

JNPC SPEECH ON UK-JAPAN AND INTEGRATED REVIEW

I am Julia Longbottom, British Ambassador to Japan since late March this year. I have worked as a British diplomat for over 30 years, and have served twice before in Japan, first as Second Secretary (Political) in 1990 – 1993, and then as Minister in 2012-2016. It is a pleasure and an honour to be appointed as Ambassador to this special (subarashii) country.

Thank you to the Japan National Press Club for inviting me to talk to you today. I plan to focus on the UK's Integrated Review, including the British government's tilt to the Indo-Pacific, and the opportunities it presents for even deeper UK-Japan partnership.

The British government's Integrated Review, published in March 2021, is the most comprehensive review of the UK's defence, security, development and foreign policy since the Cold War. It describes Prime Minister Johnson's post-Brexit vision for a confident, outward-facing Global Britain. It sets out the UK's international objectives and how it will work with allies and partners to achieve them. It presents a number of foreign policy shifts, including a tilt to the Indo-Pacific.

As someone who knows Japan well, and is strongly invested in the collaboration between our two countries, I believe that the Integrated Review has real relevance for UK-Japan relations, and that it will influence and strengthen the agenda for the future partnership between us.

Unlike previous strategic security reviews, the Integrated Review starts with our security and prosperity at home – it recognises that the things that matter to the future of our economy and our society are linked to the international environment.

The review was written against a backdrop of diversifying threats – from states, systemic competition, technological change, and global health and climate challenges. It determines that the things that define the UK as a nation – our open society and economy founded on democratic values - will remain sources of strength and comparative advantage in our international policy and national security. We need to be more active in defending open societies and democracy, and in championing free trade.

The review also recognises that in order to support our openness, there will be times when the government needs to do more to increase our security and resilience to safeguard our people, economy and way of life.

It also recognises that a defence of the status quo of the post-cold war rules based international system is no longer sufficient to address the challenges of the decade ahead. We will need to adapt to the competitive international environment. That means shaping the international order of the future, working with like-minded partners like Japan, for example to create shared rules governing digital regulation, advanced technology, cyber space and space.

I want to pick out a number of elements of the Integrated Review, under its five key themes, that are of particular relevance to the UK and Japan:

1. Solving Global Challenges

- Tackling climate change and biodiversity loss will be our top international priority. As chair – with Italy – of COP26 later this year, we will lead international action towards net zero emissions by 2050.
- The UK is the first country to enter legally-binding long-term carbon budgets into legislation, under its 2008 Climate Change Act. Under its 6th carbon budget, it has just agreed to set a legally binding target to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels.
- Our aim is to become the world's leading centre for green technology, finance and wind energy, mobilising £12 billion of government investment, together with private sector investment, to create up to 250,000 jobs across the UK.
- To reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, we will continue to campaign for global agreement to protect at least 30% of the world's land and ocean by 2030, including through the Global Ocean Alliance and the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People.
- We are working to strengthen global health security, including through the Prime Minister's 5-point plan to bolster international pandemic preparedness.
- We are working to help the world to tackle Covid-19 including through equitable access to vaccines, and have made a £548m commitment to the Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility.
- We are using our G7 Presidency to push for international cooperation to build back better from coronavirus; and to cut the development and deployment of vaccines for priority viruses to 100 days through partnerships with government, industry and international governments.
- We are pushing for reform of the World Health Organisation, increasing our funding by 30% to £340million over the next four years.

2. Investing in science and technology and acting as a responsible cyber power:

- The UK is in the top four countries in the Global Innovation Index 2020, is home to four of the top 10 universities in the world, and has a world-class research base.
- We are taking a more active approach to building and sustaining strategic advantage through science and technology, including by protecting our intellectual property and sensitive research.
- This includes translating UK research into influence over the emerging technologies that are central to our future prosperity and to addressing global challenges.
- Examples include the partnership between the Oxford University and Astra Zeneca to develop one of the first vaccines to be approved to tackle the Covid pandemic. The vaccine is easier to manufacture and transport than a number of other leading vaccines, and is playing a key role in reducing hospitalisations and deaths globally.
- UK scientists have also delivered 50% of global genome virus sequencing to inform our understanding and management of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- As a responsible cyber power, we are working to build a resilient and prosperous digital UK.
 - We will promote a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace – including by using all of the levers we have to detect, disrupt and deter our adversaries.
3. Acting as a **force for good in the world, defending democracy and human rights**:
- The UK remains a world leader in international development, helping to tackle global poverty and achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030.
 - The creation of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, has joined up our diplomacy and development resources to deliver greater impact on climate change and extreme poverty.
 - We will use our presidency with Kenya this year of the Global Partnership for Education summit to get 40 million more girls in developing countries into school by 2025.
 - We will act as a force for good in standing up for human rights around the world, and supporting open societies.
 - We will use our independent (Magnitsky style) sanctions regime to hold to account those involved in serious human rights violations and abuses.
4. Championing the **free flow of trade, capital and knowledge**.
- As an independent trading nation, we will use the openness of our economy to boost the flow of free trade, capital, innovation and ideas
 - We will work with partners to champion free and fair global trade, including through reform of the World Trade Organisation's operations.
 - We are engaging in regulatory diplomacy to influence the rules, norms and standards governing new technology and the digital economy.
 - We are applying to join the CPTPP and are expanding our network of bilateral trade agreements, building on our UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
 - We are making our domestic supply chain more resilient, and are exploring opportunities for domestic extraction of materials such as lithium.
 - We are helping developing countries to integrate into the global economy; and in turn creating stronger trade and investment partners.
5. Taking a **more robust approach to security and deterrence**.
- We are increasing our investment in defence to 2.2% of GDP. The Prime Minister has committed to spending £188 billion on defence over the next four years, a 14% increase.
 - We will create Armed Forces by 2030 that are better prepared and more persistently engaged worldwide, meeting new and emerging threats with full-spectrum capabilities, including space and cyber.
 - We will increase our engagement with partners in the Indo-Pacific to mitigate growing threats to our security, build resilience and capability, and uphold freedom of navigation and international law.
 - As part of our Indo-Pacific tilt, we will reinforce our commitment to the Five Powers Defence Arrangements (FPDA) and increase our regional maritime presence. In 2021, HMS Queen Elizabeth will lead a multinational task group on a deployment to the region.

- We will make a strategic investment of more than £2billion over the next four years in the Future Combat Air System (FCAS).
- We will continue to work to strengthen global arms control, disarmament and counter-proliferation.

As I have already said, the UK government is clear that it cannot achieve these objectives working alone: collective action with our allies and partners, like Japan, will be vitally important. We will also play an even more active part in international institutions including the UN, WTO and WHO and the international financial institutions. And we are determined to use our Presidency of the G7 this year to signal that multilateral diplomacy is back.

What about the UK's tilt to the Indo-Pacific?

The Indo-Pacific region is critical to the UK's economy, our security and our global ambition to support open societies. By 2030, the Indo-Pacific will represent more than 40% of global GDP. There are also real security risks, including nuclear proliferation and cyber threats. Some of our most important global partners, like Japan, are in this region.

Our Indo-Pacific tilt means a commitment to long term, integrated engagement to ensure we safeguard UK economic and security interests and that open societies and values are protected. It means we will work with our existing partners in the region to tackle regional challenges and global issues. We will be investing in new partnerships, including:

- by seeking ASEAN Dialogue Partner status, supporting ASEAN's role in regional stability and economic development;
- applying to join CPTPP to diversify our trading links and supply chains, embedding open trade and integration.
- tackling climate change through a transition to clean, resilient and sustainable growth in the Indo-Pacific through influence with major emitters and most vulnerable countries;
- seeking deeper partnerships in science, technology and data;
- strengthening defence and security cooperation, including in maritime security and cyber security; and

At the same time, we will adopt a more robust framework for our relationship with China, allowing us to manage disagreements, and defend our values while preserving the space to tackle transnational challenges such as climate change. We will continue to pursue a positive trade and investment relationship with China, while ensuring our national security and values are protected.

In conclusion

Japan is one of the UK's closest strategic partners, including on security, and we share many of the goals set out in the review. Over the next 4 years I expect to see us developing a dynamic and future-focused partnership, to design and influence new international standards and to harness new advanced industries and technologies in an open yet secure way. Our task is to confront and manage together such transnational challenges as climate change, global health risks and cyber crime. As Ambassador my goals will be:

- Using a modern approach to deliver a step-up in our bilateral trade and strategic inward investment
- deepening our security and defence relationship, including maritime and cyber security
- closer collaboration in science, innovation, education and data
- joint action on climate change and biodiversity
- shared work to strengthen the resilience of our open economies and societies, at home and around the world
- expanding people-to-people links, including educational and cultural exchange, to increase understanding of our shared values and positive perceptions of each other.

I believe that it is in the interests of both our countries that we succeed in this agenda.