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9th President of the World Bank

We are privileged to have a remarkable group of principals addressing us today. Our objective is to have each speaker make a contribution and once that is done, we hope that there can be an open discussion between all of you who have an interest in the subject. There can of course be questions and answers, but we would also welcome a dialogue. This is a small group and depending on people's interests we will be happy to accommodate any methodology that you might find useful. We have a lot of time available and will aim for 20 minutes for each of the introductions from the speakers. To get us launched on the subject we have the privilege of having Christian Bréchot, who, as you know, is the leader of the Institut Pasteur. I would therefore like to ask Christian to start us off and then we will follow him with Dick Cooper, then Daniel Daianu and finally Thomas Kirkwood. Once we have heard what they have said I will make some observations based on what I have learned in the prior hour and a half and will seek to stimulate a discussion. Let me therefore start by inviting Christian Bréchot to commence.