



Programme

The future of a liberal international order: trends and challenges towards 2030

Wednesday 1 – Friday 3 March 2017 | WP1534

We mark the 10th year of Wilton Park's International Futures series at a time of global uncertainty and upheaval, with the potential to significantly undermine the liberal international order that has prevailed for decades. This latest meeting will examine a wide range of trends, challenges and opportunities and ask what they mean for the future of the liberal international order over the next 10-15 years.

This high level meeting will convene policy planners and opinion formers, horizon scanners/futurists and academics alongside industry, think tanks and other experts from a range of countries. Through a mixture of plenary and breakout sessions, the roundtable will inform policy planning, discuss implications of current trends and provide context for planning and decision making.

In particular it will:

- Challenge senior level officials to consider alternative international mid and long term perspectives
- Provide insights into how different countries, organisations and actors plan for the future
- Test the possibility of reaching a common understanding of long term trends and their implications for policy formulation and practical application
- Support national and international policy planning institutions in their contribution to global dialogue in the context of the challenges to existing thinking
- Develop and deepen relationships with international partners, strengthening and consolidating the emerging networks of 'futurists'

Key themes:

In a world in which power and the global economy are becoming more contested and multipolar, and liberal rules, multilateralism and globalisation are increasingly challenged, this meeting will ask what this means for the future of the liberal international order.

The topic will be approached from a range of perspectives, analysing the impact of increasing nationalism, isolationism and protectionism and the transfer of power toward

In association with:

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non-state actors and non-Western states. Is the rules based international system set to unravel? What form will the global political order take in the future? Which actors are likely to gain and lose status? What are the drivers and threats? How can international frameworks aim to achieve security in a volatile world?

In association with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence

Wednesday 1 March

1500-1600

Participants arrive, tea and coffee available

1600

Welcome and introduction

Richard Burge

Chief Executive, Wilton Park

Peter Hill

Director of Strategy, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1615-1715

1. The life span of the liberal international order

Is the liberal international order an evolving process or an outdated status quo?

What value has it provided over 70 years in terms of security and prosperity, and to whom? Where has it failed to succeed?

Do its core values and objectives still stand, and what new means are required to deliver these in a fast changing world?

Suzanne Fry

Director, Strategic Futures Group, Office of the Director for National Intelligence, National Intelligence Council (NIC), Washington DC

Alexander Dynkin

President, Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO-RAS), Moscow

Mary Kaldor

Director Civil Society and Human Security Research Unit, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London

1715-1800

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1800-1930

2. Domestic political trends and liberalism

What does the rise in populism, nationalism and identity politics mean for international cooperation?

To what extent has the liberal international order contributed to features of this trend? For example: increasing economic inequality, lack of job security, dissatisfaction with the political mainstream, fears around migration.

To what extent can the liberal international order contribute to resolving some of these problems? What is the future of this domestic political shift?

Robert Cooper

Visiting Professor, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London

Daniele Albertazzi

Senior Lecturer in European Politics, Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham

Maha Yahya

Director, Carnegie Middle East Center, Beirut

1930

Reception followed by dinner

Thursday 2 March

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900-1030

3. Globalisation and economic change

Has globalisation favoured investors and consumers to the detriment of workers and societies?

To what extent has the liberal international framework protected economies from disruptive economic events such as the 2008 banking crisis? Or has it amplified their impact/ paved the way for the crisis?

Will protectionism and transactional cooperation be a short-term response to domestic political trends, or will they take root and reverse the current model?

What do trends such as the rise of automation mean for the distribution of jobs and wealth? What are the implications for the labour market and can satisfactory jobs be generated for the less educated in society? Do our measurements of jobs and wealth still stand in a globalised world?

Chair: Michael Moodie

Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division, Congressional Research Service, Washington DC

Philippa Malmgren

President, DPRM Group, London

Angus Armstrong

Director of Macroeconomics, National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR), London

Vicky Pryce

Board member, Centre for Economics and Business Research Limited (CEBR), London

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1230

4. Responding to new challenges

Beyond the traditional pillars of security and prosperity, how will the international community respond to challenges? These include energy (in)security, water scarcity, population growth (and decline), modern terrorism, cyber security and health.

Are the structures of the liberal international order capable of meeting these challenges? If they are, do the major powers actually want to use them for these purposes?

Chair: Michael Moodie

Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division, Congressional Research Service, Washington DC

Peter Trubowitz

Head of Department of International Relations, Director of US Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London

Joëlle Jenny

Fellow, Weatherhead Centre for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge MA

Burak Akçapar

Director General for Policy and Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ankara

1230-1400

Lunch

1330

Briefing for Chairs for break out groups in Library

1430-1600

5. Non-state actors and the distribution of power – breakout groups

States as we traditionally understand them form the membership of the international liberal order. Can states survive as the recognised ultimate power for citizens – politically, economically, and socially?

Group 1 – Media and communication channels

Impact of the rise of social media; 24-hour news and commentary; dilution of official information channels; uncertainty and mistrust in where the truth lies.

Chair: Louise Harvey

Chair, Strategic Communications, FTI Consulting, Brussels

Group 2 – Transnational corporations

The power and reach of multinational entities; ethical considerations – employment versus exploitation in developing regions; the economic super-elites and their influence e.g. Davos.

Chair: Vicky Pryce

Board member, Centre for Economics and Business Research Limited (CEBR), London

Group 3 – Global crime and terrorism networks

The revival of modern slavery and piracy using physical means; new online threats such as terrorist financing and identity theft; how can authorities be one step ahead in a globally networked world?

Chair: Anton Du Plessis

Managing Director, Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria

Group 4 – Cyber threats and revolution

Rise of global data-led industries: How can states work with them? Will citizens relate to them more than to nation states? How to square the growth of AI-led industry, leading to greater productivity and free time, with the consequent impact on workforces? How can states effectively protect their citizens from cyber-enabled harm?

Chair: Robert Muggah

Research Director, Igarapé Institute, Rio de Janeiro

1600-1630

Tea/coffee

1630-1800

6. Diverse perspectives

How do the differing experiences of a range of countries and regions influence their views and requirements of the international liberal order? For example, how does a growing service-based economy view the liberal international order? How about newly industrialised economies, or commodity-rich economies? How about those with a very young, or a quickly growing population?

Chair: Michael Moodie

Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division, Congressional Research Service, Washington DC

Zhongying Pang

Professor, Renmin (People's) University of China, Beijing

Neelam Deo

Director, Gateway House, Indian Council on Global Relations, Mumbai

1800-1840

7. Report back

Plenary report back from break out groups on the 3 topics discussed in the working groups given by the Chairs.

1900

Reception followed by conference dinner

Friday 3 March

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0915-1045

8. A compelling response

Can the international order evolve to meet modern challenges, or is a more direct re-calibration needed? By whom?

As advances in communication, technology and transport make direct international cooperation easier, what key roles remain for international institutions?

To what extent does the traditional mandate of international institutions still stand, and does it need to be adjusted and reinforced to retain legitimacy?

Philip Bobbitt

Professor, Columbia Law School, New York

Puruesh Chaudhary

Founder and President, AGAHI, Islamabad

Richard Gowan

Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations, Brooklyn

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1125

9. eQuestionnaire

Completion of online eQuestionnaire

1125-1245

10. Conclusions

Will Jessett

Director, Strategic Planning, Ministry of Defence, London

Sam Daws

Director, Project on UN Governance and Reform, University of Oxford

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart