



## Provisional programme

# Maximising the impact of UK development diplomacy: putting policy into practice in the Indo- Pacific region

Thursday 15 April 2021 | WP1886V3

1200-1400 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. There is ongoing discussion about ways in which 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.

### Purpose of meeting

This is the second of two Wilton Park round-table dialogues to consider the practical application of development diplomacy for policymakers, taking into account different goals, contexts and partnerships.

The [first meeting](#), held on 26 March, brought together a small expert group to discuss the tools, capabilities and partnerships which are needed to support effective UK development diplomacy.

This meeting will consider the practical application of development diplomacy, building on the wide experience and knowledge of contributors, including expertise in other regions and contexts, and testing the ideas and principles identified in the March discussion. The read out from this discussion will be available shortly.

Taking a case study approach to the Indo-Pacific region, the meeting aims to explore:

- Where are the greatest opportunities for UK development diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region in the coming decade: thematically, geographically, and holistically?
- What are the specific examples of where an integrated approach can easily bear fruit – and the examples of where it's harder?
- How to make development-diplomacy work in practice, with different partners and challenges- geographically and thematically eg India, ASEAN, Myanmar; climate change, open societies, trade.

- What would diplomats, experts and policymakers need to consider, and do differently, to maximise development diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region?
- How to maximise the impact on UK influence, soft power and leverage without undermining development gains?

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

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)**

1145

Participants join meeting

1200-1210

## **Welcome**

**Julia Purcell**

Programme Director, Wilton Park

1210-1220

## **1. UK development and diplomacy: taking an integrated approach to the Indo-Pacific region**

Opening remarks: including recap on previous discussion and scene setter for development diplomacy in the region.

**Ben Mellor**

Director, Indo-Pacific, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

1220-1255

## **2. UK development diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region: challenges and opportunities**

What are the greatest opportunities for UK development diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region in the coming decade: thematically, geographically, and holistically? What are the specific examples of where an integrated approach can easily bear fruit – and where will it be harder?

The session will open with two discussants providing brief 5-minute provocations, followed by roundtable contributions.

**Hannah Ryder**

Chief Executive Officer, Development Reimagined

**Alexander Downer**

Executive Chair, International School for Government

1255-1300

Break

1300-1305

### 3. Introduction to breakout groups

1305-1330

### 4. Turning policy into practice

#### Breakout discussion

- How to make development-diplomacy work in practice, with different partners and challenges- geographically and thematically eg India, ASEAN, Myanmar; climate change, open societies, trade.
- What would diplomats, experts and policymakers need to consider, and do differently, to maximise development diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region?
- How to maximise the impact on UK influence, soft power and leverage without undermining development gains?

#### Facilitators

##### Jamie Drummond

Impact consultant; Co-Founder, ONE Campaign

##### Sandra Kraushaar

Director, Pacific Islands, The Asia Foundation

##### Nicola Nixon

Governance Director, The Asia Foundation

##### Sarah Dunn

Managing Director, ABT Associates Inc

1330-1345

### 5. Recommendations from breakout groups

1345-1400

### 6. Close of meeting

Wrap up and response to reflections from the discussion

##### Melinda Bohannon

Director of Strategy, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Final announcements

1400-1415

### 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 event.**

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