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President of France

My greetings to all the participants in this World Policy Conference, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, and my congratulations to its President, Thierry de Montbrial, for having established, in the international landscape, this French-speaking forum, which makes it possible to discuss, inclusively, the key challenges of our time.

Warm greetings also to the Moroccan authorities, who are solid partners in this undertaking, as this is the third time that the WPC is taking place in Morocco, under patronage of His Majesty the King, Mohammed VI. Morocco's openness to the world, and in particular to Africa, is growing every year, intertwining with France's efforts to build bonds of more intense integration between Europe and the African continent.

I could easily take on WPC's goal as my own – thinking about ways to maintain reasonably open global governance, capable of absorbing shocks while also facilitating desirable changes – as my own, for it is indeed in that direction that I wanted to take action during the first months of my term.

I focused, of course, on the urgent matters, calling together the protagonists of the crisis in Libya, for example, or hosting, on 28 August, the African and European leaders most directly concerned by migratory flows on the road to the Central Mediterranean.

However, these innumerable short-term challenges will only multiply if we do not deal with the underlying problems, if we do not tackle long-term challenges. I will list three of them:

- Development, to which, in line with the target I have set, we will dedicate 0.55% of our national revenue within five years' time, paying particular attention to the effectiveness of our aid: more innovation, intelligence, local partnerships and greater responsibility on the ground. I would like Alliance for the Sahel, which we launched with the European Union, the World Bank and UNDP, to be an example of this heightened ambition.
- The challenge of education and health, of which it is important that we not lose sight, despite the acute crises we are currently experiencing. I call on the international community to meet in February 2018 in Dakar to rebuild the partnership for education that France co-chairs with Senegal. I also call on it to double up its efforts in favour of health, at a time when, in the Indian Ocean region, we are seeing the return of diseases that we thought were forgotten like the plague.
- The third challenge is that of the climate, for which France and Morocco have mobilised successively, with the success of COP21 in Paris in 2015 and COP22 in Marrakesh last year. Let there be no mistake about it: the battle is not won despite our efforts, and I will try to mobilise the international community next month in Paris around concrete solutions by putting public and private funding to work.

With all these challenges, we need to pay attention to our own tools, to the rules and institutions that enable us to reject hunger, disease, ignorance and war. Multilateralism is a valuable asset, now under threat, and I count on all of you to defend this global public good.

I know how attached the World Policy Conference's participants, who come from five continents, are to this. I know that they share these objectives to address both pressing geopolitical challenges and longer-term issues, in a cooperative and effective manner. That is why I would like you to keep me informed of your deliberations and share with me your recommendations.

I hope that the international dialogue on the organisation of our planet will continue, and I know that I can rely on the World Policy Conference to produce better ideas, better policies and to bring the debate forward. An excellent ten-year anniversary to the WPC: it serves a valuable purpose.