



Provisional programme

Maximising the impact of UK development diplomacy: tools, capabilities and partnerships

Part 1: Development diplomacy in practice: principles, lessons and application

Friday 26 March 2021 | WP1886V2

1100-1300 UK time

To be held virtually

Development diplomacy describes the integration of development and foreign policy goals and activities through a single, coherent approach. It can mean making the most of the diplomatic opportunities that come from working on development challenges, as well as deploying diplomacy effectively to meet those challenges; good development diplomacy usually means both.

The Wilton Park round-table virtual dialogues will consider the practical application of development diplomacy for policymakers, taking into account different goals, contexts and partnerships. A main focus of discussion will be how the UK's development and diplomatic skills, capabilities and partnerships can be better integrated and deployed, increasing their impact on poverty reduction and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), as well as on the UK's soft power and influence across the full range of UK national interests.

The meeting aims to:

- encourage and share thinking and good practice to help maximise the impact of UK development diplomacy
- identify the tools, capabilities and approaches that, when harnessed and deployed coherently, will deliver the greatest return for development and for UK diplomatic interests
- identify specific policy or geographic examples offering the greatest opportunity to maximise the effectiveness of UK development diplomacy

Intended outcomes:

- building evidence and mutual understanding on the questions posed
- helping to actively shape the UK's foreign and development policy offer
- supporting ongoing integration and planning across the FCDO and its network
- providing input for a 'practitioners guide' in development diplomacy

All discussion will be non-attributable under the [Wilton Park Protocol](#), conducted in a neutral manner in order to encourage an open and constructive exchange among a selected grouping of up to 25 thought leaders, foreign policy and development experts, representative from partner governments and senior FCDO officials.

In association with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

(Speakers invited and themes proposed * denotes not yet confirmed)

1045	Participants to join meeting
1100-1110	Welcome Julia Purcell Programme Director, Wilton Park
1110-1120	1. UK development and diplomacy: setting the scene A brief overview of current drivers, strengths and challenges, including decreased resources; and a look ahead to how FCDO policy making plans to closer integrate and deploy development and diplomatic expertise. Melinda Bohannon Director of Strategy, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
1120-1155	2. Development diplomacy: lessons from existing practice Drawing on practical experience, what are the best examples of successful development diplomacy? How have other merged foreign and development agencies practiced an integrated approach? In what ways is development diplomacy different to traditional development programming or diplomacy? And how far has their integration been effective in support of the SDGs? What are the risks and pitfalls? Jon Lomøy Former Director General, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) Stephen Chan Professor of World Politics, SOAS University of London
1155-1200	Break
1200-1205	3. Introduction to breakout groups
1205-1230	4. Strengthening the UK's approach to development diplomacy: priorities and partnerships Breakout groups What can we learn from specific experiences of others about the tools, capabilities and approaches that the FCDO should harness and deploy coherently to deliver the greatest return for development and for UK diplomatic interests? What are the opportunities for greater integration, in policies and in practice, and where are the risks? Where should the FCDO focus its efforts: which challenges, which partners?
1230-1245	5. Recommendations from breakout groups
1245-1300	6. Close of meeting Wrap up and response to recommendations Moazzam Malik Director General for Africa, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

1300-1315

Informal networking (optional)

The virtual meeting room will stay open for participants to chat informally after the formal end of the meeting.

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

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