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Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for braving the after-lunch panel, which is always a challenge. Unfortunately, someone who was on our panel, who is Acting Director of Policy Planning, has been called away. Anyway, I regret that Mr. Al Neyadi could not be here. After all, we are in the Middle East, so it is only appropriate that we have at least one real panel on the region.

There is so much to talk about: the impact of Russia's return to the region, China's Belt and Road, the notion of US retrenchment and whether it is real or not, intensified regional competition. What does it mean for these countries to have a green carbon-free world? Let alone wars in Libya, Syria, Yemen, big regional powers playing in the region, the repositioning of Israel, to put it mildly, in the Abraham Accords and what the public response has been, heightened tensions with Iran, the moribund state of the JCPOA, though no one dares to actually take its pulse and call it dead because that would mean they would have to decide what to do next, which they do not want to do.

We have problems with Turkey, which is very much engaged now and making geopolitical forays. Then there is the quite interesting question of the return of Bibi Netanyahu at the head of a very different Israeli government. What does this new coalition mean for Israel, for the Palestinians, for Israel's reputation, frankly? Then there is the question of the health of Abu Mazen, what happens to the Palestinian Authority? There is always the sad tragedy of Lebanon, the influence of Hezbollah, the worry about another Lebanon-Israeli war but with big rockets. Then we also have divisions in Europe towards the region.

Since we started late, we are going to try to end this on time at 15.45 and without one panelist maybe we can get there, and I will try to have some time for questions at the end. The idea was that because our topic was so broad and our panelists are wonderfully diverse, to ask people to speak for a few minutes about the topics I have mentioned that interest them. Then I may ask them a question or two and then we will go down.