

*5th Round Table on Philanthropy - Monaco, 26th January 2015
Proposed address of H.S.H. the Prince*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

Welcome to Monaco for this fifth edition of our round table.

At a time when our world is fraught with tension and many distressing crises, I feel it is important to take time to reflect freely and positively about the way to relieve its inhabitants, to improve their condition and to give to their lives the meaning which sometimes appears to be lacking.

This is the purpose of these round tables which enable us to progress, to give thought to and share avenues for reflection as well as for action.

Therefore I would like to thank you most sincerely for having made the effort to come here to take part in these discussions which.

I would also like to thank the Tocqueville Foundation and its Founder and Director, Jean-Guillaume de Tocqueville, who lends us his support for this initiative and the innovative Philanthropy Award, which we will be presenting later on.

The theme we have chosen together for this fifth edition - inequality - in particular within the context of globalisation, seems particularly pertinent to me in the light of the challenges with which we are faced.

First of all, because one of the effects of the rapid globalisation of trade we have witnessed over the past few decades, reshuffling the cards of many companies, is to modify and further widen inequalities. I think that Professor Ian Goldin will help us to gain a better understanding of these facts in a few moments.

These new inequalities are the result of a world in motion, which has many positive effects, enabling a large number of our contemporaries to escape the determinisms that entrapped their parents.

However these new kinds of rift must not become the horizon of a world set rigidly on new positions, these ever-increasing inequalities becoming impossible to overcome and thus creating two parallel worlds...

Philanthropy, which is founded on the attention paid to others, inherently does not see our world and our society split up into groups or into impervious and hostile castes. This is why we have here, I believe, important reason for both reflection and action.

Because if the issue of inequality has so much resonance today, it is also due to the multiple, multifaceted and sometimes extremely insidious form in which it is found.

It is not only, as has been the case in the past, a question of inequality with regard to capital or economic situation. In this connected world which cuts across traditional borders to invent others, in this smart world where the exchange of information sometimes weighs more heavily than the exchange of goods, and where innovation is supreme, inequalities do not concern resources only, but also education, the opening and the means of access to others, whether of a physical or intellectual nature... They concern health and food, lifestyle and - an issue to which I attach particular importance - the environment.

With my Foundation I devote much of my energy in trying to gain a better understanding and make others understand the impact of human activities on our planet. I can see month after month how these often neglected inequalities directly affect the life and perspectives of each of us.

Last week I was in the Arctic and was able to see the level of anxiety felt by the youth in these regions confronted with the upheaval in their lifestyles imposed by climate change, the invasion of companies prospecting for oil and gas and the opening of new shipping routes in the Great North...

Other than this latest concrete experience, the examples of this turmoil and the inequalities it creates are many. I am thinking of course of degraded landscapes, depleted natural resources, unsafe water and all the problems caused by a damaged environment. But I am also thinking, on a more mundane level, of the economic, dietary and health effects of this damage inflicted by humans on their Planet.

When a sea is emptied of its stock by overfishing and illegal fishing, when a forest disappears due to irresponsible forestry practices, when species die out together with their natural ecosystems, when global warming causes water levels to rise gradually engulfing coastal regions, the local populations are the first affected. They are the first victims of a global system that too often considers them to be negligible quantities.

And what can one say about water-related issues . Without safe water, no hygiene is possible, no public health, no effective control of the major epidemics that affect children and

newborns. I would like to point out that the UN estimates that over two million people die each year due to poor quality water...

I think that we have all seen examples of these new inequalities which have evolved from the ways of this world, imperfect ways: it is up to us to try and rectify, or at least attenuate them.

Faced with these new, complex and ever-changing phenomena, we cannot rely on traditional modes of action where the current situation sadly highlights their limitations. We need to invent new solutions, on a par with these unprecedented issues.

This does not mean that the action implemented by States and international organizations will be unwarranted or obsolete. On the contrary this means that it will need to be supplemented and above all tested by other forms of intervention.

By intervening as closely as possible with people, by experimenting with innovative forms of action, by creating new tools and by generating new means, philanthropy provides a complement which is essential to all the other forms of intervention.

That is why it needs to be developed, encouraged and improved. And above all that is why it sometimes needs to question itself, to suspend its action and to take the time, all too rare, for reflection in order to continue more effectively our efforts to invent.

As such I believe that YUVA Unstoppable, which we will honour later on this evening for its exceptional action for the benefit of youth and education, will be a source of inspiration for us all.

We know that our fight for a better world, purged of the hate and obscurantism whose horrific demonstrations we have seen in Europe, is fought partly through the education of minds and the education of youth. Therefore I am particularly pleased to be able to honour this important aspect of things this year.

To conclude, I cannot resist the pleasure, dear Jean Guillaume, of citing your most illustrious great grandfather, Alexis de Tocqueville, who in 1835 wrote in his *Memoir on Pauperism*: "As long as the present movement of civilisation continues, (...) we must look forward to an increase of those who will need to resort to the support of all their fellow men (...). We must discover the means of attenuating those inevitable evils which are already apparent. »

I think that such encouragement is more than ever relevant!

Thank you.