

Cityforum Intelligent Defence and Smart Power 2020 – series of virtual events

A programme of podcasts, webclaves and webinars arranged by Cityforum with guidance from the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (DCDC) of MOD

Global Britain – Polarisation, Grey Zone and Hybrid Conflict

- What reappraisal of the world does Covid19 necessitate?
- What are the particular threats to and opportunities for Global Britain?
- What can defence and its security partners contribute to safety and stability in a fractured world, at a fractious time?

Working Website Agenda

Principal Sponsor

BAE SYSTEMS

Webinar Partner



The Z/Yen Group

The UK is leaving its European moorings and seeking a new and different world position at a time of economic and political disruption exacerbated by Covid-19. Globalisation is in retreat and old enmities are re-asserting themselves as states compete for power, resources and influence. Instances of hybrid conflict are numerous and increasing, combining irregular and proxy warfare with cyber operations. National and international structures and institutions are under attack from information operations intended to influence, interfere with, subvert and undermine trust and good order. The political, economic and social challenges to the UK demand ambition, capability, judgement and realism. The UK has deployable strengths but its reputation is not at its highest. The geopolitical effects of Covid-19 are for the most part still unclear and public opinion is bound to have been affected by the pandemic. Defence, security and other arms of the state face unexpected dilemmas in a critical period when key decisions will have to be taken. Themes have been discussed with senior officers and other officials to give this project as much utility as possible in light of the Reviews that are to be held.

The programme below is a draft agenda for discussion with invited contributors and our industry sponsors. Our intention to ensure each 'event' is of benefit to all involved. Any comments / suggestions would be welcome.

10 July 2020

Opening Webinar: **Building a 'Global Britain' – ways, means and ends**

A top level discussion bringing together a Minister with responsibilities in two departments of state, the Sheriff of the City of London and a University Chancellor, broadcaster, and former defence correspondent.

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt *Minister for Investment*, Department for International Trade & Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy **Confirmed**

Professor Michael Mainelli *Sheriff of the City of London and Executive Chairman Z/Yen Group Limited* **Confirmed**

Ms Kate Adie DL *Defence Journalist*, presenter 'From Our Own Correspondent' BBC, Chancellor Bournemouth University **Confirmed**

Introduction by Mr Marc Lee, *Chairman Cityforum*

Mid-late July 2020 (provisional)

Webinar Two: **What can actually be made of the Global Britain concept?**

A discussion following the opening webinar on realising the potential for Global Britain

Discussion to be chaired by Professor Michael Mainelli *Sheriff of the City of London and Executive Chairman Z/Yen Group Limited* **Confirmed**

Questions to be discussed:

- Can Global Britain define and shape a distinctive geopolitical role in 2021 and thereafter?
- What resources can it deploy to strengthen global stability, security, and prosperity?
- How much will Britain have to change if it is to play a distinctive role?

- How will the UK organise itself domestically (e.g. FCO DfID merger), and internationally in alliance with others?
- How do others see us and on what do they think we should focus?
- Has Britain the vision and leadership to have a significant impact on the world stage?

Senior political, security, diplomatic, economic development and media figures have been invited to join this webinar – detailed programme to follow.

Late July (provisional)

Podcast One: Do we understand our principal opponents?

Discussion opened by Dr Anthony Cordesman *Chair in Strategy CSIS Washington DC* and author of recent studies on US Competition with China and Russia **Confirmed**

Discussion chaired by Rt Hon Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones *Former Security Minister* **Confirmed**

With experts on Russia and China

September 2020 (provisional)

**Webclave One: Webclave on intelligence, skills, capability and threat reduction
After defining the problems, how should we set ourselves up to act?**

Themes:

- On what in the light of history do we need to focus?
- Regaining the strength to master our opponents
- Securing effect: A view from Defence Intelligence
- Information superiority – an industry assessment
- Re-evaluating threats and consequences

Late September 2020 (provisional)

Webclave Two: Preparing ourselves against ambitious opponents

Themes:

- Resilience and threats from cyberspace
- Protecting our interests in space
- Assistance to the civil power
- Protecting our IP for future security and prosperity
- Thinking about the risk of physical conflict

Mid October 2020 (provisional)

**Super conclave/
final major podcast: Public confidence, engagement and support**

Themes:

- Can we limit disinformation and distortion?
- Threats to our democracies from state opponents
- The political system and public engagement
- Are there concerning strengths and weaknesses in the political system?
- Can we marshal popular support?

This project will include webinars, podcasts (30-50 minutes each) and two private, interactive webclave discussions. The podcasts will be recorded, edited and then distributed across our networks. The webclaves will follow the format of our private conclave discussions, with short contributions from several panellists followed by comments from a chair who will proceed to moderate an extended interactive discussion with a select group of decision makers and influencers. Each will take place strictly under the Chatham House Rule and last 90 minutes, including a 15 minute break. An unattributed summary note will be produced for circulation to participants and a wider distribution list to be discussed and agreed.

In the late Autumn, the Global Britain series will conclude either with a super conclave or a major podcast. The format to be discussed with panellists and potential sponsors.