



**Intervention of Franklin Hoet Linares, WJA Worldwide President,
To H.M. the King of Spain – Audience of November 20, 2018**

His Majesty, good morning

H.E. Mr. Jaime Alfonsín, Head of the Household of His Majesty the King

Representatives of the Organizing Committee of the World Law Congress and of the Entities, Institutions and Collaborating Companies here present today. Good morning.

Sir,

In thanking his generosity today, I am pleased to note that His Majesty shares with the World Jurist Association the values of peace, freedom, democracy and justice through the rule of law and, at the same time, the fundamental respect for the Spanish *Magna Carta*, which is currently 40 years old and, certainly, inspired the 1999 Constitution of Venezuela, my native country, and many from other Ibero-American countries. This Hispanic constitutional influence had already existed for more than 200 years, from the 1812 Constitution of Cadiz, Spain.

Our association has the vision of a Spain united in the diversity and heterogeneity of the Communities that integrate it, and as part of the European Union. Beyond the constitutional texts is the respect for the application of its content and an authentic interpretation to preserve the rule of law and the constituted order of the countries. The WJA, as a non-governmental organization with special consultative status with the United Nations, returns to Spain with the World Law Congress, in support of democracy, political stability and its development, and feels honored to be able to count on the acquiescence of the Monarchy, as it counted on the support of H. M. the King Juan Carlos I during the WJA World Congress of 1979.

This event will place Madrid as the international capital of the legal world, providing a holistic view of relevant issues on the global agenda, such as human rights, governance, security, defense and ethics, facing the 4th industrial revolution in a highly globalized world. The jurists of the world have the firm conviction to promote peace through the rule of law and we have chosen his beautiful country as the seat of our deliberations, for being a reference of democratic consolidation.

Nowadays, our organization is comprised of three world associations: Law Professors, Judges and Lawyers, and we recently have incorporated our Human Rights Institute here in Spain, through the World Business





Associates of the WJA. Fundamental rights are a mandatory issue in view of their permanent and daily violation in all countries, I dare say, with rare exceptions. It is in light of these injustices that the use of law as a fundamental element in the streamlining of the establishment of responsibilities becomes imperative, in demonstrating that justice is possible.

When choosing Madrid as the World Law Capital in February 2019, we pronounce ourselves with the support of illustrious Spanish jurists who integrate the Organizing Committee of the World Law Congress, among which today we have a magnificent representation, current references of the Spanish Public and Private legal communities, some of them academics, with whom we guarantee the continuity of our principles, fundamental values and the good follow-up of what will be the Declaration of Madrid, conclusions and recommendations of the Congress. Recalling Otto von Bismarck, *The politician thinks on the next election. The statesman thinks on the next generation. It is our mission to worry about them.*

The World Jurist Association reiterates its support to democracy and for the struggle to preserve the Rule of Law both in Spain and in the rest of the world. I am pleased to present the program of the Congress, meticulously elaborated applying universally accepted academic principles, highlighting the Spanish accent, as a good number of Hispanic jurists will integrate the panels. Likewise, His Majesty will see in the accompanying documentation, the list of special guests, including heads and former heads of state, chief justices and members of justice and constitutional courts, statesmen and officials of relevant organizations of international high influence. It is going to be a Congress of great international repercussion that we expect to keep repeating periodically.

At the end of this legal conclave, we hope to be able to count on the presence of His Majesty during the Closing Ceremony, an opportunity in which I have been granted the high privilege and honor of presenting before him the World Peace & Liberty Award, for his support to justice, freedom and democracy, not only in Spain, but universally. We are sure that this will be a moment of great pride for the Spanish people.

Given the importance of this event, this Organizing Committee considers the presence of His Majesty as a decisive factor for the full success of the XXVI WJA Biennial Congress.

Thanks for your attention.

Franklin Hoet-Linares

WJA Worldwide President

President of the Organizing Committee

