

# INTEGRATED REVIEW: CALL FOR EVIDENCE

## 1. Introduction

The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy (the Integrated Review) will define the Government's vision for the UK's role in the world over the next decade. Its goal is to set the long-term strategic aims of our international policy and national security, rooted in our national interests, so that our activity overseas delivers for the British people. The Review will cover all aspects of international and national security policy, such as defence, diplomacy, development and national resilience. In doing so, it will re-examine the UK's priorities and objectives in light of the UK's departure from the European Union and at a time when the global landscape is changing rapidly, including as a result of Covid-19. It will set the direction for a strong recovery at home and abroad, recognising that the two are closely linked.

## 2. Background to this Call for Evidence

The Prime Minister announced the Integrated Review in February 2020. The Review reports to the Prime Minister and the National Security Council, supported by a cross-Whitehall team in the Cabinet Office and a small team in No.10. The Government paused the Review in April in order to focus on the response to Covid-19, retaining a reduced central team. It was formally recommenced in June 2020, building on the work done since its formal launch.

The Integrated Review is a policy-led, evidence-driven, whole-of-government process. It goes beyond the parameters of a traditional defence and security review by considering the totality of global opportunities and challenges the UK faces and determining how government should be structured, equipped, and mobilised to meet them. It will take into account the current and projected domestic and global context in 2030, addressing the trends that will likely characterise the interim period. The Integrated Review will remain closely aligned with the Spending Review, to ensure that ambition, capabilities and budgets can be closely coordinated.

## 3. Context for the Integrated Review

The Integrated Review will consider the ways in which our international and national security strategy must evolve as the world changes. The impact of Covid-19 adds an additional layer of uncertainty and complexity to this task<sup>1</sup>. Nevertheless, it is possible to identify key trends and drivers of change over the next decade. These include:

- 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;

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank projections imply that the COVID-19 crisis will cause the world's deepest recession since the end of WWII (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects>) and under a baseline scenario, could push a further 71 million people into extreme poverty (defined as the international poverty line of \$1.70 per day) (<https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/updated-estimates-impact-covid-19-global-poverty>).

- the increasingly tangible effects of climate change, driving further change in the UK and globally. Climate change is accelerating, with global surface temperatures likely to reach 1.5C above pre-industrial levels between 2032 and 2052<sup>2</sup> and the UN estimating that more than 200 million people could need humanitarian assistance by 2022 as a result of climate change and conflict<sup>3</sup>;
- deterioration in the natural environment with biodiversity being lost at an unprecedented rate<sup>4</sup>;
- the impact of technology: a game-changer that creates opportunity, potential risk, and increases the agency of non-state actors. For example, the capitalisation of Apple, Google and Microsoft combined now exceeds the UK's GDP<sup>5,6</sup>;
- an increasingly complex global economic context. The rapid growth of emerging markets means that the G7's share of world GDP is decreasing. The global 'middle class' is projected to rise from 3.8bn people in 2018 to 5.3bn by 2030<sup>7</sup>; and
- increasing instability and challenges to global governance. 2019 recorded<sup>8</sup> the highest number of state-based conflicts since 1946 and, over the last 10 years, more than half the world's population lived in direct contact with, or proximity to, significant political violence<sup>9</sup>. By 2030, 80% of the world's extreme poor are projected<sup>10</sup> to live in fragile states.

Uniting development and diplomacy under the new Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office offers a further opportunity to strengthen our approach.

#### 4. The UK in 2030

Our vision is that in 2030 the UK will be stronger, wealthier, more equal, more sustainable, more united across nations and regions. The UK will remain distinctively open and global, working with our allies as a problem-solving and burden-sharing nation.

The Integrated Review will develop the UK's strategic approach to global and national security issues and priorities against this vision and the wider context (outlined above). In particular, it will consider how to deliver the high-level outcomes we seek:

- a more resilient UK: open from a position of strength;

<sup>2</sup> [https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15\\_spm\\_final.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/12/1052731>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/263264/top-companies-in-the-world-by-market-value/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/country/united-kingdom>

<sup>7</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/growing-consumerism\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/growing-consumerism_en)

<sup>8</sup> <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0022343320934986>

<sup>9</sup> <https://acleddata.com/2020/02/14/global-conflict-and-disorder-patterns-2020/>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/docs/OECD%20Highlights%20documents\\_web.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/docs/OECD%20Highlights%20documents_web.pdf)

- a secure, stable and prosperous Euro-Atlantic neighbourhood, which enables our security and prosperity at home;
- a world order in which open societies and economies flourish;
- a more resilient world, well on the path to net zero by 2050;
- strong science, technology & data capabilities; and
- a reformed and refocused approach to defence underpinning all of the above.

In reaching these outcomes, we face a set of strategic choices that will guide our action at home and overseas, and need to consider how best to equip the country to deliver.

In addressing these choices, we wish to involve stakeholders with an interest and role in our nation's security and prosperity, and in tackling the global challenges the UK will face over the coming years. We welcome submissions of evidence that will inform the government's approach to the questions below.

- *What are the key opportunities, challenges, threats and vulnerabilities facing the UK now? (Submissions focusing on rapidly evolving areas such as science, technology, data, cyber, and space are particularly welcome.)*
- *What are the key global and domestic trends affecting UK international policy and national security out to 2030, and how should the government prioritise its efforts in response to these?*
- *What are the key steps the UK should take to maximise its resilience to natural hazards and malicious threats? How can we build a whole of society approach to tackle these challenges?*
- *What are the most effective ways for the UK to build alliances and soft power?*
- *What changes are needed to Defence so that it can underpin the UK's security and respond to the challenges and opportunities we face? (Submissions focusing on the changing character of warfare, broader concepts of deterrence, technological advantage and the role of the Armed Forces in building national resilience are particularly welcome.)*
- *How should the UK change its governance of international policy and national security in order to seize future opportunities and meet future challenges? (Submissions focusing on the engagement of an increasing range of stakeholders while maintaining clear responsibility, accountability, and speed of action are particularly welcome.)*
- *What lessons can we learn from the UK's international delivery over the past 5 years? Which are the key successes we should look to develop and build on, and where could we learn from things that didn't go well?*
- *How should UK systems and capabilities be reformed to improve the development and delivery of national strategy?*

## **5. Call for Evidence**

To that end, submissions of evidence are invited as part of the strategy development process to inform the Integrated Review. You should note that any positions expressed do not necessarily represent current or future UK policy.

**Please provide your response by completing the attached Word template. This template, attaching the papers you have referenced, should be sent to [IRcallforevidence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:IRcallforevidence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk) by Friday 11 September 2020. Early responses are encouraged where possible.**

### **Further information**

Information provided in response to this call for evidence, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.

If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding.

We will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

For more information, please see the Privacy Notice.