Programme

The future of global conflict: trends and challenges towards 2040

Monday 16 – Wednesday 18 February 2015 | WP1374

Building on the scope of HMG policy planning and on previous Wilton Park ‘Futures’ discussions, the 8th annual Wilton Park meeting in the international Futures series will focus on future trends, challenges and opportunities in the context of global conflict.

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

In particular it will:

- Assist senior level officials to consider international ‘long range’ perspectives
- Provide insights into how different countries, organisations and actors plan for the future
- Assist participants to reach 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:

As the scale, range and definition of conflict evolve, this meeting will explore the future of conflict from a range of perspectives. What types of conflicts will be fought in the future and how should strategy and doctrine evolve to meet these changes? Where will conflicts be fought? What is the role of international alliances, diplomacy and development in both conflict prevention and resolution? Who will be the main actors? What are the drivers and threats? The meeting will consider cross-cutting themes including the impact of technology and innovation.

In association with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development
Monday 16 February

1300-1430  Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500  Welcome and introduction

Julia Purcell  
Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

Peter Hill  
Director Strategy, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1515-1630  1. Towards 2040: the nature of future conflicts?

How will conflict be defined in the future? Will there be new factors sparking conflict or a replay of previous antagonisms? What types of conflict will be fought? How far will ‘traditional’ forms of conflict prevail? Will there be an increase in the ambiguous and less tangible eg hybrid, cyber, spheres of influence through strategic communications? How much conflict will there be, and will it be more or less deadly than today? What impact from conflict to resilience and erosion of freedoms?

Mary Kaldor  
Professor of Global Governance, London School of Economics and Political Science, London

Lindy Cameron  
Director, Middle East, Humanitarian and Conflict, Department for International Development (DFID), London

1630-1715  Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1715-1815  2. Drivers of future conflict: what, who, how and where?

Discussion in break out groups:

Drivers  What will drive conflict in the future? (Factors may include economic, resource competition, demography, climate change, collapsed states and ungoverned spaces, public opinion, ideology and identity, grievances of leaders and ambitions for geopolitical prestige)

Who  will fight conflicts in the future? Non-state actors? Private security companies/militias? Who will be most impacted (civilian populations/women)?

How  Direct conflict or persistent competition? Economic? Aerial/ land/ maritime? Technological? Chemical/biological?

Where  Inter-state or intra-state? Which regions? Arctic/Antarctic? Space? Proxies?

Expert leads for discussion groups to include:

Tarak Barkawi  
Reader, International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science, London

Paul Cornish  
Research Group Director: Defence, Infrastructure and Resilience, RAND Europe, Cambridge

Nathan Freier  
Associate Professor of National Security Studies, Strategic Studies Institute, Carlisle Pennsylvania

James Deane  
Director, Policy and Learning, BBC Media Action, London
1815-1845 | Expert leads/resource/rapporteurs to collate feedback (Library)

1900 | Reception followed by dinner

Tuesday 17 February

0800-0915 | Breakfast

0915-0945 | **3. Reports from break out groups**

0945-1100 | **4. Levers and limitations: multilateralism and regional alliances**

    What role will the multilateral system play in future conflict? Will the international system flex to meet shifting power dynamics, or will it yield to conflict? In what ways will rising powers impact on the engagement of current actors in conflict? What lies ahead for regional powers, groups and organisations and what challenges will this represent to world institutions? How will the new players impact on a multi-polar and complex world and what new constraints will be created? And how to have the most impact and affect?

    **Ashok K Mehta**
    Independent Strategic Analyst; Convenor, India-Pakistan and India-Afghanistan policy groups and Regional Peace Keeping, Delhi

    **Jamie Shea**
    Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO, Brussels

    **Sam Daws**
    Director, Project on UN Governance and Reform, Centre for International Studies, Oxford University, Oxford

1100-1130 | Tea/coffee

1130-1245 | **5. Diplomacy and deterrence**

    How and where to use diplomatic intervention to best effect? What are the most effective levers of influence, at what point should they be deployed and what are the limitations? Should Western powers maintain an active role in conflicts? If so, where? How to strengthen alliances and engage in effective confidence building measures? Are alliances of common purpose the way forward? Will conflict be more or less about deterrence? How does this link to the public appetite for conflict and the legacy of eg Iraq and Afghanistan?

    **Session Chair: Bridget Kendall**
    Diplomatic Correspondent, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), London

    **Tim Heath**
    Conflict Adviser, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

    **Fadl Nacerodien**
    Chief Director, Policy, Research and Analysis Unit, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Pretoria

    **Stephen Rapp**
    Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, US Department of State, Washington DC

1300-1430 | Lunch

1500-1630 | **6. Building long-term stability**

    Is there still confidence that development aid priorities (including effective state institutions, jobs and growth) are the best recipe for increasing stability? Will these endure by 2040? How robust are they? What the future prospects for statebuilding and peacebuilding
models, and what are the alternatives? How to respond to the needs of people in the context of the changing nature of conflict? What needs to change? Who will be best placed to provide development support and with what resources? How and where will future models be applied?

**Session Chair: Marcus Lenzen**  
Senior Conflict Adviser, Conflict Humanitarian and Security Department, Department for International Development (DFID), London

**Dominik Zaum**  
Head, School of Politics, Economics, and International Relations, University of Reading;  
Senior Research Fellow, Conflict and Fragility, Department for International Development, London

**Balthasar Staehelin**  
Deputy Director General, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva

**Kenneth Gluck**  
Director and Deputy Head of Office, United Nations Peacekeeping Support Office, New York

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**1630-1700**  
Tea/coffee

**1700-1815**  
7. A future look: deployment of assets and maximising opportunities

Discussion in break out groups

Considering the issues and themes discussed in previous sessions how will these impact different international actors in the future? What will these developments look like from a trans-Atlantic security perspective? How will this outlook converge with, or diverge from, those within the emerging powers developing world? What assets and capabilities do states and non-state actors possess to stay ahead, prevent, deter, and respond to conflict? How can current capabilities be sustained or amended to best meet the challenges of the future?

**Expert leads for discussion groups to include:**

**Thomas Rid**  
Professor, Security Studies, King’s College London

**Shashank Joshi**  
Senior Research Fellow, Royal United Services Institute, London

**Juliano Cortinhas**  
Chief of Staff, Pandiá Calógeras Institute, Brasília

**Kimberly Field**  
Retired Deputy Director Politico Military Affairs Middle East, Joint Chiefs of Staff, US Department of Defense, Washington DC

**Jonathan Prentice**  
Director, London Office and European Adviser, European Advocacy, International Crisis Group, Brussels

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**1815-1845**  
Expert leads/resource/rapporteurs to collate feedback (Library)

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**1930**  
Conference dinner

**Hosted by: Richard Burge**  
Chief Executive, Wilton Park, Steyning
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>0800-0915</td>
<td>Breakfast and checkout</td>
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<td>0915-0945</td>
<td>8. Reports from breakout groups</td>
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<td>0945-1100</td>
<td>9. Conflict and the use of force: expectations of the UK</td>
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<td>How should the UK anticipate its interventions in conflict in the next 10 years will differ from the previous 10 years? What shape will the UK’s future interventions in conflict take? How will the UK intervene and with who? Where should the UK be planning to intervene: where do historical ties, interests and the risk of conflict and instability all collide?</td>
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<td>Moderator: Paul Cornish</td>
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<td>Research Group Director: Defence, Infrastructure and Resilience, RAND Europe, Cambridge</td>
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<td>1100-1145</td>
<td>Tea/coffee</td>
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<td>Online e-questionnaire (<a href="http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WP1374">http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WP1374</a>)</td>
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<td>1145-1245</td>
<td>10. Closing remarks</td>
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<td>Session Chair: Matt Holmes</td>
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<td>Head Futures, Development Concepts and Doctrine Centre, Shrivenham</td>
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<td>1300</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1400</td>
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