



Dear Colleagues,

### **Paper 1/2019: Global Britain**

What should Britain's role be in the world? How can we maximise our soft power through our aid, trade, and security commitments? How can we make ourselves safer and create more trade in a dangerous world?

This first discussion paper of 2019 is looking at Global Britain. Watch our brief introductory video with CPF Chairman George Freeman MP.

As always, discussions will be more greatly informed if groups are able to include members and non-members from different age groups. Please use the opportunity of this discussion to **reach out to new voters in your constituency**. Let people know that you are interested in *them* and want to understand *their* perspective.

We want to ensure that as many associations and as many members are able to engage in this vital and wide-ranging discussion. Some groups may wish to discuss the questions over the course of two meetings. The closing date for this brief is therefore **28 February**.

Please send your responses to the paper, via [CPF.Papers@conservatives.com](mailto:CPF.Papers@conservatives.com), using the associated response form published alongside this paper in the News section of the CPF website.

A summary of responses to this paper will be sent to the Secretaries of State for Defence, International Trade and International Development; CPF Chairman, George Freeman MP; and the Prime Minister's Policy Unit within a month of the closing date for submissions.

The next paper will be on **Renewing our Democracy**, one of the five areas covered by the Prime Minister's Policy Commission, and will be published the week of 18<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you. We look forward to hearing your ideas on this important topic.

#### **The CPF Team**

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*P.S. Please advertise the CPF paper on your website and social media pages. It would be great if you could post a photo online of your meeting too.*

## **Global Britain**

*"The great prize for this country – the opportunity ahead – is to use this moment to build a truly Global Britain. A country that reaches out to old friends and new allies alike. A great, global, trading nation. And one of the firmest advocates for free trade anywhere in the world."* (Prime Minister Theresa May, 17 January 2017)<sup>1</sup>

*"Brexit has awoken the world's interest in Britain and it has awoken Britain's interest in the world. That is why our exports have grown 11% in a year while global trade has grown by less than 4%. None of us can know what lies ahead but we can be certain that the scale of our ambition will be the key to what we can achieve together – for our people, our country and for the world beyond our borders."* (Rt Hon Liam Fox MP, 1 May 2018)<sup>2</sup>

*"Without DFID, the best development department in the world, bar none, without our NGOs and our charities, many of them the best in their field, and without all our nation has to offer, its institutions, its financial sector, its creative law, its innovation, its entrepreneurs and its scientists, we won't deliver the [UN] Global Goals."* (Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, 9 October 2018)<sup>3</sup>

*"As we face our post-Brexit future, Britain has a role to play. It is one that we are uniquely suited to deliver. Remembering our responsibilities. Not overstating our strength, but not understating it either. Because right now our history, our networks and our unique combination of soft and hard power gives us a real ability to shape the course of history in line with our values."* (Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, 31 October 2018)<sup>4</sup>

As Conservatives, we believe, among other values, in promoting freedom, enterprise and responsibility; in strong national defence, international cooperation and prioritising the vulnerable.<sup>5</sup> "Global Britain" is intended to signal that, post-Brexit, the UK will continue to be open, inclusive and outward facing; free trading; assertive in standing up for British interests and values; and resolute in boosting our international standing and influence. It is a Britain with global presence, active in every region; global interests, working with our allies and partners to deliver the global security and prosperity that ensures our own; and global perspectives, engaging with the world in every area, influencing and being influenced.

The time is right to take stock of the UK's role in the world, not only in the light of domestic developments but also in the light of long-term changes in the international system and global balance of power. For it isn't just Brexit that's causing change, other events are even more significant: the rise of China and the Asian powerhouse economies; a growing threat to democracy and democratic values; and the rules-based international order that we built to defend them is being openly questioned.

The UK has a wide range of attributes that have traditionally made it a global player: it is a nuclear-armed P5 member of the United Nations Security Council, the second-biggest military spender in NATO, a major contributor to humanitarian aid around the world, and a key member of networks such as the Commonwealth, the G7 and the G20. Yet it remains unclear what the UK should do with these resources and assets in the post-Brexit environment, and how the UK should exercise leadership on the most urgent and complex issues facing the international system. For "Global Britain" to be more than a worthy aspiration, the slogan must be backed by substance.<sup>6</sup>

### Questions for discussion

1. What should a Conservative-led UK Government seek to achieve in the world?
2. What is the UK's unique selling point as a global player, and what should our commitments be to other countries? What should be the role of the Commonwealth?
3. On what global issues can the UK have the biggest impact and exercise the most leverage?
4. How should we best target our resources? How should we best prioritise our aid commitments?
5. How can we give today's school and college-leavers better exposure to the challenge and opportunities of the rapidly-growing "BRICS" economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)?
6. How can we help more UK companies export outside the EU?
7. How might we balance our future economic, strategic and humanitarian needs and responsibilities in the world – in the areas of defence & security, soft power, diplomatic priorities, boosting trade, and international development?
8. What metrics could we use to measure the success of Global Britain?
9. Is there any other question you think should have been asked or observation you would like to make?

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> *The government's negotiating objectives for exiting the EU: PM speech*, Rt Hon Theresa May MP, 17 January 2017: [link](#)

<sup>2</sup> *Brexit and beyond: Britain's place in the world in the 2020s*, Department for International Trade, 1 May 2018: [link](#)

<sup>3</sup> *The future of UK aid post-Brexit*, Department for International Development, 9 October 2018: [link](#)

<sup>4</sup> *An Invisible Chain: speech by the Foreign Secretary*, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, 31 October 2018: [link](#)

<sup>5</sup> *Conservative values summary*, Conservative Policy Forum, 17 November 2017: [link](#)

<sup>6</sup> *Global Britain*, House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, Sixth Report of Session 2017–19, 12 March 2018: [link](#)