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Thank you, Thierry. You are truly a visionary in what you have created here, and what you have been doing here in the last two or three days resonates with the Obama-Clinton administration. When President Obama spoke in Cairo, and subsequently in Moscow, Accra and at the UN several weeks ago, he articulated a policy for the US Government that represents a change. I want to focus on three aspects of that change which relate very much to the subject of governance, and which are at the centre of what we in the US Government are trying to do.

The first aspect of what President Obama has spoken about is a new kind of principled engagement by the US and other governments with the UN and in bilateral relations in trying to find new ways to advance our common agenda. I was in Geneva at the UN Human Rights Council in September, where we helped the Egyptian Government to create a resolution that brought together the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the EU and others around the issue of freedom of expression, an issue that had caused great debate in previous years. We found that, rather than focusing on what divides us, we focused on what brings us together.

The second thing which animates what we are trying to do, and which relates very much to the subject of governance, is a focus on a single set of human rights and democracy standards, one set of rules for the entire world, including ourselves. President Obama, on his second day in office, issued three executive orders which called, among other things, for the closure of the detention facility in Guantanamo and an end to official cruelty by all officials. It is crucial that we lead by example.