

TERRY MARTIN

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Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this panel discussion on “The West after the Ukraine War”. I am Terry Martin, a journalist and TV news anchor based in Berlin and I will be your moderator for this session. We have a remarkable group of speakers with us here today who will share their views on the implications and lessons of the Ukraine war, a war that has shaken Europe and the world. I will introduce them in a moment, but first I just want to say how delighted I am to be here. This is my first World Policy Conference, and I want to thank the organizers for inviting me and also to extend my warm thanks to Abu Dhabi for hosting this event.

This session is focusing on the Ukraine war, a topic that has already received some attention at this conference. The Hamas-Israel war may have bumped Ukraine from the front pages, But, as we heard yesterday from Ukraine’s Foreign Minister, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is continuing with brutal consistency. What we are dealing with today is a very difficult topic and we have to be very honest about that. Mr. Kuleba gave us an update on where things stand from his perspective in the Ukraine war right now, as his country fights for its survival. In this session today, we are going to be looking at the conflict from a broader, longer-term perspective. And of course that is no easy task because, as we all know, the war is ongoing. Nobody really knows when it is going to end. Plus the geopolitical context is rapidly changing. And: what is “the West” anyway? It is in our title. But what is “the West”? For the purpose of this discussion, let us think of it mainly as liberal, democratic societies - not limited to the geographical West - who claim to value a rules-based international order. That is what we are going to work with as our working definition of the West for this session. It is a tough brief, but we will do our best to get a sense of where the West might be when the Ukraine war is over.

Fortunately, we have a distinguished group of speakers who are extremely well-qualified to reflect on this, and I will introduce them in order: On my immediate left, Elbegdorj Tsakhiagiyn, the former President of Mongolia. He played a key role in leading the Mongolian democratic revolution, he created the Elbegdorj Institute, and is a Commissioner of the International Commission Against the Death Penalty, a topic you spend a lot of time working on. Next is Bogdan Klich, who is a Senator in the Polish Parliament, currently serving as the Chairman of the Foreign and EU Affairs committee in the Senate. He has served as Poland’s Minister of Defense and was a member of the European Parliament as well. Then we have Zaki Laïdi, Special Advisor to Josep Borrell, the EU’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security. He was formerly Strategic Advisor to the French Prime Minister, he has been a professor at Sciences Po for over 20 years and he has written numerous books on global affairs. Someone who I have been familiar with for a long time, Norbert Röttgen, we both live in Germany, is a member of the German Bundestag, sits on the Bundestag’s Foreign Affairs committee, which he led as Chairman from 2014 to 2021. He has served as Germany’s Environment Minister and I remember being in background talks in Copenhagen with you at



an important COP a long time ago, which you may not remember, and he is Co-Chair of the European Council on Foreign Relations. Joining us from Paris, we have Hubert Vedrine, who is going to try to join us remotely. I understand that there was a problem with his flight from Paris and he was unable to join us. He is the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, Founder of the Hubert Vedrine Conseil, a public affairs consultancy. He has written over a dozen books and served as President of the Institut François Mitterrand, a French President he was very closely associated with.