

## LIONEL ZINSOU

Co-Chair of SouthBridge, Chairman of Terra Nova think tank, former Prime Minister of Benin

I think that this panel has shown the complexity of the situation. Aminata emphasized the fact that we have no solution for the informal sector revealed by the pandemic, and we have social instability, inequalities, poverty, growing. However, she also said that we are now better aware of our own strengths and what we have to do to be more independent, so it is very contrasted. Nicolas even gave us some elements of optimism about the fact that a crisis does not equal the rise of populism and irrational policies, that we see other ways and better governance. I think that many of you have underlined the fact that we have made progress in governance and cooperation. Aminata put it strongly when she said that multilateralism died during the pandemic. I think it is important to recognize that it is seen that way in Africa because the rest of the world does not think that way where there could have been a feeling of better cooperation. Even in Africa, what we have seen is better collective governance in the African Union, which means that multilateralism at the level of a continent has progressed enormously. The SDR allocation at record levels would not have happened if the African Union driven by President Ramaphosa, had not been in dialogue with the European Union, especially the President of France and the German Chancellor in April 2020. In some cases, we saw some progress in governance, but I would say that the governance in a continent like Africa, both domestically and collectively for the Union, has made huge progress and the capacity of dialogue with the IMF or the European Union has been unprecedented. I would like us to stay on this level. We have seen that the risk of inflation, or the opportunity of a small inflation move, is unanimously seen as not much of a threat. There is a panoply of policy instruments to monitor the new pattern of recovery.

I would like to stop on this positive note and thank you very much for having delivered this message today, thank you all.