

*Welcoming remarks by H.E. Mrs Isabelle PICCO
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the United Nations*

*Excellency, Madam Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly,
Madam Beatrix Kania, Chief of Protocol*

*Excellencies,
Dear friends,*

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the United Nations as we celebrate the Anniversary of the Accession to the throne of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco.

This year we chose to honor His leadership in Ocean conservation by showcasing through this photo exhibition the strong links that exist not only between the Principality and the Mediterranean Sea but also between the Princes of Monaco and the global Ocean.

The Permanent Mission's Team and its thirteen partners have selected beautiful and meaningful pictures to illustrate three essential aspects relating to the sustainable use of the ocean: prevention, protection and promotion.

Let me thank them all for their hard and creative work to pay tribute to Monaco's Head of State on this special occasion. I also want to acknowledge the support of the staff of the Special Events Office of the U.N.

From the creation of a marine educational area, to the prevention of drowning, education is an essential tool to instill respect for the marine environment in the young generation.

In Monaco, the first Marine Protected Area was created in 1976. His Serene Highness is a strong advocate of MPAs, and their promotion is one of the main goals of the Monaco Explorations He launched two years ago.

The Prince's commitment to rely on the latest scientific knowledge to protect and promote the ocean is relentless.

*From addressing the adverse effect of climate change and ocean acidification, to the National energy Transition Plan,
from His expeditions to the North and South Poles to supporting innovation,
from campaigning for a better protection of endangered species to the restoration of natural habitats,
from fighting plastic pollution to instigating behavioral changes,
His passionate leadership for saving the ocean instills in each of us a sense of duty and urgency.*

I would now like to invite you to listen to the message His Serene Highness sent to support the campaign of the United Nations General Assembly President against plastic pollution. And I want to thank her once again for making the U.N. single-use plastic free and for this we will always be indebted to you Madam President, thank you so much.

NY - United Nations, 11 July 2019