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Translated from French

## SPEECH

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In opening this exhibition alongside Dr. ELBARADEI, I would like first to avail myself of the opportunity to congratulate him once again on the Nobel Prize he was awarded in 2005 together with the Agency of which he is the head.

This shared award shows that the international community does not wish to separate the IAEA as an institution from the eminent personality who heads it, out of appreciation for the work they do together to promote peace and out of confidence in them.

The Principality, which fully shares these sentiments and has long been participating in the Agency's activities, will further increase its support for the Agency in the near future, specifically in the area of radiotherapy, by contributing to the PACT programme.

For a country such as mine, it is above all in the field of harnessing the atom to promote human health and development that we can support the IAEA in its fight against the great threats of our age, in the first rank of which Dr. ELBARADEI, in his Oslo lecture, placed "poverty, infectious disease, and environmental degradation".

Environmental protection, in particular, which has brought us together today, is an imperative which is especially close to my heart, and the Foundation I have just established in the Principality will work in this direction.

If possibilities for cooperation between this Foundation and certain Agency programmes arise, I assure you, Director General, that we will examine them with the greatest attention.

Protection of what is finally beginning to be thought of as "international public goods" embraces a vast scientific domain within which the oceans, or "the sea" as a Mediterranean like myself would prefer to say, have a crucial place.

For more than a century, the Principality has actively supported the scientific exploration of the "sixth continent". The part played by my ancestor, Prince Albert I, in establishing a science which was then new, oceanography, is well known — a science "in which", he said, "I felt that the solution to the great problems of biology lay dormant; in which I saw the outline of the most powerful realm of physical and chemical phenomena, from which birth, propagation and the evolution of beings emerged".

Nothing in the development of science since then has negated this vision, which was ahead of its time. On the contrary, the sea is more than ever regarded as a source of wealth for humans, as the repository for the accumulating evidence of our Earth's past, and as a precious resource for the future of humankind, which therefore needs to protect it. The sea is a symbol of liberty for poets, but it must now also become a symbol of solidarity among the inhabitants of our planet.

My country has always found in the work undertaken by Prince Albert I a source of inspiration for contributing to the development of the sciences and supporting initiatives to encourage sustainable development.

That is why the Principality is proud of hosting, since 1961, at Port Hercule, the IAEA laboratory dedicated to the protection of the marine environment.

It is to this laboratory that I entrusted the specimens I brought back from the expedition to Spitsbergen which I conducted in June 2005, and I particularly welcome the partnership which has been established between the MEL and the Monaco Scientific Center for the study of the relationship between corals and their environment.

I attach great importance to the development of closer relations between the scientific institutions of Monaco and international partners. The cooperation I just mentioned is a perfect example, and I am fully prepared to put more effort into this endeavour if the Agency itself is interested in it.

Let me congratulate the organizers of this exhibition on the splendid work they have accomplished and wish the Agency a fine anniversary and a wholly successful 50th General Conference.