



Wilton Park

Programme

Britain's place in the world: a force for good?

Thursday 9 – Friday 10 November 2017 | WP1597

This 24 hour, off the record roundtable meeting will provide an opportunity for a small expert group of decision makers, influencers and opinion formers to discuss prospects for Britain's role as a future force for good in the world.

Contemporary domestic challenges and shifts in the international power balance have created uncertainty and increased pressure on existing institutions, with multiple actors exploring complex trade-offs between national interests and international obligations.

This current state of flux provides an opportunity to consider Britain's role in promoting international collaboration around universal norms, identify opportunities to build consensus and explore ways in which the UK can sustain a positive influence on global discourse.

The transnational nature of many current challenges requires a global response undergirded by international cooperation. Climate change, global health pandemics and terrorism do not stop at national borders. To deliver global public goods and tackle global public 'bads', the international community must develop coordinated responses. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) marked a watershed moment in this regard and the UK's position in continuing to support these and other international efforts should inform discussions towards 2030 and beyond.

In the context of Britain as a global force for good, the roundtable aims to:

- Identify current challenges and concerns and explore ways forward
- Consider options and opportunities to strengthen Britain's commitment to and collaboration with international efforts in delivering global public goods and tackling global public 'bads'
- Develop a better understanding of the objectives of organisations and institutions represented as a basis for stronger future collaboration
- Explore prospects for an expert network to sustain emerging ideas and develop the emerging vision

Thursday 9 November

1600 Participants arrive, tea/coffee available

1700-1745 **Welcome and introduction**

1745-1830 **1. Perceptions of the UK in the world**

In this session, participants will have an opportunity to share their visions for Global Britain both from a UK and non-UK perspective. What values should the UK be promoting in the world? What is Global Britain and what does it mean for the UK's influence in the world now and in the future? How do other nations perceive the UK and its values and what role do other nations envisage for the UK in the twenty-first century? How does the UK foster international collaboration around universal norms and values?

1830 Reception followed by dinner

Friday 10 November

0800-0845 Breakfast and checkout

0845-0945 **2. The UK's role in delivering global public goods**

In this session, participants will discuss the contribution of the UK to delivering global public goods and mitigating global public 'bads'. How do government, the private sector and civil society work together to shape the UK's offer? What role can and does the UK play in strengthening democracy around the world? How can the UK promote equality and diversity at home and abroad? What is the role of cultural institutions in making the world a more prosperous and secure place for all citizens?

0945-1045 **3. The challenges and risks to the UK's influence in the world**

In this session, participants will assess the current and future risks to the UK's place as a force for good in the world. What are the biggest risks to the UK's influence in the world? What challenges are posed by the current domestic and international political environments? Which UK institutions and sectors face the greatest threats to their global influence? Which global public 'bads' pose the greatest threat to the SDGs and other international efforts? How can the UK balance the trade-offs between national interests and international obligations while remaining a force for good?

1045-1130 Group photograph followed by tea/coffee

1130-1230 **4. Global Britain: strategies and opportunities now and in the future**

Following on from the previous session, this discussion will present an opportunity for participants to outline both strategies for mitigating the risks to, and opportunities for strengthening, the UK's global influence. How does the UK remain a force for global good? How does the UK continue to encourage and support international collaboration? What is the role of government, the private sector and civil society in developing a strategic and integrated approach to delivering global public goods at home and abroad?

1230-1240 **5. Evaluation survey**

Completion of online survey

1240-1315

6. Reflections, next steps and actions

This final session will provide an opportunity for participants to share their individual and group reflections on the event's discussions. Participants will have the chance to share the next steps and actions they will take as a result of the conversations that they have had over the course of the meeting.

1315

Lunch

1400

Participants depart