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**THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT STRESSES
THAT JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE IS NOT A PRIVILEGE OF JUDGES,
BUT A GUARANTEE FOR ALL CITIZENS, AT THE CLOSING OF THE
WORLD CONFERENCE PRESIDED OVER BY HIS MAJESTY THE
KING OF SPAIN**

The President of the Constitutional Court, Cándido Conde-Pumpido Tourón, stressed that the independence of the courts and judges is not a privilege, but a guarantee and a right of all citizens. He explained this at the closing ceremony of the 6th Congress of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice, which has been held this week in Madrid under the theme *“Human Rights of Future Generations”*.

One of the main conclusions of the Congress, which was closed by HM the King of Spain, is that there are clear threats to the independence of constitutional courts worldwide. *“These are not mere possibilities or isolated cases”,* highlighted the President, *“many face political pressures, some from external sources, delays in the enforcement of their decisions, attempts to erode public confidence in the functioning of the constitutional courts and budgetary or procedural constraints that limit their ability to act”*.

In this regard, he made a clear and concise appeal to all the State powers and institutions: *“Let us respect the functioning of the Institutions and assert our own legitimacy, which stems from the constitutional mandate. And in Spain this legitimacy is consolidated by our election system which is based on the balanced appointment of judges by the three branches of government, the executive, legislative and judicial branches, whose activity must always be subject to the mandate of the Constitution”*.

During the Conference, which was attended by 85 constitutional courts from around the world, the impact of new technologies on fundamental rights was discussed. In his speech, the President declared the need to guarantee the right to connectivity and fair access to technologies and knowledge creation and distribution systems: *“In an increasingly digitized world, these rights have become a vital element for development and social inclusion”*.

“We cannot allow technological progress to advance without ethical limits or legal safeguards. The misuse of personal data, discrimination through algorithms, and abuses stemming from excessive surveillance of human beings are real threats that require a firm judicial response. The constitutional courts have the responsibility to lay the foundations that ensure technological justice in accordance with human dignity and fundamental rights”, Conde-Pumpido stressed.

The President also reflected on the relevance and impact of this 6th Congress: *"I am convinced that many of the ideas that have emerged here these days will not remain only in the realm of institutional debate. They will transcend, influence future rulings and resolutions, inspire constitutional reforms and interpretations, and give rise to new understandings of the law that are more in line with the challenges of our time. And that is precisely the true objective of this Congress: remember that each Constitution is a tree full of life, which carries within it the seed of a new world"*.

The closing ceremony, presided over by HM the King of Spain and also attended by the Minister for the Presidency, Justice and Parliamentary Relations, Félix Bolaños, together with numerous authorities from the legal world, ended with a short concert by the children's orchestra of Acción por la Música, a foundation that seeks to improve and transform the lives of minors in vulnerable situations through music. The performance was a gesture towards future generations, whose human rights were at the centre of the three-day World Congress.

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