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"Politics is a bit like the weather. Whether it's a clear or cloudy day, you always have to break through the clouds of the future." You probably recognize these words of His Majesty King Hassan II. The 12th World Policy Conference opens as the clouds hovering over our future are numerous and the weather is gloomy to say the least.

Allow me to begin by warmly greeting all the World Policy Conference participants and congratulating its President, Thierry de Montbrial, on the success of his initiative, which is now included in the calendar of major international meetings.

I would also like to extend my warmest greetings to the Moroccan authorities, whose involvement in this forum, which they are hosting for the fifth time under the High Patronage of His Majesty the King, is unfailing.

Morocco is the natural setting for such an event. The Mediterranean does not separate us; it brings us closer together, not only for geographical or historical reasons but also because we face similar challenges on both sides of its shores. I am thinking of the fight against climate change, the effects of which we are all feeling, particularly on our coastal areas. I am thinking of controlling migratory flows or promoting more equitable growth. And the Kingdom plays a vital role in helping us to face them collectively.

Let me say a few words about some of the issues that seem to me to be the most urgent as we speak.

1. The first involves settling crises that threaten the planet's stability. For each crisis, we must support the construction of political solutions. The Iranian crisis is probably the most acute. Our goals have not changed. They are to ensure that Iran never acquires nuclear weapons, while preserving peace in the region. At the last United Nations General Assembly in New York, President Macron laid down the conditions for a de-escalation and then a peaceful, political settlement of the crisis. It is now up to the parties to take advantage of it to rekindle a constructive dynamic.
2. The second challenge is the environment, including climate change and biodiversity. France has considerably stepped up its efforts in this regard, especially since the One Planet Summit. Today's urgency is to implement the Paris Agreement and ensure that our diplomatic and trade agendas take environmental issues into account. Our peoples expect action in their daily lives and at the international level. We have supplemented our goals in the area of climate with an agenda for forests and oceans. The €500 million that were released within the framework of the UNGA to save the Amazon fall within this framework. Also, France will host the World Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature in Marseille in June 2020.
3. The third is sustainable development. Eleven years separate us from the implementation of Agenda 2030, which has now raised awareness. But that is no longer enough. Our entire development model must be transformed to reduce inequality, especially between women and men. France has made the fight against inequality the guiding principle of its G7 presidency by setting specific goals, such as



access to education and health services. Initiatives are multiplying around the world. I am thinking of the Partnership for Education, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Sahel Alliance. We must continue and accelerate these efforts because, as we know, violence and imbalances often have their roots in despair.

4. The fourth and last is the construction of “reasonably open” globalization benefitting everyone much more fairly than it does today. The world's stability, even if relative, benefits trade and globalization. But globalization must also contribute to global stability. That is why we will support the reform of the World Trade Organization at a time when some are questioning multilateralism. We are in favor of free and open trade, which is a very powerful factor for peace. For it to continue to be, trade must become more loyal and be based on reciprocity. The rule of law is a key lever to achieve this. Here around the Mediterranean, we have known that since at least ancient Rome: law is the best ally of exchange.

Which brings me to a point of method. None of these challenges will be met without updating the rules of multilateralism. More than ever, we need legitimate, effective and universal institutions to prevent abuses or build political solutions to common problems. That is the spirit in which France and Germany launched this year an Alliance for Multilateralism, which met for the first time at the UNGA in New York on 26 September. With many others, we believe that following common rules, which are not set in stone and must obviously be changed, remains the best guarantee for peacefully settling the conflicts and challenges that threaten the planet's stability. Force feeds nothing but force.

By way of a more positive conclusion, I would like to stress the exemplary nature of the partnership between France and Morocco. It covers all areas: economic and social development, peace and security, research and innovation, culture and youth. It is accompanied by continuous, highly valuable dialogue on global issues while opening up to Africa. From this viewpoint, the partnership is a genuine attempt to build a more balanced and mutually beneficial globalization. It is also a way for us French-speakers to "respond to the rebirth of the world", as Léopold Sédar Senghor so rightly wrote.

Thank you.