

THOMAS GOMART

Director of Ifri

Good morning, everyone. It is my real pleasure to chair this session dedicated to Asia in the Sino-American rivalry. It is a topic that we already addressed during our very substantive discussion yesterday. We have 90 minutes to discuss this sensitive issue with six panelists and before I introduce them, I would like to raise three questions.

The first one, is about the nature of this rivalry. In which fields it should be observed. Is it in the military field, for example, what about Taiwan? Is it more about technology and chips, a topic we dealt with yesterday? Those are just two examples of ways the discussion could go.

Second, I think we should explore the consequences for the countries, apart from the US and China, which are the other players in the region, namely Japan, Korea, India and the ASEAN countries. It is important and I think that this panel can add the different viewpoints.

My last questions are around the regional agreements and partnerships that exist nowadays and in the future. Obviously, the AUKUS military alliance may be a gamechanger

Our first panelist is Mr. Akita from Japan, who is a commentator for Nikkei, who is joining us by video. Then I will turn to Renaud Girard, senior reporter and war correspondent for *Le Figaro*, who will talk about China's attitude and maybe its strategic mistakes in the region. After that, we have Ambassador Lee, Senior Advisor of KIM & CHANG and former Chief Negotiator for the Korea-EU FTA; Mr. Narayanan, Executive Chairman of CyQureX Systems and former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of India; and Marcus, Executive Vice President and Director of Studies at the Peterson Institute, who is also on video. We will finish the first round of the discussion after the exchanges with Professor Wang Jisi, who participated in a previous session yesterday and who is President of the Institute of International and Strategic Studies at Peking University.