

*Speech by HSH Prince Albert II
at the 'Greenhouse' soirée
15 May 2008 in Cannes*

Mr President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I would like to express my gratitude to this evening's organizers for having invited me in so successful a context, one that bears witness to Greenhouse's commitment to eco-responsibility.

There is nothing commonplace or easy about combining events and environmental concerns. 'Greenhouse' has dared meet this challenge and this evening demonstrates the talent with which the highly innovative 'eco-nightlife' concept has been implemented.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to be here tonight to express my convictions and the reasons that led me to make environmental protection one of my major orientations.

In July 2005 and April 2006, a century after my great-grandfather, I wished to visit the sites he had explored, to support my own convictions and be able to conduct comparative studies with reputed scientists.

Thus, I was able myself to observe significant melting of glaciers, a direct consequence of climate change largely due to the recklessness of human behaviour, in its modes of consumption as in its practices, both collective and individual.

Our Planet's survival urgently requires concrete actions to meet three great environmental challenges:

- climate change;
- loss of biodiversity;
- increasing scarcity of water.

This is why I decided in early June 2006 to bring my contribution and the Principality's to this struggle by creating the Foundation that bears my name.

In view of fair sustainable management of natural resources, my Foundation immediately took on the mission of:

- identifying priority emblematic projects;
- accelerating their launch to be able to achieve concrete results worldwide.

Its action is structured around three essential goals:

- undertaking actions with States, international institutions and opinion leaders to raise awareness and accelerate decisions in favour of sustainable development: this leads me to conduct missions in the field to alert people to these issues

- encouraging initiatives, projects, enterprises that bring together environment and innovation; to date, 52 projects have received active support from my Foundation in three geographic areas: the Poles, the Mediterranean and the least advanced countries.

- making today's men and women realize that this is their responsibility through large-scale communication programmes.

All the programmes my Foundation has selected are complementary to the environmental policy my country has been conducting at my request.

As you know, the Principality has long been involved in many international agreements and conventions in favour of the environment, particular in the Mediterranean and in the area of marine biology.

My Foundation's organization rests on governance bodies, namely a Board of Directors made up of highly reputed international figures, including two Nobel Peace Prize winners, alongside local personalities.

All private donations are allotted exclusively to the programmes we support.

To consolidate its reputation and expand its actions, the Foundation has also created a certain number of branches in various foreign countries: in France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and soon in Switzerland.

In the United States, we have developed ties with:

- the United Nations Foundation and the Club of Madrid in order to make post-Kyoto suggestions for effective, realistic measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- the Aspen Institute for measures to save the Arctic Region.

We are considering establishing other branches, in Italy, Canada and Germany, to facilitate the dissemination of information, the search for projects and the collection of funds.

Saving our Planet represents the main human and technological challenge of the new millennium that has just begun.

I would like to formulate the wish that, like Greenhouse with its avant-garde approach, a large number of entities all over the world may develop a genuine environmental conscience.

It is the duty of all of us, as responsible men and women, to mobilize, regardless of our standing or function in society, to preserve the Earth's priceless heritage so we can transmit a viable Planet to future generations.

Thank you