



FRANÇOIS FILLON

Prime Minister of the French Republic

Message to the participants of the first meeting of the World Policy Conference

The French Institute of International Relations has demonstrated remarkable foresight by launching, with the World Policy Conference, new type of dialogue, centered on the question of international governance at the highest level. In autumn 2008, it is obvious that we are facing one of the major challenges of this new century.

This year has been marked by a triple crisis - food, energy, and above all, financial crises - which is weakening the expansion of developing countries, threatening the global fight against poverty, and introducing doubt about the future of the tremendous economic growth of emerging countries.

To cope with the situation: an international system fragmented into dozens of intergovernmental organizations, a multitude of non-governmental actors and, in the straightforward expression of Thierry de Montbrial, the general feeling that "there is nobody at the helm".

France, along with others, has not given up, and is steadily striving to contribute to the elaboration of a solution.

The priority for us is to better associate emerging countries with the management of this complex world, in exchange for greater responsibility from them. President Nicolas Sarkozy keeps saying what should be obvious for everyone: the reform of the Security Council must be urgently re-launched. We have to gradually move from a G8 to a G14. After the IMF quota reform, we need a larger representation of developing countries inside the World Bank; in reality, we need to reformulate the Bretton Woods system.

But beyond institutional reforms, states must regain a central role in orientation and initiative. They can achieve this if political willingness is present.

In the struggle for the climate, the European Union has made a first move by declaring the reduction of greenhouse gases as one of its ambitious objectives. France has launched the large program of "Grenelle de l'environnement". And it is the European "climate-energy" package that we want to successfully implement under our presidency, in order to set the tone for international negotiations.

Facing the global food crisis, the French proposal to establish "a global partnership for agriculture and food" has been accepted by the G8.

Lastly and above all, to surmount the international financial crisis, the French President has proposed a summit meeting of the Heads of State before the end of the year. The main countries concerned, those of the G8 and the major emerging countries should take part in it. This summit is required to define a better regulation for financial activities, to ensure effective control of rating agencies and to deal with excessive salaries, the transparency of transactions, accounting and solvency standards, the coordination of governments, central banks and regulators, and of course – we always come back to the governance - the role of the international financial institutions. Europe contributes to this thinking. This will be one of the main themes of the European Council to be held the 15-16th of October.

I am very happy and proud of the birth, in France, of this new forum which will no doubt become an important date in the diplomatic agenda. There could not be a better organizer than Ifri.

I wish you all fruitful work, audacious ideas and, above all, concrete propositions. We are open to your suggestions.

François Fillon