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Good afternoon. We are now going to start the last session of this first edition of the WPC – Health. As I said at the opening of this conference, the subject of mental health and addiction is not usually put center stage when people talk about healthcare and global health. We decided to put forward this subject for this first edition because we thought that this somewhat neglected subject is actually of the utmost importance globally. The mental health of the global population is a key issue, and it has to be recognized as such. Also, there are a number of global governance issues, interdependence issues and some obvious geopolitical ramifications, such as the illicit trade in drugs, criminality, etc. This is a subject that we usually discuss at the World Policy Conference but in fact, when we decided to introduce this subject, we had not thought that the mental health situation could be important in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, everybody has become aware that a population forced into lockdown and other restrictions suffers mentally. Therefore, this subject is even more important than we thought initially, and I think that this is even clearer after what we heard this morning. For example, at least twice during each of the first two sessions, the issue of fake news, trust, etc., was brought into the discussion. As I think we will see in a minute with Professor Burioni, this issue of fake news and trust is also at the core of the mental health and addiction problem.

We are going to start this discussion with three highly distinguished speakers. We will start with Michael van den Berg, who is health economist and policy economist at the OECD, who will give us the broad picture from the viewpoint of an economist. As I tried to say this morning, the economic aspect is really key when talking about health. Then, we will move to Professor Burioni and end with Doctor Lablanchy. The floor is yours Michael.