

Madame President,  
Mister President-elect,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to stand next to you all for such a commendable initiative.

By being at the helm of the United Nations General Assembly, the President's voice is multiplied and amplified. The result of having the UN Headquarters plastic free shows that leadership can make the difference.

It is a great legacy, Madam President, and you make us all very proud!

His Serene Highness Prince Albert II supports your campaign, Madam President, and His Foundation has partnered with Nat Geo on many occasions to protect the ocean.

That's why Monaco's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation is sponsoring this photo exhibit "Planet or Plastic" by National Geographic.

Tonight, I also wear with pride some of my 4Oceans bracelets!

As we celebrate "World Environment Day", and "World Ocean Day" this week, let us remind ourselves that, we, citizens of Planet earth, must reverse the trend on plastic pollution.

Soon, plastic waste won't find a State to be stored if it can't be recycled.

Governments must lead in adopting regulations and offering incentives for recycling, as we do in Monaco, but it is ultimately the consumers' choices that will bring the plastic industry and private sector to act.

From the clothes we wear, to the products we buy, we need to behave responsibly.

Nano particles of plastic released through washing machines end up making their way into the ocean. Even the most remote and pristine looking white sand beaches are now proven to be contaminated by these silent polluters.

What is the need for a plastic water bottle roughly the size of a goblet?

This photo exhibit is about saving the Planet from plastic pollution.

It is now my honor and pleasure to introduce H.E. Norman Wray, Governor of the Galapagos Islands. As a lawyer and University Professor we trust he will prevent that jewel of the Pacific, foundation for Darwin's theory of evolution to be damaged by excessive tourism and other form of pollutions, including plastic.