

# PRINCE ALBERT II

## Sovereign Prince of Monaco

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would first like to thank Mr de Montbrial for giving me this opportunity to speak to you, despite my being far from the principality, at the opening of the 5th World Policy Conference. Mr de Montbrial founded this conference to enter into wide-ranging discussions on the highly topical subject of new methods of global governance. He presides over these meetings with perspective and expertise, and I send him my warmest greetings.

Global governance covers a great many areas, including sustainable development, a subject in which I am particularly interested, which is now recognised as a genuine priority since the signs of a deterioration in the situation are now clear: climate disruption manifested primarily by milder winters in some parts of the world, harsher droughts in the African continent and record ice melt in the Arctic in the summer, an increase in the frequency and strength of extreme climatic events and flooding, pollution of freshwater reserves, intensive urbanisation and a decrease in cultivated land, and biodiversity under threat and imbalanced. All this means that we have to come up with new lifestyles, aimed at respecting carefully thought-out conservation. We also need to cooperate, since only by establishing trust can we dispel the fears caused by ambitions of sovereignty expressed in a given region sought after due to its energy resources. Similarly, faced with the prospect of a global population of nine billion humans by 2050, we must develop sustainable agriculture, which requires the implementation of good agricultural practices, primarily taking the form of converting farmland to organic farming, something which is still happening too slowly. However, progress is being made in certain respects with, for example, the establishment of the green and blue infrastructure which aims to connect land and aquatic ecosystems and to develop protected marine areas. As you know, my country has traditionally, and especially since the reign of my great-great-grandfather, the oceanographer Prince Albert I, focused its activities on ocean conservation. Today, the oceans have suffered extensive damage due primarily to intensive fishing, increased maritime transport and all kinds of pollution. Ecosystems have been weakened, some species have disappeared and others are heavily threatened, while populations are now deprived of the resources they get from the sea. However, when drastic measures are taken, species under threat of extinction can be saved. In other words, it is our responsibility to protect the oceans and the riches they contain. Indeed, the Johannesburg summit on sustainable development expressed it clearly ten years ago: there will be no reduction in hunger and poverty, no improvement in health, without protection of the oceans and in particular coastal zones. Today, the public has a clear understanding of the part mankind plays in heightening global warming. The joint goal of limiting global warming and the statement of solidarity to achieve it, the start of financing to help poor countries to protect themselves against climactic impacts and to ensure that development causes less pollution through the protection of forests in particular; all this surely constitutes progress. This goal is only fair for those inhabitants of the poorest regions and the generations to come. My foundation is conscious of this and works to this end by giving its support to numerous projects. The European continent must influence the implementation of the global governance which you so desire and which you are going to work on at this conference, as well as the correction of international injustices. The present situation really requires a gradual but profound change in our lifestyles, with the aim of moderation, solidarity and justice. That is why I have committed my government to encouraging energy programmes, investing in very high performance insulation and heating solutions, encouraging the use of public transport and promoting electric vehicles. Moderation is not an objective in itself; it defines the way for a new relationship with nature and man thanks to a better balance between our lifestyle and our relations with others, including our contemporaries in the most disadvantaged regions. With you, I believe in the promise of a new horizon founded on the commitment of everyone to give our Earth and mankind a future full of confidence. Thank you.