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Founder and Chairman of Ifri and the WPC

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the second to last session and because of that we are going to fly in the extra atmosphere with these two. We have Madame Minister Sarah Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Technology and Chairwoman of the United Arab Emirates Space Agency and I thank you very much for being with us. I think it is also an opportunity for you to meet Philippe Baptiste, Chairman and CEO of the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES). I think your presence at the end of this WPC is of special significance because the space dimension was important in the French day at the opening of the Dubai Expo yesterday and perhaps you will say a couple of words on that.

I have one simple question to ask you for the discussion. Of course, nowadays everybody is interested in space. It is a question of technology and the future world economy is going into space and that will be based on technology and all technology today depend on space one way or another. However, the intriguing aspect of this is that, of course, it is a major strategic issue for the biggest countries, but middle powers also want to be involved in this adventure. They also do not want to be entirely dependent on the big powers. If I may say, here we have a big, small middle power and a small, big middle power.