

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Consulate General of France for tonight's opening conference of the year 2013, which also marks the 30th edition of our Conferences@934.

The Consulate has been organizing this series of French-American debates for three years now, and 2013 will continue to foster the exchange of ideas between our two countries by treating a large variety of topics. I would like to thank our loyal audience, as well as the newcomers, for being here tonight. I also advise you to check our website for upcoming conferences.

After we discussed our immigration and integration policies last month, we will touch another fascinating issue tonight: the French and the American development aid policies. France and the United States are among the biggest development aid donors, but none have yet reached the UN development aid goal for 2015 to reduce poverty around the world. Our policies should become more efficient, to rise to the challenges of our times.

We are fortunate to have Terra Lawson-Remer with us tonight, along with Thierry Soret, who will both present a comparative study of our respective policies, of the challenges they await, the priorities and goals which drive them, and of the strategies that were drafted in this matter. Thierry, you are a policy advisor on global economic governance issues at the United Nations Development Programme in New York. You are also a member of the UN coordination team on G20 issues, representing the UNDP in the G20 Development Working Group. Prior to joining UNDP in 2007, you were the executive director of the European Think Tank "Confrontations-Europe". You had previously served as policy advisor on international relations and

globalization issues for Mr. Francois Hollande, who led the French socialist party at the time.

Thanks as well to Doctor Terra Lawson-Remer for accepting our invitation. Terra, you are a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, where you direct a study on the political economy of transitions. You are also assistant professor of international affairs at The New School University in New York City, chairing the university's advisory committee on investor-responsibility. Your research addresses questions of opportunity and exclusion in the global economy, having conducted field-studies in the four corners of the Earth. You have also been a senior adviser for international affairs at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and have worked for Amnesty International USA and the World Bank, among other organizations.

Before we begin, allow me to remind you of the rules of the game: each speaker will have about ten minutes before we open up the debate for a half-hour session of Q & A. We shall end this part at around 8:00 p.m. and continue the conversation over a drink. Finally, you may find the photos, video and audio recordings of the conference on our website, as of tomorrow.

With no further delay, I hand the microphone to..... and wish you all an excellent evening.