

PRESS KIT

World Policy Conference 2024

December 13 – 15, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

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CONFERENCE



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CONTENTS

PRESS RELEASE	1
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN	2
MISSION OF THE WPC	2
KEY FIGURES	3
PRESS REVIEW	4
APPRECIATIONS	5
EDITION 2023	6
SOCIAL MEDIA AND CONTACTS	7

17th edition of the World Policy Conference from Dec. 13 to Dec. 15, 2024, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Founded in 2008 by Thierry de Montbrial, Chairman of the French Institute of International Relations (Ifri), the World Policy Conference (WPC) will be holding its seventeenth edition on December 13-15, 2024, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The city of Abu Dhabi will host the World Policy Conference for the fourth time, after three editions in 2021, in 2022 and 2023.

Since its first edition in 2008, the WPC's mission has been to reflect upon and to come up with solutions to the constant upheavals of today's world and to create lasting bonds between the participants. This international conference gives a voice to political, economic, academic and media players from over the five continents – from major powers to medium and small countries, including emerging countries, thus ensuring a diversity and plurality of debates. This conference aims to help everyone to have an enlightened reflection on the constant changes in the world today.

International leading figures

We will welcome distinguished personalities such as: His Holiness Bartholomew I (Archbishop of Constantinople - New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch), Tiémoko Meyliet Koné (Vice President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire), Ana Brnabić (Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia), Noura Al Kaabi, (Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates), Omran Sharaf (Assistant Foreign Minister for Advanced Science and Technology of the United Arab Emirates), Kevin McCarthy (55th Speaker of the United States House of Representatives), Vincent Biruta (Minister of Interior of Rwanda), Nialé Kaba (Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development of Côte d'Ivoire), Haïm Korsia (Chief Rabbi of France), Máximo Torero Cullen (Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)), Nardos Bekele-Thomas (CEO of the African Union Development Agency/NEPAD), Hubert Védrine (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of France), Roman Vassilenko (Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan), Michel Kazatchkine (Special Advisor to the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe), Gary Litman (Senior Vice President for Global Initiatives at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce), Aiman Ezzat (CEO of Capgemini), Lasha Darsalia (First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia), Ryu Jin (Chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries), Norbert Röttgen (Member of the Deutscher Bundestag and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee), Anwar Gargash (Diplomatic Advisor to President of the United Arab Emirates), Maha Barakat (Assistant Minister for Health and Life Sciences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE), Hur Kyung-wook (Chairman of the Seoul Financial Forum), Qiao Yide (Vice Chairman and Secretary General of the Shanghai Development Research Foundation), Bark Tae-ho (President of Lee&Ko Global Commerce Institute, former Minister for Trade of Korea).

Various topics covered

The work of this seventeenth edition will cover issues such as: The Future of Europe After the Ukraine War and Trump's Election ; Global Economic Governance in a Fragmented World ; War and Peace in the Middle East ; De-globalization or Re-globalization ; President Trump: What Economy and Foreign Policy? ; Geopolitics of Climate Change ; Economic Growth and Geopolitical Challenges in Asia ; The AI Revolution ; BRICS expansion and many others.

Founder and Chairman



Thierry de Montbrial

Thierry de Montbrial is Executive Chairman of the French Institute of International Relations (Ifri), which he founded in 1979. He is Professor Emeritus at the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers. In 2008, he launched the World Policy Conference. He has been a member of the Académie des sciences morales et politiques of the Institut de France since 1992, and is a member of a number of foreign academies.

He serves on the Board or Advisory Board of a number of international institutions. Thierry de Montbrial chaired the Department of Economics at the École Polytechnique from 1974 to 1992. He was the first Chairman of the Foundation for Strategic Research (1993-2001). Entrusted with the creation of the Policy

Planning Staff (*Centre d'analyse et de prévision*) at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was its first Director (1973-1979). He has authored more than twenty books, several of them translated in various languages, including *Action and Reaction in the World System - The Dynamics of Economic and Political Power* (UBC Press, Vancouver, Toronto, 2013) and *Living in Troubled Times, A New Political Era* (World Scientific, 2018). He is a Grand Officer of the Légion d'honneur, Grand Officer of the Ordre national du Mérite. He has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun – Gold and Silver Star, Japan (2009), Commander of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (2016) and other state honors by the French and several foreign governments. Thierry de Montbrial is a graduate of the École Polytechnique and the École des mines, and received a Ph.D in Mathematical Economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

Mission of the WPC

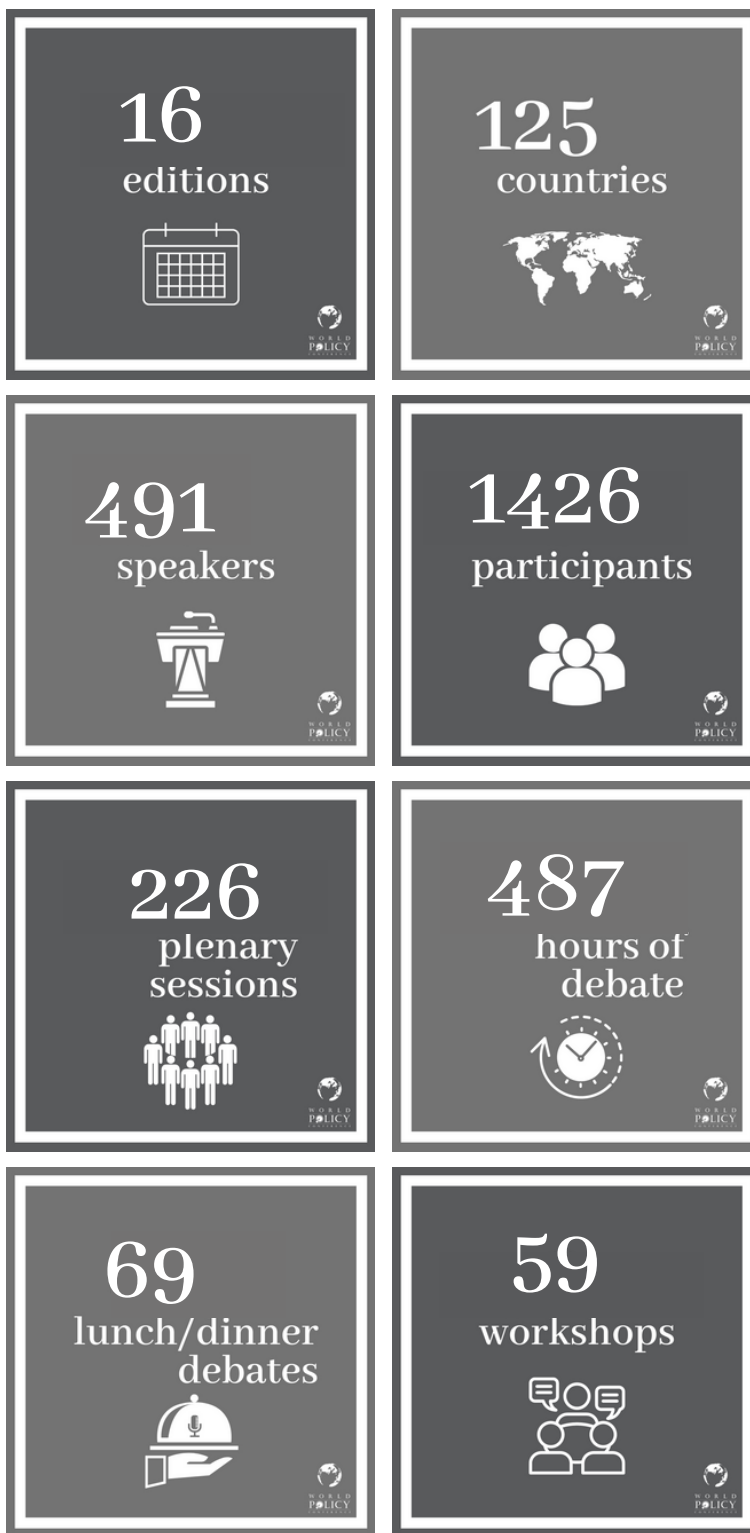
Founded in 2008, the World Policy Conference (WPC) is dedicated to helping promote a world that is more open, more prosperous and fairer. This requires an unremitting effort, to understand the actual forces at play and the interactions between them, as well as to explore non-aggressive ways of adapting how States connect with each other at all levels, while respecting the culture and fundamental interests of each nation.

The annual meeting of the WPC is restricted in size so that participants can create lasting bonds with one another. It brings together leading figures from all five continents – political and business leaders, academics and journalists – in a spirit of tolerance that is the only one conducive to the pursuit of the common good. Beyond the participants, this meeting aims to help all populations affected in a time of constant upheaval.



KEY FIGURES

2008 - 2023



PRESS REVIEW

2008 - 2023

Royaume-Uni - The Economist

12/12/2011 - Printemps arabe : « Israël doit changer » CASSANDRA has just been taking part in the World Policy Conference in Vienna — a meeting where the great and good, from the presidents of Turkey and Estonia to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, swap speeches and ideas on the state of the world and how to improve it. Inevitably, today's reality tended to cast its shadow on tomorrow's possibilities.

Chine – Xinhua

09/12/2012 - Les discussions dans les huit sessions plénières de cette édition portent aussi sur les relations sino-américaines, la finance internationale, l'énergie et l'environnement ainsi que sur la gestion des risques majeurs de la planète. Lancée par l'Ifri en 2008 à l'initiative de Thierry de Montbrial, et devenue depuis un rendez-vous incontournable de la scène politique internationale.

France – Les Echos

15/12/2013 - La sixième édition de la « World Policy Conference » a été l'occasion de faire le point sur l'état de l'économie mondiale. La crise est derrière nous mais les inégalités continuent de croître.

Japon - The Japan Times

08/12/2014 - "The establishment of a framework of trust and cooperation in the East Asian region, including the Korean Peninsula, is very important for the whole world to move into a more peaceful and secure future", Park said in a speech at the seventh World Policy Conference.

Liban - L'Orient Le Jour

24/11/2015 - La situation au Moyen-Orient, sous l'angle notamment des dossiers du terrorisme, de la guerre syrienne, des rapports avec l'Iran et du blocage du processus de paix israélo palestinien, a occupé une large place des travaux de la 8e édition de la Conférence sur la gouvernance mondiale (la World Policy Conference) qui s'est tenue du 20 au 22 novembre à Montreux, au bord du lac Léman, en présence d'une centaine de personnalités du monde politique, diplomatique, académique, économique, financier et de la presse.

Sénégal – Xibaaru

22/11/2016 - La « World Policy Conference », un rendez-vous annuel initié, depuis 9 ans par Thierry de Montbrial, Président de l'Ifri, réunit des experts de haut niveau et des membres d'instituts académiques et des leaders de Think Tank de référence de tous les continents pour faire le point sur l'état du monde et proposer des perspectives.

Maroc - Le Matin

03/11/2017 - La dixième édition de la World Policy Conference offre l'opportunité de débattre des grands enjeux régionaux et internationaux. Cette rencontre internationale de grande envergure contribue également à améliorer la gouvernance dans ses dimensions de réflexion, de décision et de contrôle, afin de promouvoir un monde plus ouvert et plus respectueux de la diversité, souligne-t-on du côté des organisateurs.

Côte d'Ivoire – AIP

26/10/2018 - Le Premier Ministre ivoirien, Amoudou Gon Coulibaly, intervenant à la cérémonie d'ouverture de la « World Policy Conference », vendredi à Rabat (Maroc), a indiqué la nécessité pour l'Afrique de prendre part aux réflexions sur les problématiques de gouvernance mondiale.

Middle East Monitor

12/10/2019 - In a speech at the WPC in Marrakesh, Morocco, on Saturday, HE the Foreign Minister [Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani] recalled the invitation of HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to conclude a regional security treaty in the Middle East.

Arabie Saoudite – Arab News

02/10/2021 - Economic and strategic competition between the US and China is putting immense pressure on the Arab Gulf states, a top Emirati official told delegates on the second day of the 14th World Policy Conference in Abu Dhabi.

Suisse – Le Temps

10/01/2023 - Thierry de Montbrial président de la World Policy Conference récemment réunie à Abou Dabi, interroge le prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, ministre saoudien des Affaires étrangères : « Que pensez-vous des Accords d'Abraham ? » Le ministre : « S'il n'y a pas d'État palestinien, il sera difficile à l'Arabie saoudite de se joindre aux Émirats arabes unis et autres signataires desdits accords. »

APPRECIATIONS

2008 - 2023

"It is important to have access to a free, privately managed forum, during which people may express their views in their own name and not in the name of their job function, and where they should be prepared to share their ideas in order to imagine how the world could be governed in a more or less rational way."

Lionel Zinsou (2010)

"The WPC is very helpful because it concentrates, since the very beginning, on global governance - as the title suggests. We trust - and I trust, personally, that global governance is more important than ever in the present world, because we have so many dramatic structural changes. [...] You also have, of course, the new geopolitical challenges, including very unfortunately - terrorism. All of this creates an absolute need for improving global governance."

Jean-Claude Trichet (2015)

"The WPC plays an important role in making the leaderships better aware of the interdependences. Of course, the WPC is not attended by everyday, ordinary citizens; for that, there are other instruments of communication and common awareness-making. This is for the leaders of countries, of cultural movements, of international institutions, and I think it is a very useful exercise because, indeed, this is also an intellectual and a political contribution towards winning the temptation of isolationism."

Mario Monti (2015)

"Einstein said that the most serious force is the force of intellect. The WPC is the force of intellect embodied by its leader, its Chairman. Thierry de Montbrial knows how to find people. If you find people and you put intellect in one place, that produces a result which cannot be ignored."

Igor Yurgens (2015)

"I hope that the international dialogue on the organisation of our planet will continue, and I know that I can rely on the World Policy Conference to produce better ideas, better policies and to bring the debate forward. An excellent ten-year anniversary to the WPC: it serves a valuable purpose."

Emmanuel Macron (2017)

"It is an honour to be here and to attend an event with such important participants who are knowledgeable and experts in their domains. It also provides me the opportunity to show something I take pride in, namely the endeavour to reach peace and cooperation in the Balkans."

Edi Rama (2017)

"The World Policy Conference has become one of the most important events in the world of policy and international efforts."

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani (2017)

"The WPC offers a great opportunity for development actors, political representatives, researchers and leaders to gather and exchange ideas on the current state of the world in order to find common grounds to ensure global peace, security and development."

Amadou Gon Coulibaly (2018)

"This is a forum focused on anticipating and shaping the future, rather than trying to hold back change. That perspective is refreshing, for those of us who experience the world from somewhere in the middle, not one of the poles."

Paul Kagame (2019)

"In some ways, I would say this is one of some of the best conferences that I have ever attended internationally. When I was sitting in government, I used to be a regular attendee of the Munich Security Conference which is organized with serving officials. Even though I had a platform I could speak on, it is very stereotyped, and the questions were never difficult because everyone was on the same mind, so the WPC is something quite extraordinary."

Mayankote Kelath Narayanan (2021)

"I would like to congratulate you on organizing this excellent World Policy Conference, which brings together so many prominent voices from all parts of the world, and this is probably the most important achievement, to bring together representatives of so many regions and countries."

Dmytro Kuleba (2022)

EDITION 2023

The sixteenth edition of the World Policy Conference (WPC) was held in Abu Dhabi from November 3 to 5, 2023. Like the previous ones, it brought together political and economic leaders, experts and opinion leaders who debated the global issues of the moment and global governance.

The meeting was opened with a welcoming address by the Founder and Executive Chairman of Ifri and the WPC, Thierry de Montbrial, and an address by Noora Al Kaabi Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates and a message of Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, delivered by Laurence Boone, Secretary of State for European Affairs of France.

Twenty plenary sessions

The plenary sessions were devoted to the challenges to global governance in areas such as geopolitics and geoeconomics, the future of EU and European security after the Ukraine war, AI governance, global governance and public health as well as food security.

Among the prominent speakers who contributed their insights were His Holiness Bartholomew I (Archbishop of Constantinople - New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch), Dmytro Kuleba (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine), Vincent Biruta (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda), Haïm Korsia (Chief Rabbi of France), Tsakhiagiyn Elbegdorj (Former President of Mongolia), Kevin Rudd (Former Prime Minister of Australia), Aminata Touré (Former Prime Minister of Senegal), Lionel Zinsou (Former Prime Minister of Benin), Laurent Fabius (President of the French Constitutional Council, President of the COP 21, former Prime Minister of France), Mohamed Abdelsalam (Secretary General of Muslim Council of Elders), Miguel Ángel Moratinos (High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations), Máximo Torero Cullen (Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)), Nardos Bekele-Thomas (CEO of the African Union Development Agency/NEPAD), CY Leung (Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference). Jean-Pierre Cabestan (Senior Researcher Emeritus at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) attached to the French Research Institute on East Asia (IFRAE) of the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations), Kazuto Suzuki (Director of the Institute of Geoeconomics at International House of Japan).

Three workshops

The workshops focused on three main areas – Finance and Economy, Energy and Environment, and the Economic and Social Issues in the Middle East. The discussions were particularly constructive, with participants such as John Lipsky (Former First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF), Narendra Taneja (Chairman of the Independent Energy Policy Institute in New Delhi, Founder President of World Energy Policy Summit), Lionel Zinsou (Former Prime Minister of Benin, Chairman of SouthBridge), Aminata Touré (Former Prime Minister of Senegal), Abdulrahman Al Neyadi (Director of Policy Planning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE).

Dinner debate

Around Kevin Rudd (Australia's Ambassador to the United States, former Prime Minister of Australia) the dinner debate enabled numerous exchanges on topics such as the future of US-China relations or the relations between China and Middle-East powers.

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