



THIERRY DE MONTBRIAL

Founder and Chairman of the World Policy Conference

I will conclude in French and conclude to express the traditional thanks, because an achievement such as the World Policy Conference obviously represents a great teamwork of people devoting themselves during months in order to prepare such an event. So it is a little ritual and first, I would like to thank the team devoted to Ifri, and first of all, Song-Nim Kwon, the Executive Director, who I will ask to get on the stage. We will also make your collaborators get on stage, if they are here. Now I would like to thank the WPC Foundation teams – Nicolas de Germay already had to leave so he is with us in spirit. I will ask Florent de Chantérac to come and join us, with his main collaborators whom he will ask to come.

This is now clear for everyone, since the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the WPC last year in Marrakech, and this eleventh edition, with the magnificent gala dinner that we had yesterday under the chairmanship of Minister Nasser Bourita, that cooperation with Morocco is strengthening. It is, I believe, highly significant and, I would say, highly productive. Yesterday, I thanked the Minister and, through him, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, and I thanked, let us say, Morocco - we are talking about identity, well, it is Moroccan identity. Let me also thank one person in particular who has followed our work since the very first edition in Evian: Mostafa Terrab, the President of OCP Group, and has always supported us from the beginning.

A few years ago, the OCP set up a think tank which, in a very few years, has become an important think tank, which is now known throughout the world, with which we are working more and more and which was our close partner for the realization of this event. Thus, I will call Karim El Aynaoui and especially Lilia, who has also played a considerable role here, as many of you must have noticed. Here is Lilia. We cannot bring up all the people who have played a role – I think for example of the interpreters: I think they have also done an outstanding work, as interpreting sometimes extremely subtle discussions like those we have is not an easy task. We applaud all those who were not mentioned but without whom the success of this eleventh edition would not have been possible. And last but not least, I would like to thank the members. The World Policy Conference, more than a regular conference, has been intended from the beginning as a club, where people from all walks of life, from all five continents, create links between them. These links are an extraordinary richness. Everyone, including the newcomers, could feel the particular atmosphere that characterizes this World Policy Conference. This link is precisely the result of a form of friendship that has been forged over the years and that allows us to have, what has been fundamental for us from the beginning, civilized, peaceful relations, where we can express very different opinions - and sometimes even, we hope to do so. But we always exchange, in a courteous, friendly way, we don't throw anathemas, we do not use insults, in short, we don't do trumpism (stylistically speaking). I would also like us all to applaud each other. And now it is time to wish you all a safe journey home. We will – very soon I guess – give you notice of the time and the place of the twelfth edition, which will be likely to meet at the same time of the year. If everything is going alright, it could be the last week-end of October like it was this time. Thank you and see you soon!