

PANELLISTS' REMARKS

Thierry de MONTBRIAL, President and founder of the World Policy Conference

Thank you very much for these four extremely interesting reports. Louise Fresco suggested that the Thierry de Montbrial was missing in this round table. To tell you the truth, it was voluntary. I wanted to test the governance. If you have a session without a Thierry de Montbrial, something is wrong. I realise that Louise was totally lost. If even a small group like this needs some minimal governance rules - I am half-serious - what about the complex systems we were discussing over the last three days?

These workshops are really an extremely important part of a conference like this. I think in the future, we should deepen this part of our activities. Thank you very much. The presentations were outstanding. Since the topics of these four workshops are all linked in a deep way, I would like to ask each of you if you have comments or questions on the other reports. We could start in the initial order, so each of you can take three minutes to make some general comments on what the others have said. I will start with Bill.

William RAMSAY, Senior Advisor of the Center for Energy at Ifri

To have completed your experiment on governance, you might have stayed in the audience to watch what form of governance emerged, a little trial and error to see what might work. It is not too hard to comment on the rest of the panel's presentations because each of them applies in the energy sector. You hear about energy in health, you hear about energy in food scarcity, you hear about energy in governance. Energy has all of those problems, none of which has been resolved, all of which are under study, and all of which are changing and shifting. The dimensions change a great deal.

Energy did not think a lot about food security until we decided to get into alternative fuels for transportation because transportation is where we are most vulnerable to imported oil. Everybody asks, 'How do we change that? Let us get to biofuels. We will grow the fuels at home.' Where are we going to grow them? Well, where we already grow things, and so you find grains and other things displaced. You find pressure on prices. You find pressure on grains generally. It transfers to rice and transfers around the world. These are things we did not think about, the unintended consequences of how the energy sector operates.

Obviously, if the energy sector is dysfunctional and energy becomes too expensive, you find things like deforestation being accelerated because people who used to use LPG for cook stoves and things like that can no longer afford the cook stoves, and so you get deforestation happening around the peripheries of cities that have nearby forests. I watched this in Congo when I was Ambassador there. With aerial surveillance, you could actually see the deforestation progressing out of the cities as civil war in the city forbid access to LPG. Health issues immediately emerge if you have not got the kinds of energy you need for heating, for cooking, for boiling water. It is all tied together.

Our institutions are old and they are trying to adapt and shift. It was remarked that the IEA is obsolete. Maybe it is obsolete or maybe it came out of a different set of circumstances, such as the oil embargo in 1973/4, but it is a different world now. There is reason to adapt the organisations we have instead of going out and creating yet other ones. A proliferation of organisations is not an answer. That is a bureaucratic response to a substantive issue. It does not advance you - it complicates the dialogue, so let us see how we can maximise the use of the institutions we have. If outreach is not sufficient, go a step further. If outreach and substantive engagement can get you there, take the first steps.



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Thank you very much for your extremely well prepared second intervention. Now I give the floor to Louise.

Louise FRESCO, Professor at the University of Amsterdam

It seems to me that the underlying issue in our four working groups and also in the debates we have had this time, and in fact in earlier years as well, is the issue of global governance. The reaction of the world has been that every time we see a problem, we create an institution and a handful of treaties. That leads to 158,000 treaties and instruments. Obviously, that is not a way forward any more.

This raises the fundamental issue of reform of the UN system. It is clear that we need something like the UN, where countries are represented, whether that is on a one country, one vote basis or some other basis, but I think the real challenge for the future will be to redesign the UN system. Now, we are indeed stuck in the discussions around the Security Council. I would tend to think that we need to leave that to run its course since this is a very complex issue, and look instead at the part of the UN that we normally do not look at, and that is the proliferation of other agencies, whether it is in the areas of health, environment, food, water, what have you.

Just to give you one of my favourite statistics - in the UN, there are 29 agencies that have water as a prime priority in their strategic plans. I do not want you to even imagine the transaction costs of that. I think the current problems can no longer be dealt with by sectorial organisations, having UNESCO for education, ILO for labour, FAO for food and agriculture. We obviously need to clean this up. This is not going to be easy because these agencies all have their own constitutions and so on. However, to recreate a number of hands on organisations that actually act as platforms to help to share experiences in different sectors that are cross-sectorial, such as energy, food, health, I think would be a great advantage.

On the positive side, we must admit that while countries have been stalling and have been very slow, such as the UN system in the first place, of course a lot of innovation has come from civil society. I think in the area of climate, for example, the private sector is moving much faster and much more efficiently than most governments. Similarly, the NGOs and the use of social media mean that a lot of awareness is now being created on various issues. We need to find a way that is also a governmental way because we need some form of governance that incorporates these initiatives and gives us a very lean organisation with a few basic treaties, which will make sure that we create a level playing field, both for the private sector and for countries to work in.

Mr Chairman, I would like to suggest that that would be a great challenge for us to discuss in this kind of policy forum. Thank you.

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Thank you very much, Louise. Jérôme?

Jérôme CONTAMINE, Executive Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer, and Member of the Executive Committee of Sanofi-Aventis

I can give a quick summary because a lot has already been said, in particular by Louise. What strikes me from these four groups is that a lot of initiatives have been undertaken by civil society, as you mentioned, whether it is NGOs or private companies, who tend to have a global view today of where the world stands, and this has helped to progress things. On the other hand, the main institutions that were created after World War II obviously are outdated. We all



share that view and we see that in many areas progression has been overshadowed by other types of governing structures.

What is also striking, and which may cause frustration, is that we are clearly lacking global governance leadership. We still think the G20 may be one of these new governing bodies to tackle the issues we are all facing in a very interdependent world. It is fair to say, along with what my neighbour here reported from his group, that the G20 so far has focused more on short-term crises rather than the medium to long-term vision for the decades to come. There are elements there that point towards a need for leadership and action towards a complete overhaul of the existing institutions, which still rely upon things that were created some 50 years ago.

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Thank you, Jérôme. Stewart?

Stewart PATRICK, Senior fellow and director of the program on international institutions and global governance at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)

I have some brief comments. Firstly, I want to pick up on the last statement about the G20 and its role. All three of these areas are ones that I think lend themselves to G20 involvement. To some degree, there already has been some G20 involvement in, for instance, fossil fuel subsidy issues, food security, to some degree, a focus of the French presidency. Health would seem to be a natural one for the G20 to get more involved in. There is always a question about the degree to which the G20 or the G8 before it should, in a sense, stick to its knitting and have a narrow focus, as was suggested yesterday, but it is inevitable that when leaders get together, they will discuss whatever they like, regardless of what is on the formal agenda. I would expect a certain amount of mission creep in that regard.

Another point that comes out across the three of these is the indispensable role and growing role of the private sector in global governance and in public/private partnerships. This is certainly the case when we talk about climate or energy in realms such as emissions, trading, technology, financing and so on, but it is also true in global health - obviously in the role of vaccines, advance market commitment for vaccines and other sorts of arrangements.

I have a couple of other comments. Specifically with respect to global food security, the presentation mentioned a number of different things that could be done, including perhaps dealing with the volatility in commodities, greater investments in agricultural productivity and so on. One thing that we do not like to think about, but which was emphasised in a recent *Nature* article was the fact that we may have to limit the sort of consumption that we have, particularly our consumption of meat. It is extraordinary when you think about agricultural land that more than half of agricultural land, I believe, is devoted either to the production of livestock or to the production of feed for livestock. As demographic pressures and lifestyles change in the developing world, we are going to see greater and greater pressure on agricultural land.

My final point is on global health. There are a number of issues that were brought up in this area, which one could also see in different areas. One of them is agenda setting. Who actually sets the agenda? So often it has been the wealthy donor countries as opposed to the developing countries. You have obviously seen a shift and sometimes there are shifts on the basis of fads. Most recently, there has been a focus on non-communicable diseases as opposed to infectious diseases.

With respect to coordination, my sense is that the WHO is still trying to find a coordinating role in an incredibly crowded field. It has created something called the H8 or the Health 8 to try to address this problem, but again, this testifies to the lack of coherence that I think was described from that breakout session. Thank you.



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Thank you very much, Stewart. Now, let me conclude in the following way. As I said, I think the workshops are a very important part of such conferences. They are practical and influential in a positive sense, which is the ultimate purpose of this WPC conference. The idea in organising the four workshops was to concentrate on three very basic themes that are relevant for the global governance problem. Clearly, energy is one, and also food and health. I think there is at least one missing element, which is information. I would like to add a workshop on this issue next year.

Also we may have to consider water as a problem in itself if it is not covered by the others, which is not obvious and needs to be better thought through. I think we also need a transversal workshop, and that is precisely the theme of Stewart Patrick's workshop. By the way, Stewart is leading a huge effort at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and Washington on this issue of global governance.

Let me ask all of you for ideas and suggestions to improve the intellectual organisation of our work, whether it be on the plenaries or at a workshop level. I would be very grateful to you if you can share your suggestions. Thank you very much all of you.