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Having just had my 80th birthday, I am encouraged by what you say, although with an average of just five years to go and considering all the things that I want to do, it is a little worrying. However, we will see if I can break the norm and reach 90!

I would really like to try for a moment to put into perspective the remarkable interventions that we have had heard, I think you will agree that each of them has been very valuable in its own way. I would like us to go away from this meeting feeling both enriched by the individual interventions and with some sort of view of where we are going, based on them together.

What might be useful is to say that up until 2000, by which date we had a population of more or less 6 billion people, we had a world in which 80% of the income was with 1 billion people, the more developed countries, and 20% was with the other 5 billion, the less developed countries. By a little after 2010, we had pushed up to 7 billion people. We should note that in 1950 there were 2.4 billion people and by the end of the century it was already 6 billion, demonstrating a rapid growth rate.

What has happened since 2000, and a little before, is a period of extraordinary change. Our world was an 80/20 world, with the 80% of the income being the rich countries and 20% being the 150/160 countries that were recognised then as developing. 1990 then started to change. What the expectation is now is that by 2050, which is a little longer than Dick Cooper's 20 years, the 80% for the rich countries will be reduced to 35% and the other 65% will be with the developing countries. Dick may challenge that, but it is the view of the World Bank at least, at this moment. We will have a global population of 9 billion+. The 1 billion in the rich countries will have grown to 1.1 billion or 1.2 billion. All the population growth is therefore happening in the developing countries and that is demonstrated partly by the work that Christian Bréchet is doing because of the increased survival rate of people in the developing countries. His 32 research centres are helping to monitor and to give effect to. It is a wonderful thing in human terms in respect of the demographics and it is adding to a not insubstantial change in the global balance. I think that the issue of longevity really occurs more in the rich world than in the developing world but, as we have heard, here too we have great gains. However, as Tom Kirkwood said, how we deal with people who are getting older and get the economic benefit from them is something that we have still not solved.

What I therefore believe that we need to be thinking about in terms of this discussion, as we try to put the health issues into it, which are extenders of life, is what the world that we are going to be living in will be like. To start with, it is just going to be different. 20% of the population will be in Africa. We will have close to 2 billion people in Africa by 2050. It may be 1.8 billion or 1.9 billion, but again in the World Bank's statistics it is of the order of 20%, which is hugely different from what it is today. Africa will consist of 53 countries, if not more, by that time. The issues of healthcare and governance will become quite critical issues for us to confront on that continent.

The second thing that will happen is that the Western dominance of the top 20 or 30 countries from the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD), as we now call them, will be significantly smashed. The number one economic power will be China and India will probably be the number three. If we look at the top 30 OECD countries as we know them now, at a maximum 10 will be in the top 30 and there will be another 20 from the developing world.

The changing balance is becoming hugely important to us. It is becoming very important in terms of looking forward not just in respect of health and age, but also as regards the political and economic directions that we are moving in. I think that what Dick talked about was extremely important in terms of the dangers that he sees. By just adding do those dangers -- and not perhaps in relation to the asteroids but in respect of some of the other dangers that he talked about -- and the issue of the conflicts that he is worried about will be exacerbated by some of these growths. It will not just be the Chinese/Japanese issue but there will also be significant issues that could emerge in the developing world.



In terms of control of resources, the Middle East is a prime place, and it would be most unlikely that there would not be some difficulties in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

We are therefore looking at a world where the Sunni/Shia crisis or confrontation will continue and, in my judgment, it is very likely that there will be other issues in the Middle East including distribution of wealth and the effect of a more powerful Iran. We will have close to 2 billion people in Africa, who will be able to travel, and they will travel, and as was reported today, most or a significant number of them will have cell phones and the capacities that cell phones will give them. This is a very different situation than the one that I grew up in. We will see two or three countries in Latin America that will have grown significantly – including the leaders Mexico and Brazil – with the rest, not exactly without promise but with differing development patterns. Asia will be dominant. We will come to a world that will require institutions that are designed very differently from what they are today. If you take just the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, there has been a historic belief that the IMF should be run by a European and the World Bank should be run by an American, even if he is a converted Australian. With new centres of wealth, especially in Asia, looking forward, the issue of leadership and structure of the system becomes very critical. This is something that we have not yet been confronted. Indeed, the appointment of a remarkable woman to run the IMF was done because she was very clever and was appointed by going round quite quickly before the debate could take place and gained the support of the then President of France. She is doing a fantastic job, but that will not happen next time.

I believe that what we need to be thinking about this next period in relation to health and increased longevity, governance and the way that the world is moving in terms of its extra size as it adds another couple of billion people between now and 2050. We have to rethink many of the basics and for those of us who grew up before 2000 with the feeling that it was all very stable, it is no longer stable.

I would say that all four of our speakers have made it clear, that we need to go away from this meeting recognising that the world that we know today is going to be a very different world in the next 20 or 30 years. I hope that at further meetings of the World Policy Conference those issues can be dealt with. They are not adequately discussed today in other fora. Most national elections relate more extensively to domestic issues, and I include the United States and Europe in that, whereas the major changes that are going to occur will impact the structure of our world internationally.

It would therefore be my hope that in places such as the World Policy Conference we should recognise that the changes that are confronting us are very different historic changes. It is no longer just a question that every 100 years or so China and India have 50% of global gross domestic product (GDP) balancing the West, as was the case in 1815, China and India dropped to less than 4% after World War II. They are now coming back again. It is no longer just that issue. The issue is a very much more difficult one and is how can we comprehend these changes, including the issue of aging, which is not being dealt with, in my judgment and as was stated earlier, by almost any Government? The issues of healthcare, which comes up with this, and of paying pensions to the aged just distorts the systems that we have had up to now. Nowhere is this more critical than in the USA at this time, but it will be a global issue.

I hope that we will be able to dig deeper into these issues at this conference in the future because the problems are inevitable. The work that Christian Bréchet is doing is formidable in terms of its human values but in terms of numerics and the changing balance of the world, more needs to be done.

Let us then move on to the next discussion.