INTRODUCTION

Thierry de MONTBRIAL, Founder and Chairman of Ifri and the WPC

I think that many of the issues covered in this first session, lead us naturally to the next two sessions. The second session is, ‘Technology, Economics, Health Ethics’ and the issue of data, for example, which has been raised many times and its treatment has a lot to do with technology. I am happy to now give the floor to Patrick Nicolet, the moderator for this session and a longstanding friend of the World Policy Conference.

Patrick NICOLET, Capgemini’s Group Chief Technology Officer

Thank you for the introduction, Thierry. As you heard, the theme is about technology, economics, and ethics in the area of health. We will try to go beyond just COVID but bear with us, because there is no way we cannot refer to the lessons learned from COVID since it has had such an impact on the entire health sector.

I have a panel here of distinguished experts who I will introduce theme by theme because we have decided to breakdown the two hours into three topics, which we hope will make the session more interactive. The first one will be on ‘Technology in healthcare: who is in the driver’s seat?’ I think it is a question we saw in filigrane in the first debate. The second will be, ‘In healthcare, does the end justify the means?’ obviously introducing the field of ethics. Finally, ‘Does technology care about your health?’ I think there is a fundamental question here about the role of technology and the way we as citizens, consumers or employers understand technology. This will be the third debate. For each session there will be two complementary or contradictory interventions from the panelists and I will then open the floor for about 10 minutes of Q & A on these specific topics. We will wrap up at the end of the session.

Without further ado, I will introduce the first debate: ‘Technology, who is in the driver’s seat?’ To do this, we will first have an introduction by Jacques Biot, Board member and advisor to companies in the field of digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence, and also well-known as former President of the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris. This will be followed by a complementary view from Alexandra Prieux, President of Alcediag, which is a subsidiary of Alcen, a diversified technology group focused on innovation. She has also launched a company called SkillCell. These will be the two introductions.