



**Message from
Stuart Popham,
Chairman of
Chatham House**

Since Her Majesty The Queen presented the inaugural Chatham House Prize in 2005, the award has been given annually to the statesperson who is considered by Chatham House members to have made the most significant contribution to the improvement of international relations in the previous year. The selection process to decide the recipient draws on the expertise of Chatham House's research teams and three presidents, and our members are then invited to vote for the winner in a ballot.

This year, for the first time, our members have voted to award the Prize to two winners: President Moncef Marzouki and Sheikh Rached Ghannouchi, from the Republic of Tunisia. They are named joint winners for the successful compromises each achieved during Tunisia's democratic transition. Representing two sides of the same coin, they have together ensured that Tunisia remains at the forefront of the new democratic wave in the Middle East and North Africa.

The other nominees for the 2012 Prize were: Archbishop Deng of South Sudan; Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; and Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Foreign Affairs of

Norway. In previous years, winners have included Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, President Abdullah Gül of Turkey and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil.

The institute's global reputation has ensured that the Prize has rapidly gained recognition in the international affairs community as a valuable and prestigious award. The Prize has given senior individuals from recipient countries the opportunity to participate in meetings with counterparts here when the winners have visited London to collect their award.

Media coverage of the Prize has been extensive and consistently well-received in each winner's home country and broader region, generating goodwill among the general public and in turn building links to the UK itself. This is particularly true as the award is presented on behalf of our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. The direct involvement and presence of members of the Royal Family is highly valued and appreciated by the institute and the recipients.

This is my first year as Chairman of Chatham House and I look forward to congratulating in person President Moncef Marzouki and Sheikh Rached Ghannouchi at the award ceremony. **F**