



DEBATE PACK

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Global Britain

Main Chamber
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1. Background

The Government began using the phrase “Global Britain” shortly [after the 2016 referendum](#) to reflect, in the words of then Prime Minister Theresa May: “[our ambitious vision for Britain after Brexit](#)”. Boris Johnson, as Foreign Minister, speaking in the same year, affirmed the Government’s intent to continue to run a “[truly global foreign policy](#)”.¹

What that means in practice has been questioned by MPs in the intervening years. In 2018 the Foreign Affairs Committee undertook an inquiry to learn more about its meaning, finding:

The most frequent complaint we have heard from several witnesses is that the only thing that is clear about Global Britain is that it is unclear what it means, what it stands for or how its success should be measured.²

Ministers, and MPs, have discussed Global Britain on multiple occasions since then (ministerial speeches can be found on Gov.uk: [Global Britain](#), while Parliamentary debates and statements are collated in Library briefing paper [International affairs and defence: Parliamentary debates and statements in the 2019-21 session](#)).

In February 2020 Dominic Raab, the Foreign Secretary, described the Government’s vision of a “[truly global Britain](#)” as having three pillars:

The first pillar of our global Britain strategy will be to continue to prove that we are the best possible allies, partners and friends with our European neighbours.

[...]

The next pillar of our global Britain strategy will be the UK’s role as an energetic champion of free and open trade

[...]

Finally, the third pillar of our global Britain will be the UK as an even stronger force for good in the world.

The Government is expected to expand upon these themes, and how it intends to put them into practice, in the forthcoming integrated review. The integrated security, defence and foreign policy review will cover “[all aspects of international policy from defence to diplomacy and development](#)”³ and is expected to be completed [early this year](#).

Context

The UK’s departure from the European Union has inevitably prompted much commentary and thinking about the UK’s place in the world. But it is far from the only issue driving this debate.

¹ Gov.uk has a collection of speeches and articles under the term [Global Britain](#)

² “[Global Britain](#)”, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 780 2017-19, 12 March 2018, para 1

³ [Queen’s Speech](#), December 2019

The creation of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in September 2020 focused attention on the UK's soft power and use of development aid. The Chancellor's Spending Review announcement of a [reduction in the overseas aid budget](#) did little to dampen concerns about this Government's commitment to development spending.

The UK's relationship with the United States under a new President and ongoing tensions with China over Hong Kong are two obvious topics. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on international relations and the UK's finances is still to be fully understood. The Government's [call for evidence](#) for the integrated review also identified some other key trends and drivers of change:

- a shift in the international order, marked by intensifying great power competition and a shift in the world's economic centre of gravity towards Asia
- the increasingly tangible effects of climate change
- an increasingly complex global economic context
- increasing instability and challenges to global governance.

The threat posed by terrorism, extremism and instability remains ever-present. While the use of technology by both state and non-state actors pre-occupies those in the national security and defence fields.

The UK holds the Presidency of the G7 this year, for the first time since 2013. In November Glasgow will host the UN climate change conference COP26.

Many of these topics are discussed in Commons Library paper [The Integrated Review: a look ahead to the Government's review](#), November 2020.

The UK-EU Trade and Co-operation Agreement

Dominic Raab said in February that the "first pillar" of Global Britain would be good relations with European neighbours. But the UK's foreign policy relationship with the EU will not be as close as some expected.

Following the end of the Brexit transition period on 31 December 2020, the UK is no longer party to the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. The [Political Declaration](#) (PD) on the future UK-EU relationship, agreed by the UK and EU alongside the Withdrawal Agreement in October 2019, indicated that a future relations agreement would cover co-operation in foreign policy and defence. The EU's [negotiating directives](#) and its [draft treaty text](#) tabled in March included proposals for treaty provisions covering these areas. However, before the launch of negotiations, the UK Government indicated that it [did not view co-operation in foreign policy and defence as requiring a treaty framework](#), and this was not covered by the negotiations.

The [Trade and Co-operation Agreement](#) (TCA) announced on 24 December did not make any provision for institutionalised co-operation in foreign affairs and defence. The preamble, however, referred to the

two parties' recognition of "the importance of global co-operation to address issues of shared interest". The Common Provisions of the TCA also refer to a number of common principles with an international dimension. These include:

- The principles of democracy, the rule and law and respect for human rights (including respects for various international human rights' instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights);
- The fight against climate change, and commitment to the Paris Agreement on climate change in particular;
- Countering proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- Implementing obligations to counter the illicit trade in conventional weapons;
- Co-operation to combat acts of terrorism in accordance with international law;
- Global co-operation on issues of shared economic, environmental and social interest, including the two parties endeavouring to co-operate on global issues and to co-ordinate positions in multilateral organisations including the United Nations, the G7, G20, OECD, IMF, World Bank and WTO.

The Agreement also defines the first three points as "essential elements of the partnership" (Article COMPROV.12) and includes a fast-track procedure to terminate or suspend the Agreement or parts of it, where one party feels that there has been a serious failure by the other to uphold these principles (Article INST.35).

See Commons Library briefing 9106, [The UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement: summary and implementation](#).

New Trade Agreements

The second of Dominic Raab's pillars of Global Britain involves championing free trade; so far the main activity has been to replace EU trade agreements with almost identical UK bilateral agreements.

The Government has since 2018 been negotiating replacement agreements for the international agreements it was previously party to as a Member State of the EU. These ceased to apply to the UK at the end of the transition period. In 2019, the Government released a [list of international agreements](#) across different policy areas that it was seeking to replace EU agreements.⁴ These included trade agreements covering more than 70 countries. By the end of the transition period, replacement trade agreements covering 60 countries [were in place](#) with

⁴ The Government also provided updates in negotiating the listed agreements, but stopped doing so in May 2020 for the non-trade agreements. An indication of progress on completing these treaties is however provided by the Parliament [Treaty Tracker](#) for treaties laid before Parliament under the [Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010](#).

three more pending, two covered by declarations attached to the TCA⁵ and six others still being discussed.⁶

Now that it is no longer a member of the EU customs union, the UK is also able to negotiate free trade agreements with new partners. It has already begun negotiations with the [USA](#), [Australia](#) and [New Zealand](#) and has indicated its interest in joining the [Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) (CPTPP) comprising 11 Pacific Rim countries. The incoming Biden administration in the USA has indicated that a trade deal with the UK [will not be an immediate priority](#).

⁵ Andorra and San Marino which are both in a customs union with the EU.

⁶ See also Peter Ungphakorn, [The UK's rolled-over deals after the Brexit transition](#), 4 January 2020

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or the accuracy of external content.

[Finding a new role for the UK in the world](#)

Financial Times (Subscription required)
4 January 2021

[Johnson prepares 'global Britain' relaunch in wake of Brexit](#)

Financial Times (Subscription required)
George Parker
4 January 2021

['Global Britain' is willing to trade away everything. Including scruples](#)

The Observer
Simon Tisdall
3 January 2021

[How Boris Johnson can show Joe Biden that Global Britain means business](#)

Daily Telegraph
John Bolton
27 December 2020

[Will 'Little England' or 'Global Britain' prevail in 2021?](#)

Arab News
Andrew Hammond
24 December 2020

[Boris Johnson's India trip is exactly what 'global Britain' should be doing – what could possibly go wrong?](#)

The Independent
Sean O'Grady
15 December 2020

[The Observer view on the role of 'global Britain'](#)

The Observer
22 November 2020

[Boris Johnson's Global Britain Collides with Global Reality](#)

Bloomberg
Alan Crawford, Archana Chaudhary and Kait Bolongaro
22 July 2020

[Boris Johnson's 'Global Britain': Inspired Vision or Wishful Thinking?](#)

New York Times
Mark Landler
3 July 2020

3. Gov.uk

[Global Britain: delivering on our international ambition](#)

13 June 2018 (Last updated 23 September 2019)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

(Webpage bringing together the main documents that set out the government's vision for Global Britain.)

[PM speech in Greenwich: 3 February 2020](#)

Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street

It is great to welcome everyone here to Greenwich and I invite you first to raise your eyes to the heavens.

The Vatican has Michelangelo.

Greenwich has Thornhill who spent 20 years flat on his back on top of the scaffolding, so rigid that his arm became permanently wonky, and he's left us this gorgeous and slightly bonkers symbolic scene that captures the spirit of the United Kingdom in the early 18th century.

This painting above you was started in 1707, the very year when the union with Scotland was agreed – and does it not speak of supreme national self-confidence?

Look at these well-fed nymphs and cupids and what have you.

They are not just celebrating the Triumph of Liberty and Peace over Tyranny – the official title of the scene.

This is the settlement of a long and divisive political question about who gets to sit on the throne of England.

And it is visibly resolved as you can see in favour of William and Mary and the result is stability and certainty and optimism and an explosion of global trade propelled by new maritime technology.

And above and around us you can see the anchors, cables, rudders, sails, oars, ensigns, powder barrels, sextants, the compasses and the grappling irons.

In fact the only important bit of kit that is missing is Harrison's sea clock – also exhibited close-by here in Greenwich and also commissioned in the same era, that allowed every ship in the world to determine how far they were from this Meridian.

So this is it. This is the newly forged United Kingdom on the slipway: this is the moment when it all took off.

And - you know where this is going - today if we get it right, if we have the courage to follow the instincts and the instructions of the British people, this can be another such moment on the launching pad.

Because once again we have settled a long-running question of sovereign authority, we have ended a debate that has run for three and a half years - some would say 47 years.

I won't even mention the name of the controversy except to say that it begins with B.

Receding in the past behind us.

We have the opportunity, we have the newly recaptured powers, we know where we want to go, and that is out into the world.

And today in Geneva as our ambassador Julian Braithwaite moves seats in the WTO and takes back control of our tariff schedules, an event in itself that deserves itself to be immortalised in oil - this country is leaving its chrysalis.

We are re-emerging after decades of hibernation as a campaigner for global free trade.

And frankly it is not a moment too soon because the argument for this fundamental liberty is now not being made.

We in the global community are in danger of forgetting the key insight of those great Scottish thinkers, the invisible hand of Adam Smith, and of course David Ricardo's more subtle but indispensable principle of comparative advantage, which teaches that if countries learn to specialise and exchange then overall wealth will increase and productivity will increase, leading Cobden to conclude that free trade is God's diplomacy – the only certain way of uniting people in the bonds of peace since the more freely goods cross borders the less likely it is that troops will ever cross borders.

And since these notions were born here in this country, it has been free trade that has done more than any other single economic idea to raise billions out of poverty and incredibly fast.

In 1990 there were 37 percent of the world's population in absolute poverty - that is now down to less than ten per cent.

And yet my friends, I am here to warn you today that this beneficial magic is fading.

Free trade is being choked and that is no fault of the people, that's no fault of individual consumers, I am afraid it is the politicians who are failing to lead.

The mercantilists are everywhere, the protectionists are gaining ground.

From Brussels to China to Washington tariffs are being waved around like cudgels even in debates on foreign policy where frankly they have no place - and there is an ever growing proliferation of non-tariff barriers and the resulting tensions are letting the air out of the tyres of the world economy.

World trading volumes are lagging behind global growth.

Trade used to grow at roughly double global GDP – from 1987 to 2007.

Now it barely keeps pace and global growth is itself anaemic and the decline in global poverty is beginning to slow.

And in that context, we are starting to hear some bizarre autarkic rhetoric, when barriers are going up, and when there is a risk that new diseases such as coronavirus will trigger a panic and a desire for market segregation that go beyond what is medically rational to the point of doing real and unnecessary economic damage, then at that moment humanity needs some government somewhere that is willing at least to make the case powerfully for freedom of exchange, some country ready to take off its Clark Kent spectacles and leap into the phone booth and emerge with its cloak flowing as the supercharged champion, of the right of the populations of the earth to buy and sell freely among each other.

And here in Greenwich in the first week of February 2020, I can tell you in all humility that the UK is ready for that role.

We are ready for the great multi-dimensional game of chess in which we engage in more than one negotiation at once and we are limbering up to use nerves and muscles and instincts that this country has not had to use for half a century.

Secretary of State Liz Truss tells me she has the teams in place:

She has the lawyers, top dollar I've no doubt, the economists, trade policy experts and if we don't have enough, or if they don't perform, believe me we will hire some more.

We will reach out to the rest of the Commonwealth, which now has some of the fastest growing economies in the world.

It was fantastic at the recent Africa summit to see how many wanted to turn that great family of nations into a free trade zone, even if we have to begin with clumps and groups, and we will take these ideas forward at Kigali in June.

We will engage with Japan and the other Trans-Pacific agreement countries, with old friends and partners - Australia, New Zealand, Canada - on whom we deliberately turned our backs in the early 1970s.

We will get going with our friends in America and I share the optimism of Donald Trump and I say to all the naïve and juvenile anti-Americans in this country if there are any – there seem to be some - I say grow up – and get a grip.

The US already buys one fifth of everything we export.

And yes of course there are going to be difficulties:

Our shower trays seem to fall foul of US rules Liz, and if you want to sell insurance across America, Mr Ambassador, you still have to deal with 50 separate regulators, and it is high time I think we all agree that they cut their punitive tariffs on Scotch whisky.

And it goes without saying to all those conspiracy theorists who may still be in existence, all those believers in the Bermuda Triangle or who

think that Elvis will be found on Mars, It goes without saying that of course the NHS is not on the table and no we will not accept any diminution in food hygiene or animal welfare standards.

But I must say to the America bashers in this country if there are any that in doing free trade deals we will be governed by science and not by mumbo-jumbo because the potential is enormous.

And of course that brings me to the other area where the potential is great we want a thriving trade and economic relationship with the EU, our historic friend, partners, neighbours and I shall table a parliamentary statement today spelling out our objectives.

And at the outset I wish to reassure our friends about one thing: to lay one myth to rest.

We will not engage in some cut-throat race to the bottom.

We are not leaving the EU to undermine European standards, we will not engage in any kind of dumping whether commercial, or social, or environmental, and don't just listen to what I say or what we say, look at what we do.

And I say respectfully to our friends that in all those three crucial areas the anxiety should really be on our side of the Channel not yours.

Look at state aid:

France spends twice as much on state aid as the UK, and Germany three times as much, who is using subsidies to undercut? Not the UK.

In fact, the EU has enforced state aid rules against the UK only four times in the last 21 years, compared with 29 enforcement actions against France, 45 against Italy – and 67 against Germany.

The same applies even more emphatically to social policy – and here again I dispel the absurd caricature of Britain as a nation bent on the slash and burn of workers' rights and environmental protection, as if we are saved from Dickensian squalor only by enlightened EU regulation, as if it was only thanks to Brussels that we are not preparing to send children back up chimneys.

In one field after another, Britain is far ahead.

The EU waited until last year before introducing two weeks of paid paternity leave; we in the UK guaranteed that right nearly two decades ago.

The EU gives employees the right to request flexible working only if they are parents or carers.

The UK provides that right to every employee with more than six months' service – and they can make the request for any reason.

The EU provides a minimum of 14 weeks paid maternity leave;

Britain offers up to a year, with 39 weeks paid and an option to convert this to shared parental leave. How about that.

The UK has a higher minimum wage than all but three EU member states: in fact six EU countries have no minimum wage at all.

As for the environment, look at animal welfare.

It is not just that we want to go further than the EU in banning live shipment of animals: there are ways in which we already are further ahead.

The UK banned veal crates fully 16 years before the EU.

We are protecting elephants by introducing one of the strictest ivory bans in the world; and the EU, meanwhile, is still in the consultation stage.

And on the great environmental issue of our time, perhaps the greatest issue facing humanity, Britain was the first major economy in the world – let alone the EU – to place upon our own shoulders a legal obligation to be carbon neutral by 2050.

That will put huge strains on our system, it will require full effort and change but we know we can do it.

We have cut our carbon emissions by nearly twice the EU average since 1990, 42 percent and we have cut while the GDP has grown by about 70%; but here is the question: are we going to insist that the EU does everything that we do, as the price of free trade?

Are we? Of course not.

Our legislation to ban single-use plastics goes further and faster than anything proposed by the EU.

Does that mean we will refuse to accept a zero-tariff zero-quota deal with the EU unless the EU agrees to match us every step of the way?

Will we stop Italian cars or German wine from entering this country tariff free, or quota free, unless the EU matches our UK laws on plastic coffee stirrers or maternity leave or unless they match our laws in any other field of policy that might conceivably affect the production of an Alfa Romeo or a bottle of gewurtztraminer?

Will we accuse them of dumping?

Of course not.

Or wanting to dump?

Of course not.

So I hope our friends will understand that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

There is no need for a free trade agreement to involve accepting EU rules on competition policy, subsidies, social protection, the environment, or anything similar any more than the EU should be obliged to accept UK rules.

The UK will maintain the highest standards in these areas – better, in many respects, than those of the EU – without the compulsion of a treaty.

And it is vital to say this now clearly because we have so often been told that we must choose between full access to the EU market, along with accepting its rules and courts on the Norway model, or a free trade agreement, which opens up markets and avoids the full panoply of EU regulation, like the Canada deal.

Well folks I hope you've got the message by now.

We have made our choice: we want a comprehensive free trade agreement, similar to Canada's.

But in the very unlikely event that we do not succeed, then our trade will have to be based on our existing Withdrawal Agreement with the EU.

The choice is emphatically not "deal or no-deal".

We have a deal – we've done it and yes it did turn out as I prophesized to be oven ready.

The question is whether we agree a trading relationship with the EU comparable to Canada's – or more like Australia's.

And I have no doubt that in either case the UK will prosper.

And of course our new relationship with our closest neighbours will range far beyond trade.

We will seek a pragmatic agreement on security, on protecting our citizens without trespassing on the autonomy of our respective legal systems.

I hope that we can reach an agreement on aviation, allowing cheap flights to continue.

We are ready to consider an agreement on fisheries, but it must reflect the fact that the UK will be an independent coastal state at the end of this year 2020, controlling our own waters.

And under such an agreement, there would be annual negotiations with the EU, using the latest scientific data, ensuring that British fishing grounds are first and foremost for British boats.

And in all these other areas, I see the same need for warmth, we'll deliver that or cooperation for friendship and exchange and va et vien, for academics, students and businesses but I see no need to bind ourselves to an agreement with the EU.

We will restore full sovereign control over our borders and immigration, competition and subsidy rules, procurement and data protection.

And while we will always co-operate with our European friends in foreign and defence policy whenever our interests converge – as they often, if not always, will – this will not in my view necessarily require any

new treaty or institutions because we will not need them for the simple reason that the UK is not a European power by treaty or by law but by irrevocable facts of history and geography and language and culture and instinct and sentiment.

And I have set in train the biggest review of our foreign defence and security policies since the Cold War, which is designed to seize the opportunities that lie ahead and make sure that we play our part in addressing the world's problems.

I know we will do it in cooperation with our European friends.

And I say to our European friends – many of whom I'm delighted to see in this room – we are here as ever, as we have been for decades, for centuries, to support and to help as we always have done for the last hundred years or more and the reason I stress this need for full legal autonomy, the reason we do not seek membership or part membership of the customs union or alignment of any kind, is at least partly that I want this country to be an independent actor and catalyst for free trade across the world.

I was there when they negotiated the Uruguay round.

I saw it completed in Geneva when they gavelled it out -

And it was one of those events that people hardly reported, but it was a fantastically important event in the life of the world.

And it was a critical moment in my view that helped to lead to almost two decades of global growth and confidence.

And then in 2008 we saw the abject failure of the Doha round and though there were many culprits there can be no doubt that both the EU and the US bear a heavy share of the blame for their refusal to compromise on farm subsidies.

And of course while we were in, the voice of the UK was of course muffled.

And as we come out.

I don't wish to exaggerate our influence or our potential influence, but then nor would I minimise the eagerness of our friends around the world to hear once again our independent voice again in free trade negotiations and our objective is to get things started again not just because it is right for the world, but because of course it is right for Britain because this people's government believes that the whole country will benefit.

Because it will help our national programme to unite and level up and bring together our whole United Kingdom.

And by expanding our trading relationships to improve the productivity of the entire nation by expanding infrastructure, education and technology you know that our programme is to bring this country together, combine that with greater free trade.

And of course I hope you will see us exporting more fantastic ships built on the Clyde, more wonderful bone china pottery from Northern Ireland, beef from Wales.

The opportunities as I say are extraordinary.

It is an incredible fact that we still sell not one hamburger's worth of beef to the US, not one kebab's worth of lamb, and as I speak the people of the US are still surviving without an ounce of Scottish haggis which they continue to ban Mr Ambassador.

In fact I don't know how they manage Burns Night.

I am glad to say that the Chinese last year signed the first agreement to take British beef after a 20-year ban, but still no lamb, not a joint, not a chop, not a deep frozen moussaka, even though we have the best lamb in the world.

And don't tell me the issue is distance from China.

Let me ask you a question, see if you've been paying attention to this speech the New Zealanders sell huge and growing quantities of lamb to China, as indeed they do to America.

Let me ask you which is closer to Beijing?

Wales or New Zealand? Does anybody know?

Wales of course is the correct answer.

There is no reason why we cannot do much, much better and I am deeply proud of this – I don't want to do down this country's global exporting spirit.

We do extraordinary things as I never tire of telling you.

Tea to China, cake to France, TV aerials to South Korea and so on.

Boomerangs to Australia - Nigel Farage to America. Then he came back of course.

But this is the moment for us to think of our past and go up a gear again, to recapture the spirit of those seafaring ancestors immortalised above us whose exploits brought not just riches but something even more important than that – and that was a global perspective.

That is our ambition.

There lies the port, the vessel puffs her sail...the wind sits in the mast.

We are embarked now on a great voyage, a project that no one thought in the international community that this country would have the guts to undertake, but if we are brave and if we truly commit to the logic of our mission - open, outward-looking - generous, welcoming, engaged with the world championing global free trade now when global free trade needs a global champion,

I believe we can make a huge success of this venture, for Britain, for our European friends, and for the world.

4. PQs

Military and Security Co-operation: European Union

07 Dec 2020 | 685 c545

Asked by: Tobias Ellwood

My right hon. Friend knows, however, that NATO and Europe are not quite the same. As Brexit talks reach their conclusion, does he agree that to depart without a trade deal would be less than helpful in re-establishing western resolve to take on the growing, complex threats that we face? The Government's integrated review emphasises a commitment to reinvigorating a proactive role for the United Kingdom on the international stage, giving real purpose to global Britain. Would it not be an abject failure of statecraft, and diminish our collective security co-operation, to leave the EU without a deal?

Answered by: Ben Wallace | Ministry of Defence

My right hon. Friend obviously urges us to make a deal. I think that right now, as we speak, members of the Government are trying to make a deal with the European Union to enforce the decision by the British people to leave the European Union. What would be a mistake is if both sides forgot that security is not a competition—it is a partnership. That is what I always said as Security Minister, and as Defence Secretary I mean it now. There has been no sign among many of our European allies that that situation has changed. We are still partners in going after whatever threatens all of us, our way of life and our values.

Summit of Democratic Governments

30 November 2020 | 808 cc505-507

Asked by: Baroness D'Souza

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for convening a summit of the governments of the 10 leading democracies in spring 2021.

Answered by: Lord True | Cabinet Office

My Lords, our G7 presidency will convene a number of democratic nations next year, building on the G7's shared values as democratic and open societies. This is part of a year of UK international leadership. The Government do not currently plan to convene an additional summit of 10 democracies in spring 2021.

Asked by: Baroness D'Souza

I thank the noble Lord for his Answer. It is likely that global Britain will be in want of an international role following the end of the transition period. The UK still has considerable convening power, as shown by the recent joint letter signed by the UK, Canada and Australia on events in Hong Kong. Surely a transatlantic and transpacific democratic alliance could have a synergistic effect in tackling major problems such as climate change, building 5G, security, corruption and human rights. This would aim to be not an "anti" group, but rather a co-operating bloc to deal with specific issues and become something positioned between liberal naivety and the Cold War. Will the Government consider

establishing an informal but influential network of democracies such as the G7, together with India, South Korea and Australia, to present a common front in upholding the rule of law?

Answered by: Lord True | Cabinet Office

My Lords, of course I agree with the sentiment of the noble Baroness. As she says, the UK works as part of a vast range of different multinational organisations, from the G7 and G20 to the Commonwealth, NATO and dozens of others. The membership of each group individually is limited, but taken collectively they mean that the UK partners with a great number of countries in one format or another. That will continue to be the philosophy guiding us forward.

Asked by: Baroness Fall

My Lords, we welcome signals from President-elect Biden that America will now return to a more multilateral approach to solving the world's problems and his plan to bring together like-minded democracies to promote values, including standing up for human rights across the world. As we look to take on the leadership of the G7 next year and attend the summit, could the Minister outline what tools the Government intend to deploy to put words into action through sanctions, soft power or even offering safe havens, and whether they will seek multinational support in doing so?

Answered by: Lord True | Cabinet Office

My Lords, the UK Government share the aspiration of other leading democratic Governments to extend the benefits of democratic systems. As I said in answer to a question on Friday, I believe, my right honourable friend the Prime Minister will announce the specific details of G7 initiatives shortly.

Asked by: Lord Singh of Wimbledon

My Lords, can the Minister tell us why India, currently in the news for trying to make Punjab farmers serfs on their own land, is suggested as one of the 10 leading democracies? Why are we turning a blind eye to the Modi Government's discriminatory laws making millions of Muslims second-class citizens and others stateless, their brutal suppression in Kashmir, and the expulsion of Amnesty International for drawing attention to their widespread abuse of human rights? Does the Minister agree that a country which ignores human rights in its pandering to majority prejudice cannot be called a democracy?

Answered by: Lord True | Cabinet Office

My Lords, as a Cabinet Office Minister answering a relatively narrow question, I will not make a broad denunciation of any nation. Our values are democratic; they are very widely shared and practised across the world. We wish to sustain that.

Asked by: Lord Anderson of Swansea

My Lords, as the noble Lord, Lord Singh, just said, it would be difficult to decide whom to include and exclude in any top 10 for a global democracy summit. Does the Minister agree that there may be questions about the eligibility of any country which breaks a promise of aid to the world's poorest and threatens to breach international law?

Answered by: Lord True | Cabinet Office

No, I do not agree with either of the final points. I answered a question on this last week. The UK remains the second-largest donor of foreign aid in the G7, spending £10,000 million in the planned programme next year in assistance to the world's poorest countries. On the question of 10 nations, the Government did not bring this concept before the House today. I have expressed our view that we wish to reach out to all the world's leading democracies in various fora.

Asked by: Baroness Northover

My Lords, is the Minister aware that when China introduced the anti-democratic national security law into Hong Kong, very few EU countries, and none in Asia, Latin America or Africa, supported the UK at the United Nations? How do the Government propose to ensure that the UK's global influence is not diminished by leaving the EU?

Answered by: Lord True | Cabinet Office

My Lords, I said in reply to an earlier question that the United Kingdom sits in a range of vital and important multinational organisations, including the Commonwealth and NATO. We will remain there, and I have no doubt that the United Kingdom is very widely respected in all those fora.

Asked by: Lord Flight

My Lords, might it be worth while to convene a summit to review the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic when it has become safe to do so? How might the leading democracies work together to contain the spread of such pandemics?

Answered by: Lord True | Cabinet Office

My Lords, the UK has worked closely with international partners throughout the pandemic, from the development of vaccines to supporting vulnerable countries, and we will continue to do so. As I have outlined, the UK is preparing an ambitious and—we hope—unifying G7 agenda which will promote international leadership and collaboration as we recover from Covid-19. The UK also co-sponsored the resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly in May, which included agreement for an independent review.

Asked by: Lord Browne of Ladyton

My Lords, the D10, like President-elect Biden's proposed summit for democracy, will be an assembly of countries with diverse regimes. This century the US has twice elected a President who lost the popular vote; Narendra Modi's India is turning its Muslim minority into second-class citizens; the EU includes Hungary, led by Viktor Orbán, who is creating an illiberal democracy; and we have a Government legislating deliberately to break international law and proposing to stop citizens going to court to enforce their rights against their Government. Exactly what model for democracy are we holding up to the rest of the world in this proposal?

Answered by: Lord True | Cabinet Office

My Lords, I need make no apology for the United Kingdom's record of parliamentary democracy over generations.

Asked by: Viscount Waverley

My Lords, does the Minister agree that democratic models are not one size fits all, but that the objective can be summarised as being one of accountability to the people? With the days of autocracy numbered in the short term, I hope, and with the best chance of succeeding with democratic principles being enlightened government heads being supported from the bottom up and over a period of time with training, would the Government consider that aspiring nations in particular—some of which have been exposed to democracy for a comparably short period—are at the very least offered observer status at any future summit, with emphasis on the participation of young people and women, whence change can ultimately emanate?

Answered by: Lord True | Cabinet Office

My Lords, I cannot anticipate decisions about observers or people who might be invited to the G7 summit—that decision will be taken in due course. So far as girls' education is concerned, that is something which we will work on in co-hosting the Global Partnership for Education with Kenya in June.

Asked by: Lord Liddell

My Lords, the Minister appears to be putting his emphasis on the G7 and rather dismissing President-elect Biden's interest in calling a summit of democracies. Have I got that wrong?

Answered by: Lord True | Cabinet Office

My Lords, I have not mentioned President-elect Biden and his initiative on democracies—the noble Lord puts words that were never in my mouth. The Government will support any initiative from whatever quarter, including the President-elect, to promote democracy in the world.

[Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy](#)

24 Nov 2020 | 909169

Asked by: Tobias Ellwood

What plans the Government has for the publication of the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy.

Answering member: James Cleverly | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Prime Minister commissioned the Integrated Review as the most ambitious review of our foreign policy since the Cold War. The Prime Minister set out in his speech to the House on 19 November how the UK will support a world order in which open societies and economies flourish. The Indo-Pacific is of central importance.

The Prime Minister is clear: Global Britain will be more active and engaged around the world. The FCDO is central to delivery and we will integrate development and diplomatic expertise to maximise UK impact as a force for good. We will apply a more strategic lens to our use of ODA to ensure it delivers both for the 'bottom billion' and in the UK's national interest.

Aircraft Carriers: Deployment**12 Nov 2020 | 111419****Asked by: Sir John Hayes**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what plans he has made for the Carrier Strike Group deployment in 2021.

Answering member: James Heappey | Ministry of Defence

We have yet to announce our destination or programme; planning continues and a statement will be made to this house in due course. This maiden deployment is a key step on the road towards full operational capability: these extraordinary ships will be with us for decades to come, and we are only just beginning to understand their potential. Deploying our sovereign carrier group at range allows us to test and demonstrate the successful cohesion of this complex system of systems. The carrier's convening influence is a powerful symbol of Global Britain and will draw our friends and partners together as we go. There will of course be visits and exercises, and there will also be numerous opportunities for supporting HMG's broader diplomatic and trade agenda.

Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy**03 Nov 2020 | 807 c622****Asked by: Lord Truscott**

My Lords, there has been much talk of global Britain post Brexit. Can the Minister define what that means? Secondly, can he tell your Lordships' House what values and principles underpin the integrated review?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, in a few seconds, global Britain means our place in the world, whether through multilateral institutions such as the UN, through the Commonwealth or, indeed, through our bilateral relationships. The UK has strong influence and strong partnerships, and we will strengthen those partnerships and friendships going forward. On our overall positioning, I am very optimistic about the outlook for the UK in the global world. The results of the FCDO merger demonstrate why.

Strategic Defence Review: Timescale**02 Nov 2020 | 683 c594****Asked by: Tobias Ellwood**

I can tell the Secretary of State what a one-year funding settlement will do: it will make the integrated review next to meaningless. The Prime Minister gave me a direct assurance that the integrated review would not be delayed. If "global Britain" is an instruction and not a strap line, this review is the road map to how we advance our defence posture to support our foreign policy ambitions. Any delay to its publication with its full spending commitments will send a poor signal to the world that we are absolutely serious about re-establishing our global credentials

and could prompt questions about our justification to retain a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. May I urge the Defence Secretary to complete this review as promised, with a multi-year funding settlement, taken in isolation if necessary, if the spending review is to be delayed?

Answered by: Ben Wallace | Ministry of Defence

My right hon. Friend raises some interesting observations. First, I ask him, as I have asked others, to wait until we see the implications of the Treasury's announcement of the one-year review. Until that time, speculation is just speculation, but of course he might like to take his message to the next Treasury questions, where Treasury Ministers, too, can hear his views of the impact.

Wales and Welsh Businesses

13 Oct 2020 | 682 c156

Asked by: Jonathan Edwards

Diolch yn fawr, Mr Speaker. For some bizarre reason, the Conservative party in Wales is pledging to scrap the Welsh Government's Department for International Relations and Development, yet the Federation of Small Businesses is calling for a greater international footprint by the Welsh Government. Will the Minister support the Welsh Government to expand their independent international presence, since many in Wales have little faith that so-called global Britain will even acknowledge the existence of Wales as a nation?

Answered by: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I reiterate our commitment to the work that we do to promote the UK as one whole UK—we are much bigger as one UK than in our parts. The Department for International Trade promotes British trade and investment across the world, and we are engaging regularly with the Welsh Government on their international offer to businesses in the devolved nations. The Department promotes capital projects in Wales to international investors, such as Cardiff's Central Quay, and the new Shaping Swansea regeneration project.

Transition Period: Cabinet Discussions

13 Oct 2020 | 682 c153

Asked by: Lee Anderson

The UK now has a new role outside the EU as global Britain. Will my hon. Friend advise the people of Ashfield what the FCDO's priorities should be in the future?

Answered by: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Government's integrated review, which is ongoing, will define the UK's role in the world and the longer-term strategic aims for our national security and foreign policy following our departure from the European Union. We are committed to the UK being a force for good in

the world, defending open societies, free trade, democracy and human rights.

[Overseas Aid](#)

25 Sep 2020 | 91784

Asked by: Preet Kaur Gill

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Prime Minister to the Liaison Committee on 16 September 2020, which countries and regions that receive UK aid will be affected by the re-prioritisation process in the Integrated Review.

Answering member: James Cleverly | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

As the Prime Minister made clear in his appearance before the Liaison Committee, Global Britain must be more outward looking and more engaged than ever before.

The Integrated Review will set out in detail how we will achieve this, and the Comprehensive Spending Review will allocate the resources to do so. This is about using the totality of resources at our disposal, including our development resource, in an integrated way that delivers greater impact for UK aid; builds modern, strategic partnerships; and delivers on UK diplomatic and political interests.

The Integrated Review will conclude in the autumn; it would not be appropriate to pre-empt its conclusions.

[HMS Queen Elizabeth: Deployment](#)

08 Sep 2020 | 81953

Asked by: Kirsty Blackman

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the purpose is of the first deployment of HMS Queen Elizabeth.

Answering member: James Heappey | Ministry of Defence

Following her first deployment in 2019, the next deployment of the HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH will be as part of the Carrier Strike Group in 2021 (CSG21). CSG21 will be a profound moment in the UK's military history, a key milestone in achieving our Carrier Strike Full Operating Capability and an opportunity to showcase this world-leading capability on a global stage. It will be an ambitious deployment which also demonstrates the UK's commitment to upholding a rules-based international system, reinforces the UK's commitment to a global Britain and invests in our relationships with global friends and partners. Once plans have been agreed, the Government will bring a statement on the deployment before Parliament.

[Topical Questions](#)

08 Sep 2020 | 679 c493

Asked by: Crispin Blunt

With my right hon. Friend's much enhanced departmental responsibilities, together with Britain's current chairmanship of the 42-nation Equal Rights Coalition, he has an unprecedented opportunity to reinforce Britain's claim to leadership in advancing the freedom of all LGBT+ people around the world to be themselves. Britain also has a special responsibility to address the unhappy legacy of the laws and the culture bequeathed by imperial Britain. What measures is he considering for global Britain to take this opportunity as well as to help to address the legacy of imperial Britain?

Answered by: Dominic Raab | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I thank my hon. Friend and hugely welcome all his efforts in this regard. We are taking forward all these strands—from media freedom to the Magnitsky sanctions, to the work that we are doing on LGBT rights. He will know that we intend to build on our current official development assistance allocation for the strategic review on LGBT rights, which will be completed in the autumn. As a founding member of the Equal Rights Coalition of 42 states sharing the same values, in 2019 we took on the role of co-chair and we plan not only to deliver the first ever UK-led five-year action plan, committing the coalition to taking domestic and international measures on LGBT and equality issues, but to expand the ERC and, in particular, to try to draw in more participation from Asia, Latin America and Africa, for all the reasons that he mentioned.

[Integrated Review of Policy](#)

08 Sep 2020 | 679 c491

Asked by: Tobias Ellwood

I strongly believe that the Government must be more transparent and engage with the British people as we attempt to define our place in the world and how ambitious we want to be. Let us follow the example of the confederation papers, which through consensus helped unify what the US originally stood for. Will the Foreign Secretary please publicise the threat assessment of how the world is changing and the strategic options in response that reflect the degrees of global ambition and the scale of influence we might pursue? Only then can we design the appropriate defence posture. If he takes the nation with him as we define what "global Britain" really means, there will be greater support for the upgrading of our soft and hard power tools that is so urgently needed.

Answered by: Dominic Raab | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I thank my right hon. Friend. I share his commitment to making Britain an even stronger force for good in the world. We have engaged far and wide. We are engaged with the Foreign Affairs Committee's inquiry on the integrated review. We are engaged with think-tanks, from the Royal United Services Institute to the Overseas Development Institute. In the other place, Baroness Sugg is chairing regular meetings with

representatives of civil society, led by Bond and including Save the Children and Plan International. Those meetings are related to the covid recovery, but they also touch on the merger, both of which are key elements of the IR.

[Topical Questions](#)

30 Jun 2020 | 678 c148

Asked by: Imran Ahmad Khan

The three prongs of Britannia's trident—diplomacy, trade and development—working together are vital for Her Majesty's Government to achieve their vision for global Britain. Every policy adopted by our outward-facing ministries must leverage our influence, expand our commercial interests and bolster our national security. I enthusiastically welcome the merger of DFID within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as it better ensures the maintenance of an overarching, co-ordinated and cohesive strategic approach. Does my right hon. Friend agree that to further maximise the UK's effectiveness the Department for International Trade should also be drawn fully into the new, muscular FCO?

Answered by: Dominic Raab | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I am not going to be drawn down the tempting line offered by my hon. Friend, but he is right to say that the merger of our aid budget, and the heart and soul of our development expertise, with the Foreign Office network, and the diplomatic clout and muscle that we can contribute, will make our foreign policy more effective. I think I can give him a crumb of reassurance, which is that trade commissioners will be directly accountable to the ambassador or high commissioner in the specific post. That will make sure that we are more aligned and joined up, country by country, in the way he has described.

[Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office](#)

22 Jun 2020 | 59747

Asked by: Lisa Nandy

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Prime Minister's Oral Statement of 16 June 2020 on Global Britain, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of merging the Department of International Development with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to create a new department, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Answering member: James Cleverly | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We will implement these changes in the most cost effective way possible. While we anticipate there will be cost savings in the long term as a result of using our resources more effectively and efficiently, it is not the primary goal of the merger of these two Departments. This is primarily about bringing together our international efforts so we can maximise the UK's influence around the world. By aligning our efforts, the merger will maximise our influence and expertise and ensure we are

in the best position to confront the challenges that lie ahead. This will strengthen our ability to lead the world's efforts to recover from the coronavirus pandemic and allow us to seize the opportunities ahead, as we prepare to take on the G7 presidency and host COP26 next year.

Human Rights

22 May 2020 | HL4187

Asked by: Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the report by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee Global Britain: Human Rights and the Rule of Law (HC 874), published on 11 September 2018, in particular its recommendation that "repercussions, including the suspension of support" should be introduced for those states that do not make sufficient progress, or regress, in areas of rule of law and democracy; and (2) the report by the Freedom House Freedom in the World 2019: Bahrain which stated that Bahrain has "become one of the Middle East's most repressive' states"; and what steps, if any, they have taken in response to those reports' findings and recommendations.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We take note of a number of sources of information when assessing performance and progress. We continue to believe that Bahrain is taking steps in the right direction to improve its human rights record, in line with the Government's Plan which built on the reform recommendations set out in the 2012 BICI Report. Whilst we and the Government of Bahrain acknowledge this is a work in progress, our support for this Bahrain-led reform is helping to build effective and accountable institutions, strengthen the rule of law and deliver justice reform. All our support is in line with international standards, and aims to share the UK's expertise and experience. Any training provided by, or behalf of, the British Government fully complies with our domestic and international human rights obligations.

Soft Power

17 Mar 2020 | 673 c792

Asked by: Chris Clarkson

I recently visited Union Papertech in my constituency with Britain's high commissioner to Pakistan to see how its innovations in paper technology are leading the way in booming consumer and green economies in the subcontinent. Does the Minister agree that some of global Britain's best advocates and ambassadors open our markets for our values as well as our products?

Answered by: Nigel Adams | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

My hon. Friend is spot on. I agree that British innovation is a key soft power asset. We recognise the importance of innovation and technology for global Britain, which is why the Prime Minister has committed to the UK being a global science superpower by increasing investment in R&D. My hon. Friend's example of the high

commissioner's visit to Heywood and Middleton shows that our diplomats are committed to supporting innovative British products, as they do throughout our global network.

[Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy: Integrated Review](#)

04 Mar 2020 | 802 c615

Asked by: Lord Ricketts

My Lords, may I declare an experience, as the co-ordinator of the 2010 strategic defence and security review? Does the Minister agree that good strategy is about choosing and prioritising? Does she accept that one of the most crucial aspects of this review is that it should start with a clear statement of the Government's vision for Britain's role in the world—a realistic role that gets beyond the slogan of "global Britain"?

Answered by: Baroness Goldie

I am grateful to the noble Lord; he gets to the nub of the issue. The review will indeed develop global Britain's foreign policy. It will focus on our alliances and diplomacy, look at the trends and shifts in power and wealth to which I referred, and then determine how best we can use our international development resource.

[Foreign Relations](#)

27 Feb 2020 | HL1694

Asked by: Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Government departments are working on their Global Britain policy.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Global Britain is this Government's vision for reassessing the way in which we engage on the global stage. The Government is undertaking a thorough review of the UK's place in the world through the Integrated Security, Defence and Foreign Policy Review. This will be a whole of government exercise and will ensure we have a fully integrated strategy in our approach to defence, diplomacy and development.

[Foreign Relations](#)

27 Feb 2020 | HL1693

Asked by: Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they define their Global Britain policy concept.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Global Britain is this Government's vision for renewing the way in which we engage on the global stage. Leaving the EU is an opportunity for us to show what Global Britain means: A new relationship with our EU and other partners; striking trade deals with new markets, reasserting

ourselves as a liberal and free trading nation; and acting with strong moral anchors, as a force for good in the world.

We want Global Britain to lead by example. Our hosting of COP26 in Glasgow demonstrates exactly this: Global Britain leading on the international stage to galvanise worldwide efforts to tackle climate change.

Engagements

26 Feb 2020 | 672 c315

Asked by: Tom Tugendhat

My right hon. Friend will no doubt remember with the same fondness the conversations that we had when he was outlining his plan for global Britain. I welcome very much what he has been saying about the defence review that is now planned and his priority on having a strategy first foreign policy-led review. Will he please make a statement to this House so that the views of this House can be heard, bringing together trade, aid, foreign affairs and, of course, defence?

Answered by: Boris Johnson | Prime Minister's Office

I can, of course, give that commitment when the moment is right.

5. Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Statements

[Global Britain](#)

16 Jun 2020 | 677 cc665-388

Boris Johnson | Prime Minister

Mr Speaker, before I begin, I am sure the whole House will join me in paying tribute to the memory of Jo Cox, who was cruelly murdered four years ago today. Her sister, Kim Leadbeater, spoke for us all when she urged everyone to remember Jo by pulling together with “compassion and kindness”.

I was concerned to learn that the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire (Amy Callaghan) is now in hospital: we all send her our best wishes.

With permission, I will make a statement about the ambitions of a global Britain and the lessons of the covid-19 pandemic. We are living through a daily demonstration of how events on the far side of the world influence not only British security and prosperity, but something as elemental as the state of our health, and whether we can go to work or go shopping. This crisis offers vivid proof of the seminal importance of international engagement and exactly why our country must perform its global role. I have begun the biggest review of our foreign, defence and development policy since the end of the cold war, designed to maximise our influence and integrate all the strands of our international effort. The overriding aim is to bring this country’s strengths and expertise to bear on the world’s biggest problems, seizing the opportunities of Britain’s presidency of the G7 next year and the UN climate change conference—COP26—which we will host in Glasgow.

The UK possesses the third biggest aid budget and diplomatic network in the world: we owe it to our people to make best use of these assets, which scarcely any of our peers can match. The British taxpayer has a right to expect that we will achieve the maximum value for every pound that we spend. One cardinal lesson of the pandemic is that distinctions between diplomacy and overseas development are artificial and outdated. For instance, to protect ourselves against another calamity, the UK will need to work alongside our friends to strengthen international bodies such as the World Health Organisation, and help vulnerable countries to improve their health systems and achieve greater resilience. It makes no sense to ask whether it amounts to aid or foreign policy: they are one and the same endeavour, designed to achieve the same goals, which are right in themselves and serve our national interest.

On 4 June, I chaired a virtual summit of the global vaccine alliance, which raised enough money to immunise 300 million children. I doubt whether any other occasion will save more lives, avoid more suffering, or produce a better example of the good this country can do by its international engagement, in the true and broad sense, alongside our friends. Yet today, as anybody who has any experience of the matter will know, a dividing line between aid and foreign policy runs through

our whole system, with our Department for International Development working independently from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and our aid budget parcelled out between different arms of Whitehall.

DFID outspends the Foreign Office more than four times over, yet no single decision maker in either Department is able to unite our efforts or take a comprehensive overview. We give as much aid to Zambia as we do to Ukraine, although the latter is vital for European security, and we give 10 times as much aid to Tanzania as we do to the six countries of the western Balkans, which are acutely vulnerable to Russian meddling. Regardless of the merits of those decisions, no single Department is currently empowered to judge whether they make sense or not, so we tolerate an inherent risk of our left and right hands working independently.

Faced with the crisis today and the opportunities that lie ahead, we have a responsibility to ask whether our current arrangements, dating back to 1997, still maximise British influence. Those well-intentioned decisions of 23 years ago were right for their time. They paved the way for Britain to meet the UN target of spending 0.7% of national income on aid—a goal that was achieved by the coalition Government in 2013, that has been maintained ever since, including this year, and that remains our commitment. Yet those judgments date from a relatively benign era when China's economy was still much smaller than Italy's and the west was buoyed by victory in the cold war.

We must now strengthen our position in an intensely competitive world by making sensible changes, so I have decided to merge DFID with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to create a new Department: the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. This will unite our aid with our diplomacy and bring them together in our international effort.

DFID has amassed world-class expertise and all of its people can take pride in how they have helped to transform the lives of hundreds of millions of people around the world. To select but a few examples, they have striven to protect millions of children across the world from polio, which is now on the verge of global eradication; they have paved the way for millions of girls to attend school for the first time in countries such as Pakistan, as I have seen for myself; they have done their utmost to ease the suffering in Syria; and in Sierra Leone they were central to the defeat of an outbreak of the Ebola virus. All that amounts to the finest demonstration of British values, following in the great tradition of the country that ended the slave trade and resisted totalitarianism.

It is precisely that ambition, vision and expertise that will now be at the heart of a new Department, taking forward the work of UK aid to reduce poverty, which will remain central to our mission. The Foreign Secretary will be empowered to decide which countries receive or cease to receive British aid, while delivering a single UK strategy for each country, overseen by the National Security Council, which I chair. Those strategies will be implemented on the ground by the relevant UK ambassador, who will lead all the Government's work in the host country. In that, we are following the examples of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, all of which run their development programmes from

their Foreign Ministries. We will align other British assets overseas, including our trade commissioners, who will come under the authority of the UK ambassador, bringing more coherence to our international presence.

Amid this pandemic, the House may ask whether this is the right moment to reorganise Whitehall, but I must say that in reality this crisis has already imposed fundamental changes on the way that we operate. If there is one further lesson, it is that a whole-of-Government approach, getting maximum value for the British taxpayer, is just as important abroad as it is at home. This is exactly the moment when we must mobilise every one of our national assets, including our aid budget and expertise, to safeguard British interests and values overseas. The best possible instrument for doing that will be a new Department charged with using all the tools of British influence to seize the opportunities ahead. I therefore commend this statement to the House.

[Global Britain](#)

03 Feb 2020 | 671 cc24-1147

Dominic Raab | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

With permission, Mr Speaker, I wish to make a statement on global Britain, following the Prime Minister's written ministerial statement today.

Last Friday, 31 January, the United Kingdom left the European Union. Before then, for three long years, we had debated the European question. Members on both sides of the Chamber were weary and people out in the country were tired of the wrangling, so I think there is relief on all sides that the question is now settled. I know that the point of departure is difficult for many people—decent people who love their country and who did not want us to leave—so it is incumbent on this Government to show that leaving marks not an ending, but a bold new beginning. We take that responsibility very seriously.

When we ratified the withdrawal agreement, this Government and this Parliament finally delivered on the promise made to the British people over three years ago. We did that as a matter of democratic principle. We did it to keep faith with and to retain the confidence of the British people. In doing so, we sent a strong signal to the EU and to the world about our ambition and our resolve as we chart the course ahead. As one United Kingdom, we are now free to determine our own future as masters of our own destiny. We are free to reinvigorate our ties with old allies. We are free to forge new friendships around the world. As we seek those new relationships with friends and partners, the interests of the British people and the integrity of our Union will be the foundation stone of everything we do.

The Prime Minister's speech this morning and the written statement to the House start us on that journey by setting out the Government's proposed approach to our relations with the EU in 2020. The most important thing about 2020 is that having left the EU at the start of it, at the end of it we will fully and with absolute certainty regain complete

economic and political independence. That is when the transition period ends, and it will not be extended.

We will have a new relationship with the EU, as sovereign equals, based on free trade. Between now and the end of the year, we will work with the EU to try to negotiate a free trade agreement, drawing on other recent agreements, such as the one between the EU and Canada. That should be the core of our future relationship. We will look to reach agreements on other priorities, including fisheries, internal security and aviation. These will be backed up by governance and dispute settlement arrangements appropriate to a free trade agreement, with no alignment and no role for the European Court of Justice, respectful of our democratic prerogatives. We hope we can agree. If we cannot, we will of course carry on trading with the EU in the same way as Australia and many other countries around the world—as a free country, collaborating where we can, and setting our own rules that work for us.

Of course, the EU is not our only trading partner, and at the same time we will be seeking to get agreements with other great trading countries around the world. We are delighted—in the words of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, when he was here last week—that the UK is now front of the queue for a free trade deal with the United States. We expect to open negotiations with the US and other countries very soon—in that way we can broaden our horizons to embrace the huge opportunities in the rising economies of the future, where 90% of the world's growth comes from. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade will set out more detail in a written statement later this week, and I will visit Australia, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia over the next two weeks.

At such a crossroads moment, it is fitting and timely that this Government will engage in a thorough and careful review of the United Kingdom's place in the world, including through the integrated security, defence and foreign policy review. This review is an opportunity for us to reassess the ways we engage on the global stage—including in defence, diplomacy and our approach to development—to ensure we have a fully integrated approach, because now is the moment to look ahead with confidence and ambition, to signal to our future partners the outward-facing, trailblazing country that we intend to be.

We have a vision of a truly global Britain. The first pillar of our global Britain strategy will be to continue to prove that we are the best possible allies, partners and friends with our European neighbours. We are working closely with our European partners to find a political solution in Libya. We will continue to stand together to hold Iran to account for its systemic non-compliance with the joint comprehensive plan of action, the nuclear deal. We will work together to tackle shared threats and global challenges, whether it is Russia's aggression, terrorism, rising authoritarianism, climate change or, indeed, health crises such as the coronavirus. It was our honour on Friday to bring home 29 other Europeans on the UK-commissioned charter flight from Wuhan, along with the 97 Britons, because we will always look out for our European friends, with whom we share so many interests. I am grateful to the Spanish Foreign Minister for Spain's help in co-ordinating that effort and to the French Foreign Minister in relation to the flight

that came home on Sunday. [\[Official Report, 5 February 2020, Vol. 671, c. 6MC.\]](#)

The next pillar of our global Britain strategy will be the UK's role as an energetic champion of free and open trade—to boost small businesses, cut the cost of living, create the well-paid jobs of the future for the next generation, provide more consumer choice and to raise UK productivity, which is so important for our “levelling up” agenda right across the country. The pursuit of shared prosperity has an essential role to play in our approach to development policy, too. As we maintain our 0.7% commitment on development spending, we need to find better ways of making sure it contributes to long-term and sustainable economic growth. As we demonstrated at the UK-Africa Investment Summit, we believe the UK has a unique and competitive offer to tackle poverty and help poorer nations benefit in a way that benefits us all over the longer term.

Finally, the third pillar of our global Britain will be the UK as an even stronger force for good in the world. Our guiding lights will remain the values of democracy, human rights and the international rule of law, and we will lead on global issues that really matter, such as climate change. That is why this year we will host the UN climate change summit, COP26, in Glasgow. We will lead by example and rise to the challenge by harnessing all the British talents in tech, innovation and entrepreneurialism to find creative solutions to global problems. We will champion the great causes of our day, as through our campaign to give every girl access to 12 years of quality education. We will defend journalists from attack, stand up for freedom of religion and conscience, and develop our own independent sanctions regime to tackle human rights abusers head on. Together, united, we can show that this country is so much bigger than the sum of its parts.

[...]

5.2 Written Ministerial Statements

[UK/EU Relations](#)

3 February 2020 | HCWS86

Boris Johnson | Prime Minister

This statement sets out the Government's proposed approach to the negotiations with the EU about our future relationship. Further details on this and other trade negotiations will be made available to Parliament as the process develops.

[...]

5.3 Debates

[Global Britain](#)

30 Jan 2020 | 670 cc132-1037

Motion that this House has considered global Britain

Elizabeth Truss | Department for International Trade

As the clock strikes 11 tomorrow night, we will start building the UK's future as a sovereign trading nation. I should make clear that there are many aspects of global Britain that have nothing to do with trade. The Prime Minister will be leading an integrated defence, security and foreign policy review that will examine all aspects of our place in the world. The Foreign Secretary is spending today with his counterpart from our most important ally, the United States. The Government are committed to exceeding the 2% NATO defence spending target, and to spending 0.7% of GNP on development. Today, however, I will restrict my remarks to one aspect of the story, and that is trade.

Global Britain will be a beacon for free enterprise, free trade and free people across the world, and we will light that beacon championing the values for which the UK has long been known. From our abolition of the corn laws in 1846 to helping to found the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1948, the UK has long been a global leader in shaping the rules-based system, but from 1973 onwards that role has been increasingly curtailed. Tomorrow we will begin to reclaim that global leadership.

It is more than two centuries since our great political economist David Ricardo outlined the idea of comparative advantage, demonstrating how free and open trade benefits everyone, but it is an idea that still illuminates our country, and we have an opportunity to take that message out and across the world. Why is that important? First, it is the right thing to do. Believing in freedom is about more than economic theory. It is about believing in our freedom to set up a business, choose what we buy, and chart our own future. In its essence, free trade is about expanding that freedom across borders. It is the catalyst for sharing ideas, products, services and the innovations that improve all our lives. If we believe that people have the choice to access the best goods and services, we must also believe in free trade.

Secondly, that opportunity is important because Britain's global leadership is sorely needed. Protectionist measures are on the rise across the world, increasing by three times the rate at the onset of the financial crisis. Brexit is the opportunity for this country to turn the tide, and to be a global champion of free, rules-based trade with the World Trade Organisation at its heart. That is not only morally right, but in the interests of our country. It is forecast that 90% of global growth will come from outside the EU. The world is bursting with opportunity—opportunity that Britain will seize with both hands.

[...]

6. Further reading

6.1 Committee publications

[Global Britain and South America](#), Twentieth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1617, 9 September 2019

[Global Britain and the British Overseas Territories: Resetting the relationship: Government response to the Committee's Fifteenth Report](#), Twentieth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 2174, 13 May 2019

[Global Britain and the British Overseas Territories: Resetting the relationship](#), Fifteenth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1464, 21 February 2019

[Delivering Global Britain: FCO Skills: Government response to the Committee's Fourteenth Report of Session 2017-19](#), Nineteenth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1937, 8 February 2019

[Delivering Global Britain: FCO Skills](#), Fourteenth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1254, 28 November 2018

[Global Britain: Human rights and the rule of law: Government response to the Committee's, Thirteenth Report](#), Sixteenth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1759, 23 November 2018

[Global Britain: The Responsibility to Protect and Humanitarian Intervention: Government response to the Committee's Twelfth Report](#), Fifteenth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1719, 19 November 2018

[Global Britain and the Western Balkans: Government Response to the Committee's Tenth Report](#), Fourteenth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1572, 14 September 2018

[Global Britain: Human rights and the rule of law](#), Thirteenth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 874, 11 September 2018

[Global Britain: The Responsibility to Protect and Humanitarian Intervention](#), Twelfth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1005, 10 September 2018

[Global Britain and the 2018 Commonwealth Summit: Government response to the Committee's Seventh Report](#), Eleventh Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1427, 13 July 2018

[Global Britain and the Western Balkans](#), Tenth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1013, 6 July 2018

[**Global Britain: Government Response to the Sixth Report of the Committee**](#), Tenth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1236, 20 June 2018

[**Global Britain and the 2018 Commonwealth Summit**](#), Seventh Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 831, 5 April 2018

[**Global Britain**](#), Sixth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 780, 12 March 2018

6.2 Commons Library publications

[**International affairs and defence: Parliamentary debates and statements in the 2019-21 session**](#), Commons Library Research Briefing, CBP 8984, 23 November 2020

[**The Integrated Review: A look ahead to the Government's review**](#), Commons Library Research Briefing, CBP 9052, 19 November 2020

[**Integrated Review of security, defence, development and foreign affairs: a reading list**](#), Commons Library Research Briefing, CBP 8987, 21 August 2020

[**DFID and FCO merger: Implications for international development**](#), Commons Library *Insight*, 18 June 2020

[**Brexit reading list: Global Britain**](#), Commons Library Research Briefing, CBP 8338, 29 January 2020

[**The UK's independent trade policy: Global Britain?**](#) Commons Library *Insight*, 10 January 2020,

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