



## JIM HOAGLAND

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Good evening. I want to congratulate all of you for the fortitude and the intelligence to be here at this closing session. It has been an incredible conference, where we have had an outpouring of terrific ideas and even some visions. I am struck by the thought that Raymond Aron, the great French political scientist, who also wrote op-eds, the opinion pieces in newspapers, said that there are only two sentences that count in any op-ed: the first one to get the reader into the subject, and the last one, which is to send the reader away with the message, and that is the purpose of our closing panel tonight, to get you into the subject by summarising, by wrapping up, and then to offer you their thoughts about the future and things to come. We will try to follow Mr Raymond Aron's prescriptions very well.

To save time, I am going to get straight to our distinguished list of speakers, you have their biographies, and so I will let you look that up.