

ASSIA BENSALAH ALAOUI

Ambassador-at-large of HM the King of Morocco

Thank you for giving me the pleasure to share a few ideas with this prestigious audience. My challenge, is first to keep you awake, after a long lunch and secondly, to try to make my remarks on the light side after three days of intense debates on very serious themes.

Allow me first to respond to Thierry's opening address invitation to us all, to consider all forms of common good to humankind.

1- What is more common to mankind than the "human dimension" itself?

The legitimate question, in that respect could rather be: what place for humanity and the human dimension in global governance? What is still "human" in global governance?

- When the infliction of extreme suffering is probably the most common shared reality across the world?
- When the rise of violence -the daily practice of expanding criminal illegal networks -is infecting international politics and the practice of some powerful leaders, supposed to be, on the contrary the guardian of the rule of law, and who do not refrain from lecturing the rest of the world about its respect?
- When the illiberal tide is gaining ground on both sides of the Atlantic and in many other areas, threatening the very basic values of democracy and human rights and the endeavors to impose them as universal values? Not to collapse liberalism will have to seriously reinvent itself.

Considering another question, which has been hinted at. What status for the human dimension in the type of governance after 2049, when China would have probably finished the construction of new international norms that it would like to share with, or "impose" for a new world order?

- 2- We also have to consider the place of humanity and the role of the human dimension in front of the two main threats:
 - The potential breakdown of the ecological and environmental order and
 - The "technological disruption", whose outcome would be the collapse of human civilization and the paralysis of Humanity at large

To avoid the first one, concrete responses must be speeded up and the post-carbon revolution has urgently to take place on the global level to meet the target of less than 2% warming by the end of the century.

The leaders of Africa where concerns in that respect run high must make sure that the rush on their continent integrate fully these approaches.

Hopes are stemming from some initiatives, like IORA blue economy, since 2014 around the Strategic Indian Ocean, which include over 21 countries among which Eastern and Southern African ones. However, to take full advantage of the huge potential of the Oceans, which cover 72% of the surface of the blue planet, a change in life styles is needed to preserve them from being stifled by plastic.

As for the second, rapid answers to secure better all technology systems should be provided to prevent this dreadful prospect.

In that field, the tremendous rapidity of technological change is already a source of anxiety. This trend is feared to generate massive destruction of jobs.

The evidence shows however, that new jobs are created. The rate of unemployment in the developed countries, which are already using robots is probably at its lowest. But what about the majority of the nations, which do not have this advantage? The rising inequalities and disparities, in that respect may mean massive "digital refugees", which in turn will overburden the very complex phenomenon of migration and refugees.



3- The decrease of the trust in science and technology, which is our most precious common good to provide all the answers to our mighty challenges is another scaring trend. It is absolutely detrimental for R&D and investments at large and in particular for Africa's food security, sustainable development and, beyond, the transformation of the continent in line with Agenda 2063!

I am just emerging from a week on higher education in Nairobi, and I have seen how Africans are really embarking on doing their homework as the Ethiopian Prime Minister told us at lunchtime. I am happy that my country is part of this endeavour. However, despite this positive trend and the movement of the return of well-trained diasporas, which Lionel Zinsou mentioned, I am greatly concerned. How to train and prepare all our human resources and meet the our populations' expectations, which are immense in Africa? How to keep our best assets: youth and avoid the brain drain, which is devastating like in my own country?

4- Migration: an opportunity for Humanity

The panel about "migration and multiculturalism" ignored the second component of the equation and offered no solutions. Allow me, so to address this topic in a totally different manner.

I will consider the link migration, identities and the diaspora, just to remind us all of a few developments and facts, which those who are in denial of the basic changing realities and trends in our own societies refuse to take into account. Incapable of creating the future, they do take refuge in a mythic past within their closed frontiers. Let me cite just two of these realities:

- Migration and mobility are on the rise. They will not stop on the contrary, they will increase, for positive
 reasons as well, like the development of Africa. The young people will seek better jobs and opportunities, and
 there will be a lot more migration, with changing profiles. To address this evolving social phenomenon, we
 have to organize ourselves between sending, transit and receiving countries. My country for example is
 becoming all three together.
- Secondly, we see that emerging identities, result of hybridization and cross-fertilization -far from the myth and illusion of pure races- are becoming the majority with many implied benefits. We could all capitalize on the wealth of our diverse and different cultures.

Let me give you just a couple of examples which nurture this hope and the aspiration for common benefits far from the caricatures which seek to label migrants as criminals, terrorists...

The first example is provided by Rachid Guerraoui. A Moroccan who has aquired his knowlege and expertise in different countries and who has been elected this year in the « Collège de France », where he delivered his first lesson on 25th October on « Algorithm in search for lost universality » Many Moroccans have shared through the social media, the « universality » of this young professor at the "Polythecnic Shool of Lausanne" and who has already been teaching in MIT among others.

The second example is enlightened by the beautiful smile of Ilham Kadri, a Moroccan woman who has been appointed CEO of the world's largest chemical firm: the belgian Group Solvay. Thank you Ilham for breaking the glass ceiling not only for the southern Mediterranean women, like me but for offering an emblematic symbol to all women across the world. I know that « une hirondelle ne fait pas le printemps »! But these examples, among many other success stories, show how far reality can be from the caricatures which prevail about the migrants.

Last but not least, allow me to use this transition to link it to women issues and finish on a very happy note.

Before doing so, allow me first to deplore the election, on 6 October, by 50 conservative American senators of Judge Kavanaugh to the "temple" of legal protection, the US Supreme Court, despite the heavy allegation of sexual assault and in total despise of millions of American women's protests through the #MeToo movement.

5- The Nobel Peace Prize provides us with a very good news in that respect. It has been attributed to two personalities from the third world, totally engaged against sexual violence and its use as a weapon in conflicts.

Indeed, one of its winner, Nadia Murad, a 25-year-old Yazidi Iraqi is a survivor of the terrible daily rapes Daesh fighters imposed on her, obliging her to keep her eyes wide open to look at what she was enduring! Her courageous



testimony, in her book, about the ordeals she has been a victim of is absolutely devastating, but at the same time it is an important recognition for human memory.

The co-winner is the Congolese surgeon, Denis Mukwege, who has remained in his country to repair the raped women and little girls and help them recover from their savage ordeals of the sexual violence used in conflict.

These two examples underline that minorities' protection, which is still required can be rewarding just as human dignity is worth fighting for.

A proof that our "humanity" -our common shared public good- ultimately prevails and is still kicking and alive.

Federate so numerous success stories and constructive initiatives scattered across the world! Overcome silos and fragmentation, oversized "egos" and unilateralism! These moves may be key to better and more efficient world governance.

We certainly need to reinvent constantly ourselves to adapt to fast changing realities and change lifestyles to save the planet.

In particular, we need to invent a new utopia for the Mediterranean, absent from our debates, far from the fractures, which are tearing apart nations, north and south and the two rims of the Mediterranean.

More profoundly, we need a new narrative. We have to build a new fiction and believe in it, as Harari demonstrated for *Sapiens*, to recast human adventure. Perhaps with Moroccan Partnership, Thierry should invite us next year to the "World Dream conference".