

JEAN-CLAUDE TRICHET

European Chairman of the Trilateral Commission, former President of the ECB

It is a great pleasure for me to be here and to have this very important issue to discuss; how globalization is mutating, morphing, and transforming itself. How, as many say, it is in crisis. In that, we benefit from an exceptional wealth of eminent personalities with extraordinary complementary experiences and responsibilities. Let me present the members of the panel.

Masood Ahmed, President of the Center for Global Development and a 35-year career in the IFIs, which I think must be a global record. You are in a unique position, and I have recently had the privilege of working with you frequently in various G20 groups where I was always impressed by your talent and very deep and continuing involvement.

Bertrand Badré, Managing Partner and Founder of Blue like an Orange Sustainable Capital, which demonstrates some of the poetry behind the financier, former Managing Director and CFO of the World Bank. Again, he has a lot of experience and particularly in financing for the environment and the green transition, as well as all the activities of the World Bank.

Bark Taeho, former Minister of Trade of Korea, President of Lee&Ko global law firm. You participated and continue to do so, in the Global Trilateral Commission report on Global Capitalism in Transition. Of course, we expect particularly your own vision of the trade issue that is at the heart of globalization.

Thomas Gomart, Director of Ifri, the most important French think tank, as Thierry knows very well, and one of the most important in the world according to think tank rankings. You have unique experience in international affairs, globalization and geostrategy.

Yuichi Hosoya is not here at the moment, so I will go on to Mari Kiviniemi, 41st Prime Minister of Finland. You served as Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD and your great determination was admired as you were setting up the conditions for strong and inclusive growth. You are an expert in managing a country, global governance, as well as inequality and I am sure that you will say something about that in particular.

I do not want to take long because I am asking all the participants to stick to six or seven minutes so that we can have suitable discussion time with the audience. As you know, I will be as strict as possible. Let me just say that this issue is really of the essence. In a way, globalization always existed. When I see Palmyra and Petra, the Silk Road, East–West and North–South trade started thousands of years ago. However, it has expanded significantly since the Industrial Revolution and accelerated more recently with the technology surge, IT, transportation, and much lower costs. To that I should also add the fall of the Soviet Union

and the Communist world, at least to the extent that it was attached to a centralized rather than a largely decentralized market economy.

We have seen a formidable acceleration of globalization over the last 30 years but at the same time there has been a deglobalization trend. Of course, that was also amplified and accelerated by the successive crises we have had to cope with, but it started before that. Many critics are coming from the left, in particular the criticism of the negative externalities of market economies when they are generalized in terms of climate and inequality, a very powerful criticism. On the other hand, there are also critics coming from what I would say right-wing sensitivities, nationalism and protectionism, populism, which has also been significantly amplified in recent times. In the face of criticism coming from these two opposite sides, what can we say about globalization?

I think that the complementary visions of the panelists may enlighten the conference on some of the questions we may consider important at the present juncture. First, can we address the negative externalities of globalization, on climate, health, economic and financial instabilities during the last years, and inequality, without losing the benefits of the division of labor at a global level and all the benefits to developing countries of catching up to become first emerging countries and, then, as wealthy as the present advanced economies in the future? Of course, this complicated question has to take into account the fact that the ideal global governance has to cope with major trends including digitalization and the green transition I mentioned. In addition, it must take into account that the world today is made up of market economies, so called "capitalist economies", but with very different ideologies behind them, at least in the social and political dimensions. The existence of social democrat market economies, pure liberal market economies or more liberal market economies, state capitalism, authoritarian societies, makes the response of the panelists formidably complicated.

I now turn to the first panelist. Masood, you have the floor.