Jean Salençon is Honorary Professor at *École Polytechnique* and *École des Ponts ParisTech*, Senior Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute for Advanced Study at the City University of Hong Kong, and Fellow of the French *Académie des sciences* and *Académie des technologies*. His research work has been devoted to continuum mechanics, with special interest to anelastic behaviour of materials for applications to structure analysis and theoretical soil mechanics. Among the topics he investigated, based on the theory of yield design, one may list the bearing capacity of shallow strip or circular footings, taking into account heterogeneity or anisotropy of the soil foundation, under axial or eccentric inclined loading, subjected to seismic actions and the stability of slopes and embankments in similar circumstances. Jean Salençon is the author of more than 230 publications, among which many books in French and English.