

**Acceptance speech by
H. S. H. Prince Albert of Monaco
Recipient of “The Champion of the Earth Award 2008” –
Europe**

Your Excellency the UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director,
Your Excellencies, the Ministers,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

It is a great honour for me to receive the Champion of the Earth 2008 and I would like to express my gratitude to UNEP and its Executive Director Achim Steiner, whom I must also congratulate for his many actions towards environmental protection.

True, much still remains to be done! But what is important is that all the Planet's decision makers understand the precariousness of what we took for granted.

We can see the extent to which everything may sometimes be put into question because of human carelessness or the unleashing of natural forces. The world is changing as never before. The race to productivity is depleting the Planet and all too often damaging our heritage, the heritage we will bequeath to our children.

We have the duty to protect it. We can succeed only by relying on universal values. Developing countries are the first to suffer the impact of climate change. We have a need for solidarity, a more accountable solidarity in which we must each strive to fulfil our roles.

Tonight, dear friends, I would like to formulate the wish that, all together, we be ever more inventive, clear-sighted and generous. Let us unite our wills to save our Planet. The future of humankind depends on it.

Thank you.