



Wilton Park

Wilton Park virtual dialogue:

Crisis and Opportunity – How the COVID-19 moment will catalyse change in the aid sector

Thursday 30 April 2020, at 1300-1430 (UK time)

In partnership with Joep Lange Institute with support from Coalition for Global Prosperity, Development Initiatives, United Nations University, Equal International and the OECD Development Centre

As part of the Wilton Park 'Future of aid' series we will be holding a second virtual meeting to continue the discussions on the changing scope of public spending and investment for international development cooperation.

Objective: The meeting offers an opportunity to examine how traditional aid approaches need to adapt to respond to the urgent need for financing the global response to COVID-19, and the post-COVID world. By looking into the COVID-19 crisis, lessons will be drawn on approaches that could serve to build new scenarios for the future of aid. The meeting will also establish proposals for participants to build on ahead of a face-to-face Wilton Park meeting postponed from March 2020.

Programme

Introduction by chair: Robin Hart

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Short contributions to start the conversation from the following (speaking for 3-5 minutes):

Pascale Allotey

Director, International Institute for Global Health (IIGH), United Nations University, Kuala Lumpur

Debapriya Bhattacharya

Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka

Roberto Tibana

Principal economist, Analitica-RJT, Economic Research and Consultancy, Mozambique

André de mello e Souza

Senior Researcher, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Rio de Janeiro

This will be followed by the normal Wilton Park style dialogue to seek your thoughts on issues the speakers raise.

In partnership with:

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for Global Health

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Questions for discussion:

- What role can international public finance play to respond to the COVID-19 in the short term, including health related, humanitarian, economic and debt relief? What should be prioritised through this support? To whom – people, countries etc? What should be the reasons behind this support? How can the aid sector link up with the other government ministries and other stakeholders to provide a better coordinated response?
- As the response to COVID-19 grows, global public money is becoming crucial for the world economy. How quickly can funds be allocated and what governance adjustments are needed to ensure aid is spent effectively and used to benefit all in need? What role for bilateral donors and multi-lateral and regional banks? What role for the G20? What mechanisms of coordination should be put in place across actors for more effective actions?
- How might the response to COVID-19 reshape expectations of international public finance to support global goods and bads such as pandemics (e.g. to fund mass testing, treatment and vaccine development) and scale up that will be needed around the world. What about other global public goods, such as climate change?
- Having considered the immediate need for a response, what are the possible implications for the way international public finance is managed in the medium to long term? Assuming that significant support will be needed to counter the medium to long term social and economic consequences of COVID-19, where will the money come from and what should be the scope of its ambition (economic, health, humanitarian)?
- To what extent will the decisions and actions taken during this crisis affect both the focus and management of international public finance for global public goods in general as well as pandemics?
- In what other ways do traditional aid mechanisms need to adapt to respond first to the urgent need for financing the global response to COVID-19, and looking beyond that?

Format: 90-minutes

Wilton Park Discussion Protocol:

Our events are designed to be as interactive and frank as possible. [Wilton Park Discussion Protocol](#) applies to this discussion. All speakers and participants are encouraged to participate in their own personal capacity, rather than as representatives of their governments or organisations. Discussion in all Wilton Park sessions is 'off the record' and no individual speaker or participant should be quoted (nor their identity or institutional affiliation revealed) without that individual's express permission.

Participation: Interested parties, including those who took part in the first Wilton park virtual dialogue on 'The future of aid: towards global public investment?' with a wonderfully diverse group bringing together different expertise and insights from around the world.

Additional material:

- Summary [report](#) from first Wilton Park virtual conversation on 'The future of aid: towards global public investment?'