



Programme

The climate emergency: sharing perspectives to facilitate global climate action

The 'Chevening COP'

Wednesday 4 – Friday 6 December 2019 | WP1745

How prepared are you for the ongoing climatic changes? What are you doing about climate change at a personal, collective and institutional levels, whether in the academic world or beyond?

This Wilton Park dialogue offers 30 Chevening Scholars the opportunity to discuss their perspectives on the climate emergency, their individual and collective responses and their recommendations for global action. It will provide an overview of the latest science and consider the challenges and potential responses at the individual, community, national and international levels. The aim is to enable Chevening Scholars to broaden their own perspectives, and to develop a network amongst themselves of advocates for international action to address the consequences of climate change.

Wilton Park will organise this dialogue, in partnership with the Chevening Secretariat and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in the usual Wilton Park style for round-table participative discussion. Scholars will have the opportunity to engage with climate change experts who will stimulate their discussions in plenary sessions and smaller groups.

The dialogue will take place as the international community gathers in Madrid for COP 25 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and one year ahead of COP 26 which will be held in the UK co-hosted by the UK and Italy. The discussions and recommendations will be shared with those preparing for COP 26.

Context

There is now widespread acceptance that climate change is a critical threat to the global community and that international action is needed to reduce carbon emissions, and to manage the impacts of climatic change. The projected consequences of climate change to our current way of life are far-ranging and potentially disastrous, affecting societies and countries in various ways depending on their geographic location, and level of preparedness. Climate change will stress social, political and economic systems and test international relations as environmental pressures risk competition and conflict. Collaborative behaviours enabling action between nations will be key to finding collective solutions. Understanding different perspectives on climate change is the starting point for

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those collaborative behaviours.

Perspectives on climate change vary across nations and demographic groups. Nations at different stages of development have different technological capabilities and aspirations. Different political systems affect how actions to address climate change are conceived and implemented. Access to energy resources drives economic policies. Age is a trans-national factor influencing attitudes to the threat of climate change; increasing recognition that younger people have a greater vested interest in addressing the consequences of climate change is changing the demography of climate change politics.

What is the latest climate science? What are the anticipated impacts of climate change? How should individuals, communities, cities, countries and the international community prepare for climate change? How can we reduce carbon emissions effectively? How do we adapt to the anticipated threats? What transformations will be needed, for example to economic development? What would a green, zero-carbon, circular economy look like? How to respond in a holistic way? What can Chevening scholars do as individuals, and as a Chevening cohort?

In association with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Chevening Secretariat

Wednesday 4 December

1500-1600

Participants arrive. Tea and coffee available.

1600-1630

Welcome and introductions

Robin Hart

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Rich Roberts

Programme Director, Wilton Park

Naomi Rayner

Head of The Scholarships Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1630-1730

1. The climate science: where are we now?

Whilst the Earth's climate has changed throughout history, 97% of climate scientist agree that human activity is the primary contributor to the current warming trend, with climate change proceeding at an unprecedented rate. Human-induced warming reached approximately 1°C above pre-industrial levels in 2017, increasing at 0.2°C per decade, much beyond that of earlier warming periods.

This session will be an opportunity for the scholars to discuss the latest climate science.

Vicky Pope

Honorary Professor, Science Technology Engineering and Public Policy Institute, University College London (UCL)

Dom Kniveton

Professor of Climate Science & Society, University of Sussex, Brighton

1730-1800

Tea/coffee and group photograph

1800-1900

2. What are your perspectives on climate change?

Working in smaller breakout groups, participants will share their perspectives on climate change.

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Thursday 5 December

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-0945

3. Working group feedback and discussion of homework question

0945-1100

4. Environmental protection and stewardship

The quality of our environment affects us all, the more we exploit and damage the world around us, the more we risk our very existence. From forests and peatlands acting as carbon sinks, to the city park which cools the air during hot summers, our environment plays a significant role in reducing the effects of climate change. The proliferation of litter around the world, mainly single use plastics, is accelerating climate change and polluting our lands, rivers and oceans. By protecting our environment, we also protect the quality of our air, water and food.

This session will explore the concept of environmental stewardship. Including the need for system change, environmental protection and how to galvanise support for environmental protection from a community level upwards.

Allison Ogden-Newton

Chief Executive Officer, Keep Britain Tidy, London

Prachi Singhal

Chevening Scholar, MSc Public Policy and Management, SOAS University of London

Marcus Yeo

Chief Executive Officer, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Peterborough

1100-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1300

5. Energy futures: how to make the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy?

The capacity of the earth system to absorb greenhouse gas emissions is already exhausted and under the Paris climate agreement, emissions must cease by 2040 or 2050. Barring a breakthrough in carbon sequestration technologies, only a rapid switch to renewable energy can provide enough electricity to power the global economy while aggressively cutting carbon emissions.

This session will explore the following questions: What are the opportunities and challenges for developing alternative energy sources to reduce the use of fossil fuels? How does this apply in your country and those of your fellow scholars? What are the energy mix options? What are the global prospects of achieving this transition?

The technical challenge

Phil Longhurst

Professor of Environment and Energy Technology and Head of Centre for Climate and Environmental Protection, School of Water, Energy and Environment, Cranfield University

The political challenge

Nick Dunlop

Secretary General, Climate Parliament, Brighton

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1445

Optional garden tour: meet at reception

1445-1500

Facilitators briefing for world café, Library

1500-1545

6. Greening the economy: how? I

This session will visit the following questions: What are the wider considerations of reducing climate change and its impact across economies? Why does environmental protection matter? How can we cut waste? What economic transformations will be necessary to reach net-zero emissions and prepare to respond to climatic changes effectively? What initiatives are being or should be pursued across the energy and manufacturing industries, agriculture, transport and housing etc? What is needed to make responses holistic? Where are the opportunities and challenges for transformative change? How are consumers changing behaviour? Will these changes be enough?

Anish Pradhan

Chevening Scholar, MSc Infrastructure Investment and Finance, University College London (UCL)

Elizabeth Harnett

Lead, Future of Engagement, Oxford Sustainable Finance Programme, Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford

Ntinda Mvula

Chevening Scholar, MSc Renewable Energy Engineering, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh

1545-1615

Tea/coffee

1615-1730

7. World café: Greening the economy: how? II

In smaller groups, participants will explore how their countries can green their economies in order to attain the ambitious targets of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

1730-1830

8. World café feedback

1830-1845

Session 11 facilitator briefing, Conference Room

1900

Reception followed by dinner.

After dinner fireside chat about the Wiston Estate's Sustainability Plan, as a microcosm example of sustainable economic planning.

Richard Goring

Wiston Estate Manager, Wiston

Friday 6 December

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0900-0930

9. Reflections

Personal reflections on the discussion, and initial ideas about actions.

Participants will seek to answer the following questions: What has struck you most about the conversation so far? What needs to happen next? What action will you take? Who will you engage with, and on which issues? What is your plan?

0930-1030

10. Facilitating global action: climate diplomacy and beyond

The transnational and transgenerational nature of climate change contributes further to the challenge of creating positive coalitions for change and forging agreements among nations to act now for benefits later. Therefore, a key ingredient for shifting the global economy onto a sustainable development path will be a significant strengthening of international cooperation.

Participants will explore the following: What should be on the international agenda? How should the international community be taking this forward? How does the UK work with others on climate issues? What would you like COPs 25 and 26 to achieve? What frictions do you see between nations and other groups in taking this agenda forward? What are the possible implications? What could be done to reach compromises?

By video

Nicholas Bridge

Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Nick Mabey

Chief Executive Officer and Founder Director, Third Generation Environmentalism (E3G), London

Dustin Benton

Policy Director, Green Alliance, London

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1200

11. Working groups: climate diplomacy and beyond

Session continues in working groups. With a view to COP26 in Glasgow 2020, the Scholars will explore key climate change themes on the international agenda.

1200-1300

12. Turning theory into action: conclusions, next steps and personal commitments

Action to address climate change is needed across all sectors on an international, national, local and personal level.

The scholars will explore the following questions: How to pursue the policies discussed over the past two days as individuals and as a cohort of Chevening scholars? What practical next steps can be taken?

Participants will explore practical commitments that can make to lessen their own impact on the climate, to encourage others to do so and to continue to mainstream climate consciousness into their field.

Completion of the evaluation survey.

Dainalyn Swaby

Chevening Scholar, MA Global Communication and Development, Loughborough University

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart