



NIALÉ KABA

Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,
Representing H.E. Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of
Côte d'Ivoire

Mr. President of the Senate of the French Republic,

His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I,

Mr. President of the World Policy Conference, dear Thierry de Montbrial,

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Excellencies, Ministers,

Excellencies, Ambassadors,

Dear panelists and speakers,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Representatives of international financial and economic institutions,
Academics and Experts,

Distinguished participants, in your respective ranks and titles,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to convey the regrets of His Excellency Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, who was unable to attend this important gathering due to pressing duties in Abidjan. He has entrusted me with the honor of representing him.

It is therefore with great honor and legitimate pride that I address this distinguished assembly on his behalf.

Allow me to extend my greetings to Mr. President Larcher, who has rightly recalled France's commitment to multilateral dialogue—a position fully shared by my country.



Your All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew I, your presence reminds us that the governance of human affairs cannot be devoid of a moral compass.

And you, dear Thierry de Montbrial, I would like to commend your foresight in sustaining, edition after edition, a space where such essential conversations remain possible.

The theme you have chosen—"Between fragmentation and interdependence: rethinking global governance"—is not merely academic. It is a precise and compelling diagnosis of the state of global governance in our time.

Distinguished personalities, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The global order painstakingly built after the Second World War—this framework of rules, shared norms, and multilateral institutions—is now being fundamentally challenged.

We are witnessing a triple fracture:

A geopolitical fracture: great power competition has returned to the forefront, undermining decades of multilateral cooperation. Bloc dynamics, once thought obsolete, are re-emerging in new forms.

A technological fracture: the digital revolution, instead of being a universal public good, is amplifying inequalities and widening unprecedented gaps between nations.

A climate and humanitarian fracture: environmental disruptions threaten to destabilize entire regions, accelerate forced migration, and exacerbate tensions that already fuel conflicts.

These fractures deepen economic inequalities, which, far from diminishing, continue to widen between developed and developing countries, eroding the legitimacy of institutions meant to address them.

For Africa, this fragmentation is not theoretical—it is lived reality: in regional instability, in the volatility of global financial markets, in the difficulty of financing structural transformation, in migration flows reflecting deep inequalities, and in the persistent marginalization of the continent in global decision-making.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yet, paradoxically, never have global value chains, financial flows, climate challenges, security concerns, and the governance of shared natural resources been so interconnected.

This interdependence reminds us that beyond our differences, we form a true community of destiny, where the choices of some inevitably shape the future of all.

From Abidjan, we experience this interdependence daily. Côte d'Ivoire, the world's leading cocoa producer, is directly affected by global market fluctuations, trade policies of importing countries, WTO rules, and climate agreements negotiated thousands of miles away—all of which have tangible impacts on the lives of millions of our citizens.

In light of this reality, rethinking global governance has become an imperative.

As President Alassane Ouattara stated at the 5th edition of the WPC in Cannes in December 2012, and I quote:

“It is necessary to strengthen global governance so that it reflects the realities of the world and responds to the aspirations of peoples.”

In our view, a renewed global governance should rest on several key pillars:

First, representativeness.

Côte d'Ivoire, in line with the African Union's position, reiterates its call for a deep and inclusive reform of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, including permanent representation of Africa on the UN Security Council.

Second, the reform of the international financial architecture, to ensure that developing countries have adequate access to financing for structural transformation and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, developing countries—which contribute only marginally to global greenhouse gas emissions—call for climate transition financing not to weigh on sovereign debt, but to be considered as an investment in global stability.

Finally, digital governance.

While the digital revolution is a driver of development in Africa, it also brings new challenges: disinformation, cyberattacks on emerging critical infrastructure, and the use of autonomous tools by non-state armed groups.

Africa and the Global South can no longer remain passive consumers of these technologies without participating in their regulation.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

In West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire stands as a hub of stability and human development—a land of dialogue, an open economy full of opportunities, and a reliable partner for all who believe that humanity's destiny must converge rather than diverge.

Faced with persistent regional crises, terrorist threats along our northern borders, and migration flows that we manage in accordance with our international commitments, Côte d'Ivoire has not chosen isolation or alignment with competing blocs.

Instead, we have chosen cooperation—an assumed and structured interdependence built on concrete projects.

President Alassane Ouattara firmly believes—and we share this conviction—that the peace of the 21st century will not be proclaimed in treaties alone. It will be built through concrete actions, shared projects, and the pursuit of mutual interests.

That cocoa farmer, that mother, that young graduate—it is to them that we must be accountable. Not through declarations, but through results.

It is on this note of hope that, on behalf of the President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. Alassane Ouattara, I wish you productive, bold, and above all, meaningful discussions for the benefit of our shared humanity.

Thank you for your kind attention.