Cari amici,

Permettetemi di darvi il benvenuto a questa cena e di dirvi quanto sono felice di unirmi a voi.

Questo è dovuto innanzitutto al piacere di ritrovarvi tutti per questo bel momento di convivialità et di scambio.

Ma è anche dovuto all'occasione speciale di questa serata milanese, in piena Esposizione Universale.

Milano 2015 admirably showcases its quest for universality. Perhaps more than the diversity of the countries represented, it is its very theme that prompts us to focus on our common destiny and our responsibility to assume it together.

At the heart of our future, at the heart of our Planet's future lies the question of the exploitation of natural resources...And no resource raises more questions, speaks more to our contemporaries than those they need to feed themselves!

When there will soon be ten billion people on Earth, when living standards fortunately are increasing, leading to new consumption patterns, and when many environmental warning lights are turning red, each one of us can fully perceive the plight of our civilization. And each of us is keen to find efficient and responsible solutions.

Giving thought to how to "Feed the Planet" as we are doing here is therefore not just a matter of asking ourselves distant or abstract questions. It is about establishing an immediate and obvious link between our plain everyday lives and the long-term future of our world. It is about alerting the world to the dangers of a lifestyle whose limits we can already see and looking at the solutions that exist - because fortunately they do exist!

This is the strength of this exhibition and, more widely, of the issues, debates and meetings it brings about, of which this evening is an example.

That is why the Principality of Monaco was eager to become involved with much enthusiasm and much ambition in this event, as demonstrated by our Pavilion, which I hope you have

been able to visit. Tomorrow will offer us an opportunity to shed further light onto our many initiatives to promote solidarity and sustainable development.

Because these two ambitions go hand in hand, as do, as far as I'm concerned, the initiatives I implement with my Government both nationally and internationally, and the missions in which we take part with my Foundation.

Created in 2006, the latter is already involved in close to three hundred and fifty projects devoted to the fight against climate change, the protection of biodiversity and the preservation of the world's water resources. Complementing political action, our Foundation works as closely as possible to people, on a daily basis, in order to implement innovative and eco-friendly solutions starting now. Solutions which will enable us to pass on to our children a more pleasant, more sustainable and fairer planet...

Perciò, vi ringrazio calorosamente per il vostro sostegno e vi auguro un'eccellente serata!