

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends,

It is a great pleasure for me to wish you welcome here in Monaco for this moment of generosity, solidarity and responsibility.

Our Principality, which has such strong ties with the United States of America, is particularly delighted to greet one of its most eminent representatives here tonight: a great President who now plays a key role in the global philanthropic, humanitarian and environmental landscape.

This commitment is obviously an extension of your own political action, Mr. President, which you are pursuing in other ways, with other resources, in other fields.

By calling on generosity to tackle the problems weighing on our Planet's equilibrium, you have brought to light what I believe to be one of the main challenges to collective action in this century: fostering the broadest possible mobilization.

Generosity bears not only on financial resources, but also extends to all that men and women can bring together to assure their future in a fairer better balanced, more sustainable world.

At a time when our Planet is so deeply splintered that its future is jeopardized its future, there is a fundamental motivation towards mobilizing each of us within our means to move forward together.

The solidarity underlying our initiatives in no way contradicts other forms of intervention, political initiatives in particular, whether national or multilateral. On the contrary, it offers an extension and a supplement.

Similarly, this approach is not a condemnation of the market, but aims rather to mobilize players in this market in new fields. As you recalled in the book you dedicated to fundraising a few years ago, our world is brimming with admirable initiatives conducted by enterprises aware both of the world in which they live and consumers' expectations.

It was also to defend such principles that I oriented my own Foundation's initiatives; for the past five years it has been engaged in or supported nearly two hundred projects the world over, around the issues of climate change, biodiversity and water.

Each of these projects, based on the expertise of scientists and local players, was made possible thanks to the generosity of those who support us and the generosity of all of you gathered here this evening.

Whether it is in the fight against global warming or malaria, the struggle to conserve water resources or against HIV, our commitment focuses on the same concern: building a future for generations to come, knowing that such planetary plagues spare no one and often strike the most vulnerable.

Such is our challenge: to take collective action on all levels to tackle the issues of concern to us all. This is also what you are doing with the Clinton Global Initiative, in which I have already had the pleasure of participating (and will do so again next September).

In a globalized world where no avoidance is possible, in the face of global threat from which there can be no escape, it is our duty to implement global responses together.

This is what you do day after day, Mr. President, and this is what we are doing here together this evening.

Thank you.