

JOHN ANDREWS

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My name is John Andrews and it is a real pleasure for me to ask for your attention for what I think is going to be a fascinating panel on technological change and global governance in health. I would very much like to invite Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani to join me. Christian Bréchot is already with me, and there is Madame Yan-Mei Zhu. Our three panellists are going to wax eloquent on the subject, but something does occur to me.

When I look at you in the audience and I look at our distinguished panellists, most of you, or most of us I hope including myself, will live into our 80s. Plenty of you will make it past the 100 mark. This means that modern technology has actually improved our health. However, we have ailments and epidemics that cross frontiers, including AIDS, SARS, Ebola and Zika. These are maladies which demand collaboration between governments and between health systems. They also demand big improvements, big inventions in the field of medical research. What I would first like to do is ask Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Hamad AI-Thani, who is the director of the ministry of public health in Qatar to take the floor.