



 **5 events**

 **92 participants**

 **from 23 countries**

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### A Strategic Approach to International Development

**The UK's security role in the world to 2030: balancing the Euro-Atlantic and a tilt to Indo-Pacific**

**Supporting open societies and open economies**

**A great science power - a plan for UK innovation and leadership**

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### 21st Century Resilience

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## Development

Participants encouraged the UK to be: ambitious in the UK's approach to international development, whilst recognising itself as a 'Middle power'; innovative and working in nimble alliances of other middle powers; whilst recognising the challenging global context and financial post-COVID reality.

The UK should focus on its comparative advantages:

- As a champion of low-income country development; ensuring country-led development, the shape of which will change over time
- Human rights
- Global health
- Climate action, using development aid spend for climate resilience and zero-carbon economies
- Linking health and environment into planetary health.

There are opportunities for UK leadership to be a catalyst in making the multilateral system adapt to new realities and work better. The UK has an important thought-leadership and convening role and can inspire future initiatives as they did with GAVI (the vaccine alliance).

The UK can be nimble, outside the EU, in creating coalitions and alliances, and build new and long-term development partnerships with low and middle-income countries (MICs).

Encouragement for a specific MIC strategy, with MICs seeking a different approach, valuing diplomacy and shared peer-to-peer learning as much as finance.

The UK needs a clear IR offer or proposition to share with countries: including leveraging opportunities and coalescing around shared development agendas.

There are valuable lessons from the UK's approach to building up its climate diplomacy for other development diplomacy.

## Indo-Pacific Tilt

Participants were broadly supportive of the logic/idea behind an Indo-Pacific tilt but felt it was critical to clarify what the UK wants to achieve, what the UK's limits are, and what the UK can offer.

The UK will need to balance growing security threats in Europe, and any ambition to lead reform in NATO with any Indo-Pacific ties/plan

The UK on its own does not have a strong military offer in the Indo-Pacific. The UK's role could include offering know-how and support on cyber, space, blue economy issues, climate adaptation and innovation and supporting allies on specific ambitions, like India's desire to have more of a role in international institutions

The UK Government needs to learn what our allies want/need from the UK, it may in some case be backfilling and solidarity on collectively deterring China

All this should be tempered by realism about our post-COVID fiscal position and the time and effort it will take to pull off trade deals in the region.

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## Open Societies

Traditional multilateralism is under stress, with the pandemic significantly exposing structural flaws and discordance-though many participants argued these have been in evidence since Iraq, Afghanistan and the war on terror. The UK should consider forming wider, informal relationships in new regions, or it could take a more differentiated approach, coalescing with the right partners on major policy issues.

Many participants argued the UK tends to fall short of the principles it espouses internationally, raising questions of our consistency in promoting an open, liberal world order. Maintaining our reputation as a major global player could be improved by smarter foreign policy which emphasizes 'walking the talk' on universal values, leveraging influence through initiatives such as anti-corruption and pursuit of kleptocrats.

There was consensus that the UK's soft power on the world stage was threatened due to the depletion of critical institutions and assets. Increasing investment and capacity in competent governance and contribution to global public goods could and should be used as another entry point for developing power and influence around the world.

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## Youth

We also hosted a youth event.

A selected group of young leaders, stakeholders and experts from different countries and contexts were brought together to bring ideas, fresh perspectives and insights to the discussions around the UK's Integrated Review(IR)and what the UK's role in the world should be for the next decade and beyond.

- 22 participants from 14 countries
- Average age 34
- 36% male / 64% female

## Science

The UK has an existing competitive advantage in certain areas of Science and Innovation (S&I), namely academic prowess, moral and ethical leadership, and some industrial sectors.

However, it struggles with pull-through from scientific discovery to commercialisation and eventual contribution to economic security.

Government intervention should not come in the form of 'picking winners' nor in seeking to be the main source of S&I capital. Instead it should focus on:

- Creating a domestic regulatory environment that cultivates success as well as a parallel international regulatory presence that enables and facilitates a UK competitive advantage whilst being a global force for good.
- Supporting the supply of students into academic fields that support cutting edge S&I. This includes a focus on developing a learned public who can adopt and transition to new technologies with ease.
- Becoming an early adopter of technology including cloud technologies in the short term.
- Embracing systems change to facilitate a closer relationship within HMG's science and prosperity assets and between HMG, academia and the private sector.

The sector has concerns about HMG's understanding of the S&I industry including its ability to pick winners. It should not seek to compete financially but should take cues from the private sector and look to the technologies of the future through anticipatory policymaking.

The UK needs to develop and sustain numerous strong international partnerships with both our competitors and advisories that allow us to exert control through a competitive advantage. A key part of this will be a strong regulatory presence.

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## Resilience

Use COVID-19 as a once in a generation time to rethink resilience and better prepare the UK for future risks.

A continuous active resilience approach needs to be taken. Including investment in research and understanding, learning from adversity, and building back stronger rather than returning to 'normality'. Resilience cannot be achieved without tackling existing vulnerabilities.

Is a new institute/govt body/chief risk officer needed to create more ownership and ensure the UK has a more active approach to resilience and risk? If so, it needs to be expertly staffed, cross cutting, properly funded and depoliticised. Current siloed approach to resilience is inefficient.

Run frequent red team/scenario exercises. Important to run exercises, ensuring that clear lessons learned are 'owned' by senior policy makers.

Reform National Security Risk assessment, especially so it has a longer time horizon. Listen to, empower, and fund analysts.

Work internationally, upstream. The UK does not face threats alone. There is an opportunity for UK leadership in resilience.

UK citizens should be engaged and educated in resilience from a young age.