

Welcome Address by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco

16th Edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative

24 March 2025 - Oceanographic Museum of Monaco

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear friends,

Thank you, once again, for joining us for this sixteenth edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative.

This gathering is part of a well-established tradition, yet at the same time, it is marked by several unprecedented developments.

The tradition, of course, is the Principality of Monaco's long-standing commitment to the Ocean, so beautifully embodied in this very room of the Oceanographic Museum.

Since 2010, this initiative has been dedicated to bringing together a diverse and high-level group of individuals committed to Ocean conservation, with the shared goal of addressing the key challenges facing our seas: how we can manage them, their economic importance, their preservation, and their future.

What is unprecedented this year is, first and foremost, the international context, one of great uncertainty, with challenges as dramatic as they are concerning.

Unfortunately, it is also the prospect of several significant Ocean-related events in the coming months: the Our Ocean Conference in Busan, Korea, the SOS Ocean Summit in Paris in just a few days, and the One Ocean Science Congress in Nice.

But above all, it is the upcoming 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference, which will also take place in Nice in less than three months.

This will be preceded, here in Monaco, as you know by now, by a major economic and financial event: the Blue Economy and Finance Forum.

In the difficult global climate that I just described, these high-level events offer not just a fortunate coincidence but a real opportunity to take action and regain some momentum.

And this provides us with additional motivation.

Since its inception, the Monaco Blue Initiative has been based on the recognition that cooperation among Ocean stakeholders is, absolutely, essential.

Political leaders, scientific experts, and economic players, only by working together, can we take effective and appropriate action to enhance both Ocean preservation and sustainable management.

This equation remains more relevant I think now than ever before.

And if the Monaco Blue Initiative remains crucial because neither national action - necessarily limited in the face of the vastness of our global Ocean -, nor multilateral efforts - often complex and difficult to mobilise - are sufficient on their own.

Whatever the circumstances, we always need to have active participation of engaged individuals and organisations.

We need those who refuse to resign themselves to seeing our Ocean devastated by climate change and their biodiversity destroyed.

And today, more than ever, I believe that we can count on all of you.

To drive this momentum forward, we must rely on the increasingly powerful and effective tools held by economic and financial actors.

Economics gives us the ability to transform our lives rapidly and profoundly, through consumer choices that shape production, transportation, and waste management in line with our aspirations.

Finance provides the means to mobilise vast resources, often far greater than those available to states or multilateral organisations, which are frequently overwhelmed by pressing global emergencies.

This is why it is essential to approach these issues with both care and determination.

The creation of a truly regenerative blue economy, the mobilisation of scientific expertise, the engagement of different decision-makers in this year's key events, and the preparation for these milestones, these will be the central themes of our discussions, here, today.

We will approach them with the spirit of cooperation and efficiency that has always defined the Monaco Blue Initiative since the very beginning.

So, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Our fight for the Ocean remains more urgent than ever.

Our approach, based on dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and the exchange of different experiences, is more necessary than ever.

That is what I hope we will demonstrate throughout today's discussions.

That is why we are here.

And I want to thank each and every one of you for your commitment, and for those who have stood by us for many years now, for your unwavering support.

The doubt should not discourage us, on the contrary strengthen our resolve.

We must convince those who turn away from the Ocean preservation to join our fight, because we know that our duty, until then, is to continue together on the path we have set.

The only conceivable path, for the future of our planet, our global Ocean, and for our future.

Thank you very much.