

IN2030



IN2030 Future Programme:
shaping our future through the
generation of imaginative ideas

Focus on the
key global trends
to 2030

www.ideasnetwork2030.com

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Overview

The mission of the Ideas Network 2030 is to provide an informal framework for individuals on the centre-right of British politics, along with other stakeholders interested in long term global trends, to come together to discuss, evaluate and assess the relevance of these trends to current politics in the United Kingdom.

Our programme for the next 12 months will focus on five of the most important trends – all of them interlinked having political, social and economic implications – which are likely to impact the UK and its' neighbourhood through to 2030. These are summarised in this document, along with questions through which we seek to unearth ideas and innovative thinking, in order to provide answers which can guide policy makers, business and civil society as we move through the next decade.

The programme will involve a series of seminars and roundtable 'deep dives', along with informal and virtual exchanges through our digital forum on www.ideasnetwork2030.com, and will link in with our annual 'Summer University', which we plan to hold every September.

In doing this, we will ensure a constant exchange between stakeholders from the UK and the European Union, (recognising that whatever happens with respect to Brexit, the UK remains a European country), so that both parties are able to address these trends in the most effective way possible.

We will focus on five key global trends

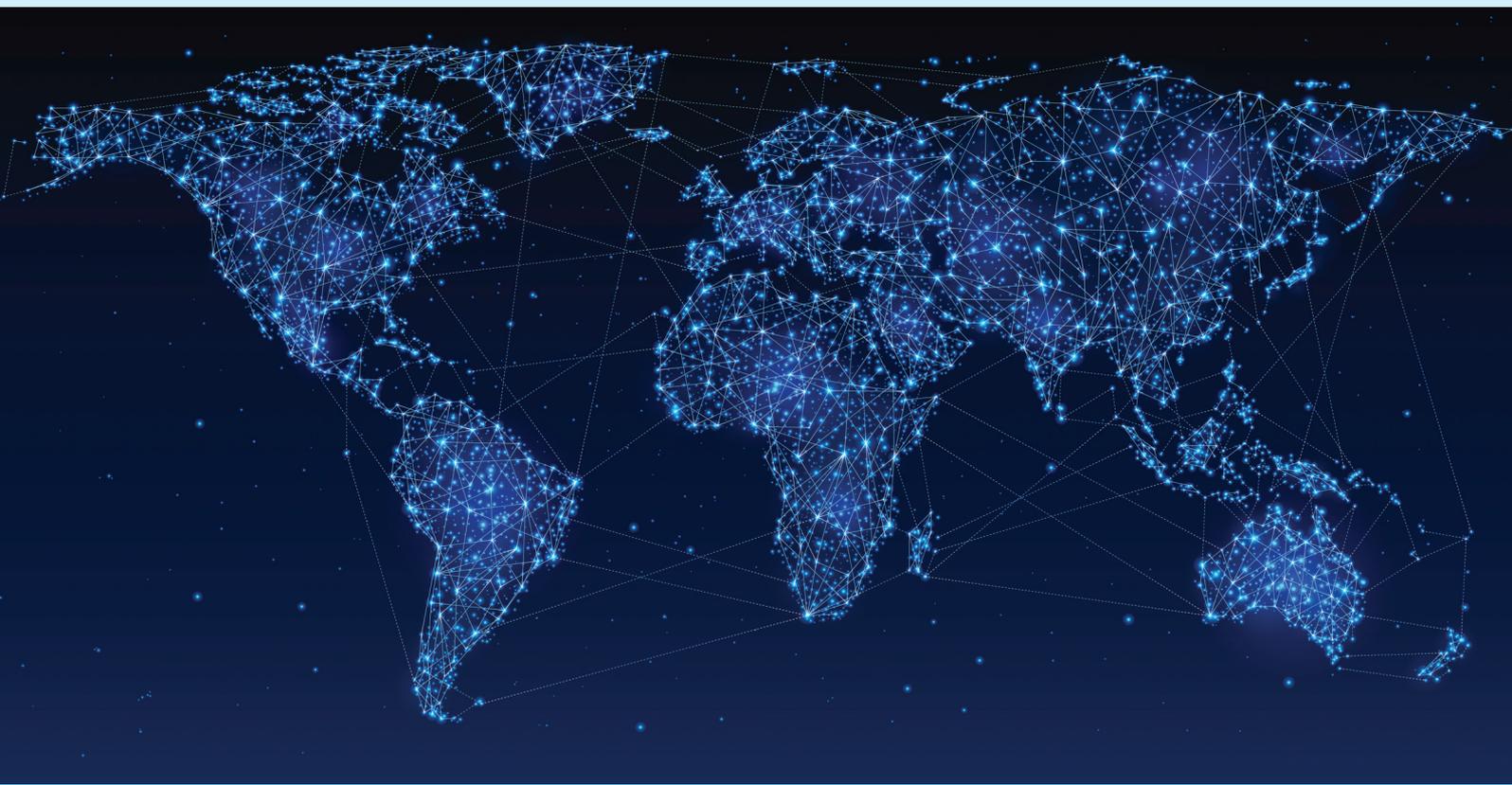
Trend one
Security

Trend two
Migration and demography

Trend three
Digital change

Trend four
Sustainable development

Trend five
Trade and economics



Trend one: Security

The global order established following the fall of the Berlin wall and the Soviet Union, where Western industrialised powers enjoyed undisputed global importance and pre-eminence, is giving way to a new world order where it becomes increasingly likely that no single state, or group of states, will be able to direct global affairs alone, introducing new elements of uncertainty and instability into international relations.

While the United States is likely to remain the preeminent global military, if not economic, power for the short to medium term, the global system will become an increasingly contested space, between and within states, with new and emerging powers seeking to assert themselves on global business, affairs and values, leading to new areas of state competition and cooperation. Moreover, former distinctions between internal and external spaces and threats have evolved since the Cold War, given that we live in a globalising world, set in the context of all-pervasive digital connectivity.

How the US, EU, Japan, UK and other likeminded global partners seek to shape and steer global military and security relationships (not only bilaterally, but through institutions such as NATO and the UN) in a new age of geopolitics, international and domestic terrorism against a backdrop of shifting economic and political gravity will be crucial in determining if the world can address not only the security challenges associated with the epochal shift of global power to Asia (China in particular) but also those arising from the development of new military and cyber technologies.

China presents a unique challenge, seeking to leverage its developing economic and military muscle to spread power and influence, though initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) or its unprecedented involvement in infrastructure development in African countries. These initiatives, planned to be rolled out over the course of the next 30 years or more, will create a range of opportunities, challenges and threats to the UK and its world allies, whose influence on global issues will probably be tied to their ability to leverage hard and soft power.

In order to positively address these issues, both business and the government in the UK will need to demonstrate not only a capacity and resolve to defend and safeguard the rules-based international order and its principles, including guaranteeing sufficient spending on defence, but also to shore up and support the framework of a strong Atlantic alliance, a strong UK-EU partnership, as well of course, as a strong NATO.

Quest for ideas and answers

What will world power balance look like in 2030 and what will this mean for the UK and its like-minded global partners?

How do we define 'security' in the new world order when the challenge extends beyond military and into areas like competition for natural resources and skilled labour, intellectual property, the digital revolution, and values which underpin democracy?

Where and how should we allocate resources to meeting the new 'security' challenge and what implications will that have for economies which are heavily invested in the military industrial complex?

Can the great powers find new and innovative ways to cooperate in addressing the most consequential challenges ahead in this still new century—climate change, changing energy dynamics and competition for natural resources; nuclear proliferation, cyber threats, the scourge of pandemics, the refugee crisis, and other issues?

What role will newly emerging powers such as India and China seek to play in global politics and security in the short to medium term and will they seek to shape the world in their image or to integrate themselves more into existing conceptions of world order, but with a greater say for themselves?

Quest for ideas and answers

What do current trends tell us about the nature of global population growth and change to 2050?

What will such changes imply for economic, fiscal, social, environmental and political trends in both high fertility countries as well as those experiencing chronic low fertility?

What policies will governments and businesses need to adopt in order to maximise the benefits of demographic dividends and/or manage the challenges associated possible shifts not only in ageing patterns but also the compositions of national populations and workforces?

To what extent will new and innovative technologies such automation and AI provide a useful tool for industrialised western economies and businesses to manage the strains/capture the benefits of ageing populations, increasing dependency rates and meet rising healthcare demands?

Can an informal link be made between increasing life expectancy and retirement age?

Trend two: Migration and demography

On current projections, the world population is due to reach almost 10 billion by 2050, although global growth rates are now slowing. Two diverging worlds exist – an ageing West and growing younger populations in much of the developing world, with sub-Saharan Africa showing the highest growth rates. For example, while half of world population growth is expected in just nine countries, with China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda and the United States, all likely to have populations in excess of 300 million by 2050, some European countries, such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania are expected to shrink by up to 15% over the same period. In addition, while in 1950 only 8% of world population was over 60 years old, by 2050 it is expected to be over 20%.

Arising from these underlying trends will be shifting migration patterns both in geography and intensity, increased challenges in terms of job creation, social cohesion and integration, global environmental pressures and the need for increased food production, as well as the fiscal, economic and social impacts of an expanding/contracting work forces and changing dependency rates and health care spending associated with populations living for longer periods.

In the UK, challenges will include how to ensure greater participation in the workforce by people in their late 50s, 60s and 70s, designing lifelong learning policies, the need to ensure greater female participation in the work force as well as raising the retirement age to make it more in line with increasing life expectancy and reforms to ensure the long term sustainability of social care and pension systems.

Trend three: Digital change

The rate and intensity in the development of new and emerging technologies such as AI, automation, robotics, the internet of things, autonomous vehicles, 3D printing, nanotechnology, biotechnology, materials science, quantum computing and energy storage is unprecedented in human history. These new technological changes are already causing disruption to the production, delivery and consumption of goods and services, as well as how we interact, communicate and behave in an increasingly connected world.

This tsunami presents both challenges and opportunities for the UK as a world leader in science, digital technology and education. How we (and those around us) seek to calibrate institutions and foster business development will help shape the effects of a technological revolution which stands to have a profound impact on our daily lives.

Increasing automation enabled by technological advances not only promises higher productivity and economic growth, but also raises troubling questions and risks about its wider impact on employment, wages, skills and society. Many tasks, including those increasingly higher up the value chain, have the potential to be automated and workers are increasingly using digital platforms to interact with the labour market in new and innovative ways through the gig economy, changing not only what people do, but also how and where they do it.

Yet, while technological advances are likely to continue to make global value chains more effective and integrated, increasing connectivity and further digital transformation, especially in areas of the world economy where progress to this point has been more limited, such as in service sectors, business and governments will need in parallel to adapt existing, and develop new, employment, education, fiscal and employment models and policies to cope successfully with the speed of change.

Moreover, the advance of information technology is having transformative effects on democratic structures and societies. With the decentralisation of power and information control, new actors are exploiting developments to change, and in some cases undermine trust and faith in, the institutions and processes of western democracies. How the UK manages the impact of technology on its basic democratic institutions, its politics and bureaucracy, will become a defining feature of how it, as a state, is able to build resilience and secure itself against hostile and illiberal forces determined to undermine and manipulate its model of democratic and societal governance.

Quest for ideas and answers

What are the main drivers of technological change, and what will be the main effects of such change on the economy, politics and society?

What are the main social consequences of the digital revolution and the proliferation of new technologies and what impacts do they stand to have on jobs and productivity?

How do we best equip the current and future workforce to work with and embrace this digital transformation? What role should Government play in regulating the appearance of new technologies, and how best can it interact with business and civil society to ensure that it creates an environment in which the UK can maintain its world leading position?

Will increased leadership and openness to technological change in some countries confer a competitive advantage in the future global economy? How seriously should we take China's huge investment in 5G and AI?

What legal frameworks will need to be created to ensure that technological change can be usefully integrated in to, and supportive of, existing or future ethical and moral systems?

Quest for ideas and answers

How can the UK contribute politically both in Europe and globally, to shaping and strengthening of the governance of necessary transformations to achieve the SDGs, along with the development of and implementation of international standards that support them?

What are the economic opportunities for the UK in developing and promoting innovative solutions that enable the achievement of the type of transformations necessary to achieve sustainability goals?

To what extent will the current consensus concerning the science and impact of climate change lead to meaningful policy initiatives to address the challenges faced by world countries?

How can developed industrialised countries best help less developed countries more at risk of the effects of extreme weather and climate change to manage and mitigate its worst effects, particular intensive migration from impacted areas?

What trade and investment policies should the government and business pursue in order to help reduce the UK's impact on the global environment and on issues such as resource scarcity, fishery stock depletion and deforestation?

Trend four: Sustainable development

Changes to the global climate, driven by human activity, are likely set to continue to develop and intensify in the coming years. Increased global prosperity and population growth will inevitably lead to increased demand for water, food, energy, minerals and metals, the extraction, production and consumption of which could have profound and potentially damaging and destabilising effects on global climate and weather.

Floods, droughts, storms, heatwaves and rainfall are all expected to become more intense and possibly more frequent. While efforts to contain and limit global temperature rises are underway, the consequences of climate change are likely to become increasingly evident in the short to medium term. Coupled to this, the pressure placed on finite resources by increased population levels may lead not only to increased international tensions, rivalry and competition, but also pollution, habitat destruction, reductions in biodiversity and species loss.

Improved management of natural resources, recycling, agricultural production and water supplies, as well as the application of new technologies and exploitation of renewable energy will therefore be needed to prevent and mitigate the negative effects of increased pressures on the environment. To achieve this, the UK and other nations will need to find ways not only to rise to the challenge of finding more sustainable ways to live on the planet but also to highlight the extremely serious risks of not doing so.

Helpfully, the UN, through its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiative has issued a universal call to protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. With 17 goals, including new areas building on the Millennium Development Goals, such as climate change and sustainable consumption, it provides a new global framework to encourage states to take action across issues relating to consumption and production, decarbonisation and energy, food production, the biosphere and to ensure they implement necessary sustainability transformations.

Meeting this challenge in the UK will require collaboration at all levels of government, business and civil society. Bold action will likely need to be considered, and where appropriate, cross border cooperation to develop a global system, rather than tactical local approaches, should be implemented. Moreover, new and innovative ways of incentivising the adoption of more environmentally friendly technologies and practices to drive the sustainability agenda will need to be developed.

Trend five: Trade and economics

The spread of international markets, technology and global value chains has led to an unprecedented increase in global prosperity, helping propel more people from poverty since 1990 than at any point in human history. The world, taken as a single economic entity, now enjoys unprecedented levels of wealth. Current agreed rules and institutions governing the international exchange of goods, services and capital, however, have in recent years come under increasing strain as the effects of globalisation become more politically contested.

While the global gains from globalisation are indisputable, in the West its distributive effects are increasingly debated, resulting in a progressively contentious discussion regarding the merits of open global markets and international cooperation anchored in shared rules, values and frameworks. Adverse distributional trends and industrial change within wealthy economies have, in some cases, led to a perception that globalisation has been responsible for a stagnation in real incomes and job destruction.

This feeling is compounded by the growth in the share of wealth of higher earners and structural changes in traditional industries generated not only by trade but also by changes in technology and automation. However, while enthusiasm for globalisation may have waned in some constituencies in the West, in many areas of the developing world it retains both sustained public support and legitimacy.

As a result of these increasing tensions, both within societies and between states, the post-war multilateral framework may continue to come under increasing pressure in the years ahead, putting at risk the collective ability to manage increasing interdependence in an efficient manner. Given that the coming decades are likely to see the continuation of current economic and technological revolutions underway, with possible associated turbulence and radical change, the overall international context will be daunting, since the challenges will be interconnected, and, some cases, too big for individual states or even regions to address.

This has led to new questions of governance, stability and legitimacy in how global business, trade, investment, intellectual property and data flows are controlled and regulated, at all levels. Moreover, in an ever more connected and integrated world, additional issues related to globalisation on labour markets, human rights, good governance, consumer protection, financial stability and the environment will need to be addressed to ensure that developments in the global economy do not imperil sustained public and political support for cross border trade, investment and capital flows.

Quest for ideas and answers

What do current trends in global politics mean for existing international economic institutions established to regulate and manage international flows of goods, services and capital?

To what extent do current events and trends represent a definitive departure from previous conceptions of global multilateral order, and if so, what can countries such as the UK do to help shape this transition? What changes should be made to the role and function of global institutions in order to ensure a better functioning and more representative set of global rules and institutions?

Will future globalisation continue to be shaped by structural factors such as the rise of Asia and the development of Africa, or will politics increasingly drive the actions of governments and businesses?

How can we ensure that globalisation is, and understood to be, an inclusive force for good, which spreads wealth and prosperity, more evenly, leaving nobody behind?

What social and cultural changes, and shifts in mindset particularly with respect to ways of working, need to take place in our societies to enable more people to participate in a global economy?

IDEAS NETWORK 2030

The mission of the Ideas Network 2030 is to provide an informal framework for individuals on the centre-right of British politics, along with other stakeholders interested in long-term global trends, to come together to discuss, evaluate and assess the relevance of these trends to current politics in the United Kingdom.

The Network will enable insight into global trends likely to impact the UK and its' neighbourhood through to 2030, with a particular focus on security, sustainability, connectivity and economic and trade policy.

The Network will vigorously promote ideas and innovative thinking about these trends, ensuring a constant exchange between the UK and the European Union, allowing both to address these trends in the most effective way possible, proposing policy changes where long term trends are clearly visible as in the demographic, environmental or digital fields.

The Network will work with local, national and European stakeholders across politics, business, academia and society.

As the U.K. begins to move beyond the current intense discussion regarding Brexit, the Ideas Network 2030 will come forward with this programme with the objective of helping Britain to renew its political thinking and relationship with its European and global partners.

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